MONKS ORCHARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Croydon

(Non Party)

(Independent)

NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 1999

Minutes of the 75th. Annual General Meeting held at St. George's Church Hall on Friday 26th. March 1999.

Bob Akers opened the meeting by welcoming members and also Councillor Peter Campbell, Councillor Derek Loughborough, P. C. Jonathan Swift (Local Beat Officer) Elizabeth Hill Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer) Jeff Bailey (Crime Prevention Officer) plus visitors from adjoining Residents' Associations. He said that this was a special evening being the seventy fifth Annual General Meeting of the Association and the last meeting of this millennium. Reference was made to how the area must have looked in 1923 when MORA was founded and to how it may look in another seven or eight decades. It was stressed that MORA has a long, proud and interesting history. As a result of the work of the previous and present elected officers much has been achieved. However, if MORA is to continue its work into the new millennium it is essential that more members are willing to help with the work of the association. A warm welcome awaits anyone willing to act as Road Steward, Area Manager or as a member of the Executive Committee.

Apologies for Absence

Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Loughborough and Mrs. Turner were unable to attend.

Minutes of the 1998 Annual General Meeting.

These were published in the May 1998 issue of the Newsletter and further copies were available for inspection at the meeting. The minutes were proposed, seconded and agreed by those present as a correct record.

Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising from the minutes of last years Annual General Meeting.

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Election of Officers.

The Chair said he was disappointed that no other nominations have been received. However he was delighted that the present hard working members are willing to continue. The following serving members of the Executive Committee were elected en bloc.

Members of the Executive Committee.

Bob Akers (Chairman), John Walkington (Vice-chairman and Honorary treasurer), Charles Hutchings (Area Manager and Historian), Alyce Menhinnitt (Membership Secretary), Peter Mortimer (Transport and Highways), Owen Whalley (Planning Officer), Derek Ritson (Editor Newsletter), Arthur Taylor (Area Manager), Christine Ross-Smith (Shirley and the Millenium).

Treasurers' Report.

The Chair reported that Ken Butler had resigned in October because of ill health. Tribute was paid to the valuable work he had undertaken as Honorary Treasure and wishes were expressed for a full and complete recovery. John Walkington has agreed to act as Honorary Treasurer until a replacement can be found. He circulated copies of the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st. December 1998 as approved by the auditor. He confirmed that there is a balance of income over expenditure but that this was less than for the previous year. Making use of the services of a local auditor has made economies. (See Statement of 1998 Accounts at pages 9 & 10).

Planning Report.

As in previous years the majority of planning applications in the Ward over the last year comprise proposals to alter or extend existing houses. Proposals for backland housing schemes are still cropping up and these continue to cause anxiety for MORA members who live close to these sites.

Since the AGM last March there have been 64 planning applications submitted to the Council in Monks Orchard, this is twelve less than the number submitted in 1997/98. Of the 61 applications that have been determined since last March, 87% have been approved. There are currently 18 outstanding applications still to be determined, the oldest of which dates back to January last year and relates to the Shirley Oaks tree nursery site.

There are three outstanding planning applications for residential development in the Ward, which if all approved in their current form, would create 32 new houses and four flats.

Outstanding Residential Proposals

The future of the buildings and yard of H.W.West & Sons at 139-141 Shirley Road is still uncertain. The latest scheme for the building of offices, 4 flats and 14 houses was submitted to the Council in August last year, and considered by the Council's Applications Sub-Committee last week. The Sub-Committee was minded to grant consent for the scheme subject the conclusion of a legal agreement. Our two Ward Councillors have, however, maintained their objections to the proposal and so it will be considered by the main Planning Committee on the 19th May. The scheme has fewer parking spaces than would normally be required because it is provides Housing Association accommodation. The Council is therefore seeking an agreement to restrict the development to a Housing Association. Similarly the proposed access arrangements necessitate the loss of a strip of amenity open space on the Shirley Oaks estate which is not in the applicants ownership. Agreement with the landowners is therefore required before the development can proceed.

The proposed redevelopment of land at the rear of Woodmere Avenue, between Round Grove and Woodmere Close, which originally proposed ten new houses, has now been reduced to eight. The reduced scheme avoids the felling of a protected Willow tree, but will still impact on existing residents, particularly those in Round Grove.

There is also a proposal to build eight semi-detached houses at the rear of nos.71-73 Shirley Avenue. It is proposed that these would be accessed from Primrose Lane in Shirley Oaks. This is still being considered by the Council but MORA understands that there remains an issue over securing permission from the Shirley Oaks Management Company to secure the access to Primrose Lane.

Shirley Oaks Tree Nursery

The planning application to use the vacant tree nursery site in Shirley Oaks as a cemetery was submitted in January last year. The Council has requested further information from the applicant; the most important of which relates to the height of the water table. The Environment Agency has asked for readings to be submitted for

November and March. MORA asked that the results of the November readings be disclosed on the basis that if the water table was too high, the scheme could be rejected without further delay. The Council prefers to wait for both sets of data to be submitted and has reminded the applicant of the need to take further readings. These will then need to be assessed by the Environment Agency who will advise the Council. We trust that these readings will demonstrate that the water table is too high to allow the site to be used for burials.

Not content to await the outcome of this proposal, MORA joined forces with the Shirley Oaks Residents Association to submit an alternative proposal for the future of the site. This is that it should be used as a nature reserve. A well-researched planning application was submitted to the Council last September. We are hopeful that with our agreement to provide a small car park, the scheme will be recommended for approval and that the Applications Sub-Committee should be receiving a report from its officers in mid April. The Shirley Oaks Management Company is trying to negotiate the acquisition of the site from the current owner.

Copies of the nature reserve planning application were made available, priced at £1.00 to help offset the cost of making the application.

B. P. Petrol Filling Station

British Petroleum is still behaving in a cavalier way over future expansion plans for the filling station at the roundabout on the Shirley Road / Addiscombe Road junction. The company makes no secret of its plans to expand the petrol station and provide a larger 24-hour shop similar to the Tesco Express further down Shirley Road.

Having had their initial plans rejected by the Council, the company has not had any further contact with the Council and is still to submit any revised proposals for the redevelopment of the site.

In the meantime, the semi-detached house that B.P. own next to the petrol station remains boarded up while its domestic garage has been demolished. A new boundary fence has been erected taking part of the back garden of the vacant house and this land is now being used for parