

# Monks Orchard Residents' Association

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Croydon

(Non Party)

(Independent)

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**NEWSLETTER - Summer 2012**



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**The Monks Orchard Residents' Association was founded in 1923, and represents approximately 2,000 residents.**

## *Chairman's Comments*

By the time you read this we will have had our AGM and I trust those of you who attended will have found the meeting interesting and enlightening.

Also, we will know if the tanker drivers' dispute has been settled and we will be spared the nonsense of the queues at petrol stations we have had to suffer. No matter what excuses have been made, any thinking person will know of the irresponsible comments made by Francis Maude and how these comments inflamed the situation. Despite it being illegal to store more than a couple of gallons, he advocated keeping spare petrol, leading to a woman suffering 40% burns when she mishandled petrol in her home .

I now come to the serious problems of knife crime in Croydon. It is reported that knife crime in the borough is up by 10% and statistics show Croydon being in the upper quartile overall. Nationally knife homicides are up 2% from 2009-2010 and robberies with knives are up 4% over the same period. However we are not in the same league as Barking and Dagenham which has the highest crime rate.

Those of you who read the letter page of the Croydon Guardian will have noticed the current spat between our current MP and the previous incumbent. It's analogous to 'you said that' 'no I didn't' 'yes you did'. I believe it would be more constructive to deal with the important matters, such as those referred to above, than behaving like a pair of schoolgirls.

You will by now have noticed the new street lighting being installed by that well known Swedish company Skanska. These lights which throw out more lumens than the existing will, we are informed, improve our security.

As I am on the subject of lighting, some of you will have seen the lighting of the forecourt of the block of flats in Orchard Way opposite Overstone Gardens; the place is lit up like a Stalag Luft. We have enough light pollution as it is without increasing the problem. As I said at the AGM, so much for stargazing with Professor Brian Cox here.

Just a note on membership; we, as other areas, have residents who come and go. If you know of any new arrivals let them know



about the work MORA does and invite them to contact any of the committee and we will invite them to become member at the princely subscription of £4.00. We do need to maintain the level of membership to have a powerful voice in Shirley

Following my diatribe do go off and enjoy Summer and whatever you are hoping to do.

**Dave King**  
**Chairman**

## **Minutes of the 88<sup>th</sup> MORA AGM** **20<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at St George's Church Hall,**

This is an abridged version of the minutes. Should any resident require a copy of the full minutes these may be obtained via email from the Monks Orchard email address [see front page].

Dave King, Chair of MORA, opened the meeting and welcomed all those present. These included Gavin Barwell MP, Steve O'Connell GLA member, Cllrs Mike Fisher, Richard Chatterjee, Janet Marshall, Avril Slipper, Eddy Arram and Adam Kellett. Also present were PC Marco Lombardo and PC Tess Abrahams from the Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Spring Park Residents' Association were represented by Trevor Ashby (Chair) and Lesley Godden (Secretary).



The Minutes of the 87<sup>th</sup> AGM were approved by a show of hands.

The only matter arising from the previous meeting was the issue of parking in Mere End, which will be addressed later.

### **Chairman's Report**

Dave King paid tribute to Maurice Swift, ex Secretary of MORA and Edith Mellor, road steward, who had both passed away recently.

Dave reported that the CEO of Croydon Council has stated that due to the unprecedented level of opposition from residents and MORA, Ashburton Playing Fields was no longer politically viable as a Crystal Palace Training Ground.

Dave also commented on the high level of light pollution from lights at the front of flats 73-75 Orchard Way. These shine into the front rooms of houses opposite.

Residents are being encouraged to water newly planted trees in their streets.

Concern has also been expressed about the recent escapes from Bethlem Royal Hospital. Gavin Barwell will report on this issue later in the proceedings, and there is a separate article in the newsletter giving fuller details.

Dave expressed MORA's appreciation of the hard work put in by Derek Ritson, without whom there would be no newsletter or properly organised AGM.

Dave touched on the difficulties currently experienced in finding new road stewards and area managers, also on the declining membership. We need full membership to maintain a strong voice for the area.

### **Treasurer's Report**



Terry Greenwood, Treasurer of MORA, showed the slide of the accounts and confirmed that we had a surplus last year of £141. The fees from advertisers are essential to assist with the funding of our newsletters, each issue of which costs over £1000 to print.

(Editor's note - a copy of the MORA Accounts to 31st Dec 2010 was published in the Spring 2012 Newsletter.)

### **Planning Report**

This was given by our Planning Officer Ian Fraser. MORA had been involved in 19 planning applications and appeals. We had also been involved in 3 potentially major pre-planning developments. Chief among these was the plan to use part of Ashburton Playing Fields as a training ground for Crystal Palace Football Club. MORA mobilised public opinion and it is now accepted this plan is no longer viable.

There are plans to build houses on Metropolitan Open ground at Poppy Lane. No formal application has as yet been made.

*Ed. There are now rumours that it may be used as a lorry park.*

A feasibility study has been carried out into the expansion of Monks Orchard Primary School. No details are available of a formal planning application.



MORA had also been involved in applications for extensions, all were refused.

There were 2 applications for change of use from residential to children's nurseries, both were rejected.

There were 5 applications for new builds, a total of 71 houses and apartments. All applications were refused by the Council, 2 have subsequently been referred to the Planning Inspectorate, and so far 1 has been refused.



MORA has been concerned that permission had been given for buildings where there was no legal access. In one case MORA was unhappy with the Council's decision to approve modified plans and has initiated a formal complaint.

MORA has objected to the erection of two radio masts in the rear garden of 113 The Glade. No decision has been made on the application. [Ed. subsequently refused]

Ian then announced that MORA has decided to register an interest in becoming a Neighbourhood Forum for the area, under the new Localism Act. Under this role we would be involved in planning the future development of the area. No details are yet available as to how this will be achieved. Ian sought assistance from the audience with the potential new responsibilities.

The council will no longer be writing to local residents concerning planning applications. Information will be available via site notices and the web site.

### **Membership Report**

Dave thanked all our road stewards and area managers for their excellent work over the past year. Without them MORA would cease to exist.

There are currently 9 area managers, and 73 road stewards. Some vacant area manager posts are being covered by the Membership Secretary. There are 111 separate streets in the area. Some streets have no members at all.

Membership is declining and the audience was urged to encourage new neighbours to join the association.

### **Shirley Supper Club**

The club continues to be very successful, thanks to the efforts of Christine Ross-Smith. Venues visited last year included CRU, Oscar's and the Chateau. This year we will be visiting The

Warren, Chom Chom and The Maywood. The club supports various charities, the Evalina Children's Hospital, Help for Heroes and the Royal Marsden Hospital. Stamps are also saved for the London Air Ambulance Service, so please help us with that. Trips last year included Eastbourne, Portsmouth, Newbury and Highclere, finishing with a trip to London. This year we have been to Brighton and are shortly to go to Bosham and Chichester.

### **Election of Committee Members**

Dave introduced Sue and Martyn Buchanan as members for Trees and Open Spaces, and Anne Horton as a new area manager. Mary Evans had resigned as Secretary but hoped to return at a later stage. The committee members standing for re-election were voted in on a show of hands.

### **Security Report**

**PC Marco Lombardo** reported for Ashburton Ward. Crime was generally decreasing in the area, although some youths were causing problems with anti social behaviour, congregating in the Greenview Avenue area. 2 youths have been served with ASBOs after riding mopeds through alley ways.

Burglars have tended to target houses with back alleys; advice is available on securing back entrances and property in general.

Anti Tamper screws for number plates are available, fitted free from Halfords in Wickham Road. A leaflet giving details is available from the SNT office.

Three individuals have been arrested following drug raids.

There has been a slight increase in robberies, mostly schoolchildren stealing mobile phones or iPods from each other.



**PC Tess Abrahams** reported for Shirley Ward. Similarly crime generally is lower, although there had been an increase in burglaries in the Shirley Oaks area. High visibility policing has resulted in a reduction in these incidents. High visibility policing has now been extended to other parts of Shirley ward.

The team are actively targeting areas where there are known levels of anti social behaviour, such as Kempton Walk.

Speed checks are in force in known speeding areas, including The



Glade, Orchard Avenue and Bridle Road. One female has been arrested on the Shrublands estate for drug related offences. Stolen property was also recovered.

#### **Gavin Barwell MP—Croydon Central**

Gavin thanked MORA for the work carried out for the community. He felt that while the government had had some difficulties on the whole they were following the right course to improve the economy, improving school standards, reducing net immigration and reforming the welfare system.



Gavin is launching “Project Change”. Following the riots he felt that the voice of the youth had not been properly heard, and visited all secondary schools, youth clubs and colleges to talk to youngsters. He discovered much anger over the media coverage blaming teenagers, when the majority of those arrested in connection with the riots were older. He is organising groups to meet regularly to clean up various areas, to help elderly people and form summer

camps for youngsters. So far he has over 300 volunteers.

#### **Cllr Mike Fisher Leader of Croydon Council**

Mike also thanked MORA officers for their work over the past year. He referred to the anxiety felt at the last AGM about the possible closure of the library. This is still open and there are no plans to close it. There has been a 28% reduction in government funding over the 4 year period, which has meant required savings of £97 million. Council tax is frozen for the second



year. The introduction of the food waste system has helped to increase the recycling rate to 40%, which in turn saves money by reducing the cost of landfill.

### **Steve O'Connell GLA**

Due to the forthcoming elections Steve spoke only briefly, thanking everyone for their support and urging them to vote in the elections.



### **Jo Gough**

#### **Croydon Voluntary Action (CVA)**

Jo gave the first presentation of the evening, on Neighbourhood Matters. The CVA is in touch with around 1500 groups or organisations, ranging from large national charities to small special interest groups; CVA also co-ordinate 5000 volunteers.



The CVA mission is to promote, develop and support effective voluntary action, community development and community activity for the benefit of the whole community within the London borough of Croydon. CVA also hosts the Local Volunteer Centre and the Local Involvement Network. The CVA Website is [www.cvalive.org.uk](http://www.cvalive.org.uk)

Following the riots CVA helped to look after those whose properties were damaged or destroyed. They are involved with local government in developing a Social Recovery Plan for Croydon, about Croydon people, led by Croydon people, which needs to be in place before the anniversary of the riots in August.

The Croydon Compact is hoped to provide a new understanding between the public and voluntary sectors, shaping the future role that voluntary organisations play in social recovery.

The Community First programme has allocated £33910 to Ashburton to fund community projects. Local panels will decide on the actual projects. CVA would like to work with MORA to manage these funds.

CVA are also working on the volunteer led Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) which concentrates on building on the existing strengths in communities and empowering people to take action. So far it has been shown to be very effective.

Jo urged MORA to contribute ideas and expertise.

### **Chris Sciberras -The South London Waste Plan**

Chris gave the second presentation. He is a member of the Campaign, which is non-political, but aims to prevent the erection



of an incinerator in Beddington.

The London Boroughs of Croydon, Sutton, Merton and Kingston formed the South London Waste Partnership, with the aim of diverting waste from landfill.

Consultation started in 2008, and the council voted in January 2012 to accept the plan, including incineration in Beddington.

Chris had concerns about the emissions from the facility, which he stated will include carcinogens, and particles linked to cardiovascular disease and higher infant mortality rates. He also



stated that monitoring of the emissions is not sufficiently rigorous. Incineration also produces bottom ash (used in construction, may contain metals and dioxins) fly ash (classified as hazardous waste) waste water and sludge.

While it is estimated there will be up to 24MW of electricity produced, Chris argued that by increasing composting, reusing and recycling, up to 4 x that amount of energy could be saved.

Chris pointed out that the SLWP had rejected sending waste to an incinerator in Allington, Kent and opted instead to build a new one in Beddington. Whilst he is against incineration, he stated that it makes more sense to use an existing one than building another one.

Lord Taylor, Recycling Minister has stated that it is government policy to achieve a zero waste economy. We need better organisation, better education and research, and better industrial design.

A planning application is to be made to Sutton in June 2012, with a decision expected by March 2013. The incinerator could be up and running by 2016. Chris closed the presentation by encouraging all present to become informed on this issue, and to debate matters with local politicians. Mike Fisher added that the facility would have to be licensed by the Environment Agency. The Health Protection Agency is to undertake a new study into the health risks associated with incinerators.

## **Question and Answer Session**

**Adam Kellett** reported back on the on-going issue of lorries parking in Mere End.

There were 2 aspects to this case. A change of use from residential had been suspected, but although the resident

concerned did work from home, no vehicle repairs were carried out, and very few sales were made. The other side of this matter was also investigated by the enforcement section, which discovered the lorries were properly taxed and were not breaking any parking rules.

It was pointed out that when lorries were parked on the corner, vehicles turning into Mere End were forced into the wrong side of the road, which could be dangerous. Adam will take this aspect up again with the Highways officer.

**Mike Fisher** responded to several questions.

- In the last year £2million was paid out in redundancy payouts. Staff pay between 5.5% and 7.5% into their pensions; the council pay 23.2% of total salary costs into the pension funds. In the last year this was £29.3 million. Running costs at the council are reducing, thanks to efficiency savings
- Back garden development has been made more difficult. The aim is to stop inappropriate back garden developments, not all of them.
- With Permitted Development Certificates planning permission is not required and they are outside the usual planning controls. These need to be carefully monitored.
- Planners are only allowed to take into account planning considerations. Access is not such a consideration. Should this be taken into account when refusing an application it could be grounds for appeal.
- The Olympic Levy of £20 per annum will cease in 2016. Mike had lobbied for discounted tickets for Londoners but these were refused.
- No Olympic Games tickets have been purchased out of council funds.

**Gavin Barwell** responded to concerns about the recent escapes from Bethlem Royal Hospital.

He, along with Bob Stewart MP for Beckenham had met with the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Trust. There are 2 issues he and Bob will take back to the Government. There is a unit for adults and one for adolescents. There have been no escapes from the adult unit and the problem with escapes while on leave has been resolved with electronic tagging. However, for adolescents, the building security standards are lower and tagging is not allowed under Human Rights legislation. The adolescent unit has been temporarily closed and an investigation



is taking place.

**Mike Fisher** stated that he was not aware of any intention to re-open the Dennis Hill Unit, were any suggestion of this be made he would oppose it.

**Mike Fisher** had been informed by Derek Ritson (MORA) of the Public Protection and Community Safety Policy and Scrutiny committee meetings held at Bromley Council. He arranged for Cllr. Richard Chatterjee to attend. Richard reported back from the meeting. He stated that the escapes had been taken very seriously, and that enquiries are still ongoing. One of the problems had been in the window frames which were removed during the escape, these were still being examined. Gavin Barwell stated that there is a good system in place for alerting the Bromley side of any escapes or other safety issues, but not the Croydon area. The Trust agreed that the system needed to cover all areas.

**Mike Fisher** stated that there is a 25 year programme to renew all street lights in the borough. Some of the ring main is 60 years old and frequently fails. The cost over 25 years, including maintenance will be £79 million. There will be a reduction of 25-30% in running costs. Mike also responded to a query about lights shining in bedrooms by stating that guards can be fitted to the rear of the lights. This is already being carried out in other areas, with good results.

4 Council question Time sessions will be held, including ones in new Addington and South Norwood. Shirley residents are welcome to attend these. A session had been held in Shirley last year.

Several residents were concerned about parent/teacher parking around the Orchard Grove, Freshfields and Lyconby Gardens areas. The main problem is parking on corners, making turning into or out of these roads dangerous. It was also stated that when there are out of hours activities at the schools, the school car parks are not opened, making the situation even worse. This will be discussed at the next MORA meeting with a view to possibly approaching the schools concerned.

As there were no further questions Dave King brought the meeting to a close, by thanking all for attending.

## Continuing the story of Max Greenwood

Hello everyone - do you remember me ? I was the little baby that was so ill during the Christmas period 2009. Well - look at me now. I am keeping very well and enjoy my time spent at the nursery while mummy is at work. On alternate Wednesdays I am looked after by both sets of grandparents.

The nanny (Greenwood) who belongs to MORA makes greetings cards and some of her friends and lots of MORA members who go to the supper club, buy from her. All the proceeds go to the Evelina. My nanny and grandad also donate £100 each year and luckily we were able to send the Evelina Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (where I was so well looked after) £200 this year. Please see their thank you letter below:

*8<sup>th</sup> March 2012*

*Dear Carole and Terry*

*Thank you very much for your extremely kind donation of £200 to*

*the PICU at the Evelina Children's Hospital. We are extremely grateful for your support and your praise of all of the staff who work on PICU. We have a wall of thank you cards and letters and if it is ok with you I would like to pin up the lovely card that you have made and the photo of Max looking so well. We will ensure that the money is used for the benefit of other children and their families who need our care in the future.*

*With kind regards*

*Clare Stunning—Management Sister, PICU*

Nanny is still busy making cards and hopes to be able to donate more next time.





## *Glenthorne Allotments*

The Addiscombe, Woodside and Shirley Leisure Gardens, locally known as Glenthorne Allotments, cover an area of 25 acres, bounded on the north and west by Glenthorne Avenue and Shirley Road, and on the south and east by Primrose Lane and



Poppy Lane. There are over 350 plots, a thriving shop - the Trading Hut - and canteen, and a social hall where the Annual Show and other events are held. It is the largest private allotment society in the south of England, and was the first of its kind. Formed in 1921 it was officially registered in 1922 as The Addiscombe and Woodside Allotment Society (1921) Ltd.

Previously, there had been allotments on the land now occupied by Oasis Academy and playing fields (formerly the site of Croydon Race Course, then Beckenham Golf Course). When Croydon Corporation reclaimed this land to build the school, the Society was able to buy its current site, originally Shirley Park Farm, part of the estate of the Earl of Eldon. At that time the land to the south was still pasture, so 300 yards of cattle-proof fencing had to be erected. The members themselves, many of whom had been allotmenters together during the Great War, undertook the tasks of clearing the brook which runs through the site, laying sleeper bridges across it, erecting huts for administrative purposes and setting up a water supply to the canteen. 259 plots were created.

The Society flourished during the 1920s and 30s, with many improvements to the site and lively social events. There was an Annual Dinner and, of course, an Annual Show of fruit and vegetables. The outbreak of war in 1939 put a temporary stop to most of these activities, but the canteen remained open at weekends and a show was held in 1942,

opened by the Mayor. There was little damage from enemy action, although some incendiary bombs fell into the brook and set fire to an oak tree, and in 1947 an unexploded bomb was found and safely removed.

The site was further developed during the 1950s, 60s and 70s. A cedar tree was planted for the Coronation, and the current Trading Hut was built by the members. According to records, the Society won first prize at the annual Croydon Show in Ashburton Park on at least three occasions.

In 1974, the Society was approached by Lambeth Council, regarding the acquisition of a strip of land to build an access road for the proposed Shirley Oaks Village. This was eventually agreed (not without a battle) in return for a piece of land previously part of Shirley Oaks Children's Home, on which stands a hall used for Band Practice by the children and now the venue for annual shows and other events. An adjoining field is currently being made into a wildlife garden and communal area for plottolders. The 'lost' plots lie under Primrose Lane, and halfway down Shirley Avenue can be seen the original entrance to the allotments, with a fir tree matching those at the Glenthorne Avenue entrance.

Nowadays the AWSLG is a hive of activity - literally, in fact, as there is a thriving apiary - and all the plots are let, with a waiting list. It is run entirely by volunteers who give their time to maintain and improve the site. The canteen continues the tradition begun in the 1920s of providing refreshments for hardworking plottolders. The Trading Hut is open at weekends to sell (at competitive prices) a huge range of products, including seeds, compost, gardening tools, fertilisers, and, in season, seed potatoes, onion and garlic sets, spring bulbs and home-grown flower and vegetable plants. Visitors are welcome to come and browse, and to



join the Green Finger Club which for £1 a year entitles them to shop there. Visitors are also welcome to the Annual Show, which takes place this year on Saturday 1st September. The Society also takes part in the Shirley Open Gardens scheme.

More information can be found on the website [www.awslg.org.uk](http://www.awslg.org.uk).



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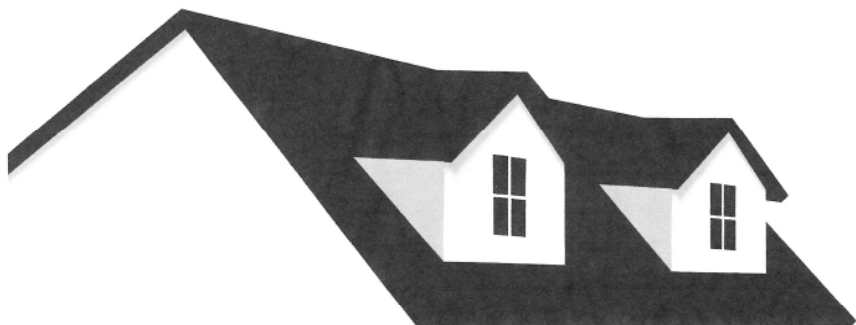
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To the full extent permissible by law, Monks Orchard Residents' Association disclaim all responsibility, liability, or otherwise, or from any action or decision taken as a result of using this 'Handy Ads Section'. We reserve the right to withdraw any advertisement if we receive any complaints about the service provided. To contact us for more details, please telephone Terry Greenwood on: [REDACTED].



## Croydon Councils 2010-2011 Rich List

Name	Job Title [Council Staff with salary over £100k pa]	Total Remuneration 2010-11	Total Monthly Salary	Total 2010-11 per Working hour (*)
Jon Rouse	Chief Executive	£248,362	£20,696.83	£94.08
Hannah Miller	Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director of Adult Services & Housing	£202,940	£16,911.67	£76.87
Nathan Elvery	Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director of Corporate Resources & Customer Services	£196,077	£16,339.75	£74.27
Emma Peters	Executive Director of Planning, Re-generation & Conservation	£183,757	£15,313.08	£69.60
Dave Hill	Executive Director of Children, Young People & Learners	£112,720	£9,393.33	£42.70
Tom Jeffrey	Executive Director of Community Services	£170,623	£14,218.58	£64.63
Damian Roberts	Director Step Change Croydon	£131,191	£10,932.58	£49.69
Pam Parkes	Director of Human Resources & Organisational Development	£129,342	£10,778.50	£48.99
Julie Belvir	Director of Democratic Legal Services & Monitoring Officer	£135,653	£11,304.42	£51.38
3 Un-named staff with unidentified jobs—on		£102,500	£8,541.67	£38.83
4 Un-named staff with unidentified jobs—on		£107,500	£8,958.33	£40.72
4 Un-named staff with unidentified jobs—on		£112,500	£9,375.00	£42.61
1 Un-named staff with unidentified job—on		£142,500	£11,875.00	£53.98

**The Taxpayers' Alliance rich list can be found at:**

<http://www.taxpayersalliance.com/>

**Note (\*)** The estimates for total hours worked are based upon 10 days Bank Holidays, 25 Days Annual Leave and an 8 hour working day which works out at 330 working days and 2640 working hours per year.

# Planning Report

## LPA DECISIONS

**30 Gladeside**      **Ref: 12/00190/P**

Proposal: Erection of first floor side and single storey side/rear extensions.

Note: This application was a repeat of a previously refused application No. 11/03296/P. MORA objected on behalf of local residents.

**LPA Decision: Permission Refused by delegated committee On 02/03/2012.**

**104A The Glade**      **Ref: 11/00505/P**

Proposal: Formation of crossover and retention of vehicular and pedestrian access serving 102, 104A and 104B The Glade and the retention of revised curtilages for 102 and 104A The Glade.

Note: MORA objected to this application. The planning application was granted subject to a 106 agreement (3 months) on 28/11/2011. The deadline has now been passed. It appears that the developer has not complied with the 106 Agreement. We assume that the application will therefore be rejected.

LPA Decision: None to date.

**MORA was not satisfied about the procedures utilised by The Council and launched an official complaint. This is now being progressed as Stage 2 by the Council.**

**113 The Glade**      **Ref: 12/00574/P**

Proposal: Siting of 2 radio aerial masts at rear.

Note: One of these masts is approximately 1m taller than the house. MORA objected to the application.

**LPA Decision: Application Refused by delegated Committee on 02/05/2012.**

## APPEALS:

**116-124 Tower View**      **Ref: 11/02729**

Appeal Ref: A/11 2166990/NWF

Proposal: Erection of 3 detached houses with integral garages and 2 semi-detached houses with external garages; formation of access road.





Note: This planning permission was refused on 23/11/2011 as the proposal would have an overdeveloped cramped and overcrowded layout, unsatisfactory access and create loss of privacy and visual intrusion. An appeal was received on 12/12/2011. This was another example of a back garden development. MORA objected to both the original proposal and the appeal.



**Appeal Decision:** None to date.

**79 Verdayne Avenue** Ref: 11/02551/P

**Appeal Ref:** A/11/2167923/NWF

**Proposal:** Erection of 2 three bedroom houses at rear and provision of associated parking.

Note: MORA objected to this application. The LPA refused planning permission on 30/11/2011 as the layout would be cramped and overcrowded and have an unsatisfactory relationship with adjoining property. The development would be detrimental to the amenities of adjoining properties by reason of visual intrusion and loss of privacy and detrimental to the visual amenity of the adjoining Metropolitan Open Land.

An appeal was received on 23/12/2011. MORA objected to this appeal.

**Appeal Decision:** Dismissed 17/05/2012.

### **NEW APPLICATIONS:**

**90 Gladeside**Ref: 12/00949/P

**Proposal:** Demolition of existing building; erection of 2 two storey three bedroom semi-detached houses with accommodation in roof-space and 1 three bedroom bungalow; formation of access road and provision of associated parking.

**Consultation expires:** 19/06/12 **Target Date for decision:** 04/07/12

**Land at Glade Gardens** Ref: 12/00872/P

**Proposal:** Erection of 2 two storey four bedroom semi-detached houses with accommodation in the roof-space and 3 two storey three bedroom terraced houses with accommodation in the roof-space; formation of access road and provision of associated parking.

**Consultation expires:** 05/06/12 **Target Date for decision:** 21/06/12

**New Planning Legislation – The Localism Act.**

Following our announcement that MORA had agreed to register their interest in becoming a Neighbourhood Forum for Monks Orchard, it emerged that Croydon Council have put forward alternative proposals to achieve the requirements of the Localism Act. They have proposed that they will divide Croydon into sixteen areas or 'places'. Shirley is to be one 'place' and will cover the area of several residents' associations. The Council have further proposed that these associations, together with other appropriate bodies and individuals who live and work in the area should create a consortium or consultative body to work with and advise the Council. It was proposed that the Council should continue to be responsible for the administrative work. If this pilot scheme proves to be unsatisfactory, the consortium will have the right to form a Neighbourhood Forum.

Such an arrangement will save our association considerable administrative costs. MORA is, however, concerned that these arrangements will result in reduction of the potential control that we may exert over planning decisions within our area.

Despite this scepticism, it was agreed by our executive committee that we have little option other than to accept the Councils proposals as MORA wish to develop their control of planning issues within our area. We are therefore working with Spring Park Residents' Association to develop this new consortium.

## *Abscinding from Bethlem Royal Hospital*

The following information is taken from that given to Bob Stewart, MP for Beckenham, in response to questions raised with the Minister for Health.

The Hospital provides a wide range of mental health services, including for those who are voluntary patients, and those being treated under sections of the Mental Health Act who may never have had contact with the criminal



justice system. It also provides assessment, treatment and rehabilitation for those with severe behavioural and psychiatric problems.

### **Medium Secure Services**

Of the hospital's 318 beds, only a third are provided for forensic patients in medium secure units, but it is these which have prompted the most public concern.

From 2001 to February 2008 adult Medium Secure Services were provided by the Denis Hill Unit. During this period six patients escaped from the Unit. Of these, 2 turned themselves in to the police voluntarily, one was detained by staff in the grounds, and three were apprehended by police within a few days.



Medium Secure Services were transferred to River House Unit in February 2008. This is a purpose built unit with higher levels of physical security. There have been no escapes from the unit since it opened.

### **Absconding whilst on leave**

Since the new unit opened, the focus has been on patients absconding while on escorted or unescorted leave. The granting of leave is an essential part of the recovery and rehabilitation process. The Trust uses risk assessment methods, and patients are only granted leave when medical staff have assessed they are responding well to treatment. For all restricted patients approval of leave has to be given by the Ministry of Justice.

Since 2001 a total of 19 patients have absconded whilst on leave. On 12 occasions patients were escorted by a member of staff, on the remaining 7 patients were unescorted.

Two incidents since the opening of the new unit have led to public alerts.

A male patient, held on a civil section of the Mental Health Act, failed to return from unescorted leave in January 2008. He was apprehended by police three days later.

A female patient, detained in connection with a homicide, absconded while on escorted leave in West Wickham in November 2009. She was apprehended by police in Streatham without



incident. The investigation included a recommendation to introduce the “Buddi” tracker system to monitor patients on leave.

### **Buddi system**

In March 2010 the Buddi system was put in place.

This is a GPS tracking device which locates and tracks anyone wearing one to within metres. The devices are tamper proof and monitored 24/7.

The device was specially commissioned by the Trust to improve security and is the first such to be used in the UK.



Example of GPS tracking ankle bracelet

In the first year of use of the system the number of incidents across the whole of the Trust almost halved, while the amount of leave granted rose by 20%. Figures for the following year are also showing a trend towards a further reduction in incidents.

### **Child and Adolescent Services**

<http://www.slam.nhs.uk/our-services/virtual-tours.aspx>

The Bill Yule secure adolescent unit is a separate service from River House. The Unit was opened in 2004 and accommodates up to 10 young people.

Since the building was opened seven young people have absconded while on escorted leave in the hospital grounds. A further patient absconded while receiving medical treatment in hospital.

There have been four cases of patients escaping from the Unit itself.

In September 2005 a voluntary patient escaped over the fence. He was apprehended by police near the hospital shortly afterwards.

In December 2008 a patient held on a civil section of the Mental Health Act escaped by following a cleaner through an open door. He later turned himself in to the police.

In October 2011 two patients attempted to escape but were quickly returned to the Unit, without leaving the hospital grounds.

The most recent incident involved four patients in February 2012.

Three of them subsequently gave themselves up to the police, or returned voluntarily to the Unit. The fourth was caught in Margate two days after escaping. A full investigation will examine all circumstances surrounding this incident.

The Trust has decided to suspend the service and all patients have been moved to alternative placements. The Unit has now closed pending a decision on its future.

The Trust is aware of the anxiety this incident has caused among local residents. All such incidents are monitored and investigated. These investigations have resulted in improved communication with the police, systematic procedures for security management systems and physical checks, and the Buddi tagging system.

## **Protecting pets and wildlife from pesticide poisoning**

The countryside, enjoyed by so many people and their pets, is also home to wildlife and farmed livestock.

Some animals, large or small, can cause problems for countryside businesses and the environment. Where pests need to be controlled, a wide range of methods including pesticides, trapping and shooting may be used.



Pesticides help farmers, landowners and gamekeepers manage the challenges of pests (including insects, rats and mice), weeds and diseases. However, these products must be used responsibly.

**The UK Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS)** monitors suspected poisoning incidents involving wildlife, pets,

livestock and honeybees whether pesticides have been used correctly or not. In England, around 250 potential incidents are reported each year and about half warrant detailed enquiry.

**Pesticides play an important part in the countryside by:**

- protecting growing crops from weeds, pests and diseases;
- preventing spoilage of stored produce;
- controlling rodents to stop spread of livestock disease.

**Countryside users can help by being alert to suspicious incidents and reporting apparent misuse of pesticides.**  
**What to look for in the countryside.**

Dead animals staked out which may be laced with poison  
Several dead birds or other animals found close together  
Animals that have died without obvious reason or lying beside something they may have eaten. Pet dogs becoming ill after a walk in the countryside  
Spilled slug pellets or uncovered rodenticides.

**If you suspect animals have been poisoned with pesticides or are at risk:**

Do not touch suspect bait or dead animals—warn others to keep away. Cover the evidence if possible, but don't disturb it.

Note the location and phone the WIIS Hotline - 0800 321600 .

If your vet suspects pesticide poisoning make sure they report the incident together with your details to the WIIS Hotline

**Never put yourself or others at risk**

**How WIIS works**

Anyone finding a wild or domestic animal that they suspect has been poisoned or finding anything that may have been used as poison bait, should

contact the Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS) which focuses on use, misuse and abuse of pesticides. Further details on WIIS are available at: **WIIS Hotline 0800 321 600.**





## *Street Tree Preservation*

Now the Summer has returned, we are still officially in a drought. Newly planted street trees need your help.

In order to ensure that Croydon remains a pleasant and green place to live, the council are keen to encourage residents to assist by watering any trees that have been planted in their streets over the last three years. Plastic watering tubes are located by the base of the trees and if buckets of water could be put down these tubes then it would be most appreciated. Residents are particularly encouraged to use "Grey" water, i.e. water from baths, washing up etc.

If further information is required then please contact Nigel Browning Trees & Woodland Manager 020 726 6000 ext 6205 email [nigel.browning@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.browning@croydon.gov.uk)



## *New Street Lighting*

Many of our local residents' have commented on the installation of new street lighting in Shirley and Ashburton Wards. MORA, have in conjunction with our local councillors, and supported by local residents in Edgwood Green obtained agreement for additional lighting to illuminate a dark alleyway for safety. Also, as the lamp posts are much higher than the old lamp posts being replaced, the brightness can shine directly into residents bedrooms. If this affects you, you can request a shield to be fitted as shown in the photograph.



Contact Skanska (Borough Road Lights)

Telephone 0800 028 5986

Email: [customerserviceteam@skanska.co.uk](mailto:customerserviceteam@skanska.co.uk)

# Monks Orchard Primary School

On the 12<sup>th</sup> March Monks Orchard School held an exhibition of the latest plans for the expansion of Monks Orchard school. The plan is to extend each year by one class so as to include an extra 210 pupils into the school.

The latest plans show that a lot of thought has been put into resolving local and education concerns:

Six of the seven new classrooms are to be sited to the back of houses on The Glade, in an area already used by a temporary classroom. It is believed that as these are quiet teaching areas there should be little effect on the neighbours to the school. There will also be one additional classroom to the east of the site, next to the current first year block and one current classroom will be re-assigned for alternative uses. The construction of the new classrooms will be carried out off site and transported to the appropriate location. The single classroom will be transported down

Fairford Avenue and Ash Tree Way fully assembled, to minimise wear on the roads. The other six classrooms cannot be transported using these roads and there is a plan to open a temporary road from Horton Way and down the back of the houses on The Glade to the appropriate place on site.

However there are no plans for parking facilities on site for staff, even though there will be a creation of at least 16 jobs on site. This will make a strain on already limited local spaces. In an area where we have many older and less mobile residents, many needing carers, this is something of great concern to the local community. A surprising oversight considering that parking has been an issue with other plans in the area.

The playground areas are the same, meaning residents backing on to the school will suffer a major increase in noise during lunch and play times, and for those residents unfortunate enough to have recent school climbing equipment against their boundary, increased invasion of privacy.



Plans for the school  
'orange' represents new  
teaching areas.



For some reason there has also been an addition included of a modern façade for the main reception of the building which resembles East Croydon train station.

Nothing was mentioned with regards to improving public transport to the school, initiatives to discourage car use of staff or parents or changes to improve traffic flow to nullify the potential 50% increase in traffic.



The current entrance to the main office at Monks Orchard school.

As anyone local knows, a combination of some parents forced to park illegally, narrow roads, absent pavements and congregating parents and children already makes the area potentially dangerous. An increase in pupils and nothing in place to improve safety would be foolhardy and so we can only hope

that this is still being worked on.

The team in charge of the school expansion project are adamant that to get planning approval all concerns will be addressed and favouritism will not be shown to a Council project. If that is true then despite the recruitment drive to fill new posts, there is still a lot of work still to do.



## CVA Update

Croydon Voluntary Action have been working in conjunction with the

Community Development Foundation for funding neighbourhood projects and has allocated £33,910 for projects in Ashburton. After the CVA presentation by Jo Gough, at the AGM, we became aware of the possibility of MORA becoming members of the Ashburton Panel. However, because we were late in getting our act together and even then not being geared up to specify and define a suitable project, we have not been



able to meet the Community Development Foundation's timescales. So we are sorry to report that we have missed this opportunity. Help us be prepared for the next tranche for 2013-14. Ideas to MORA please and more info at <http://www.cvalive.org.uk/>



# **SHIRLEY LUNCH AND SUPPER CLUB**

**COACH TRIP TO  
PLUCKLEY AND LEEDS CASTLE  
THURSDAY, 26 JULY 2012  
£37.50 PER PERSON**

*The coach will leave the Co-Op in Wickham Road and the first stop will be for coffee at the Black Horse Inn in Pluckley; the location for The Darling Buds of May and Pa Larkin's favourite pub.*



*Pluckley is the most haunted village in Britain and The Black Horse Inn, built in 1470, is the most haunted pub in Kent!!*



*Then off to Leeds Castle, set in 500 acres of beautiful parkland, described as 'THE LOVELIEST CASTLE IN THE WORLD!'*

*Here you will have lots of time to explore the castle and gardens.*

*The price includes the coach, coffee at Pluckley, entry into Leeds Castle and gratuity for the coach driver.*

**If you would like to join us, please call Christine on: [REDACTED]**



**CORRECTION TO YEARLY ACCOUNTS  
ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2011  
PAGE 22 Spring Newsletter**

In the spring 2012 newsletter we published the accounts as above showing the amount of £5,814 in the expenses section total amount. Please note this was a typing error and should have read £5,914.

Spring Newsletter Page 19 - penultimate paragraph should read "... land grabbers, with the South East having to ..."

Spring Newsletter Page 5 "thank You" article supplied contained an incorrect telephone number. should have been 020 8662 0332.

***Area Managers and Road Stewards***

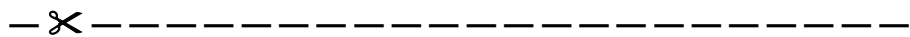
**We still require additional Road Stewards for the distribution of newsletters each quarter and the collection of membership subscriptions once a year.**

**Any member willing to assist in this important activity please contact:**

**Diane McInerney on [REDACTED]**

# MORA COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2012-2013

Chairman	Dave King	
Vice Chairman	Vacancy	-
Secretary	Vacancy	-
Treasurer	Terry Greenwood	
Planning	Ian Fraser	
Membership Secretary	Diane McInerney	
Editor/Website	Derek Ritson	
Police Liaison	Jean Cook	
Primary Care	Mercia Nash	
Social Secretary	Christine Ross-Smith	
Transport & Highways	Vacancy	-
Ward Panel Rep.	Joan Pring	
Trees & Open Spaces	Sue & Martyn Buchanan	
Committee Members and Area Managers	{ Michael Nash { Patricia Turner { Anne Horton	
Committee Member	Nicki Smith	



## MONKS ORCHARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

'I wish to become a member of the Monks Orchard Residents' Association'

Name:	Signature:
Address:	
Post Code:	

Please send this completed form to:

**DIANE MCINERNEY**  
[Redacted]

**Thank you for supporting MORA.**  
**Please pass on to a non-member.**

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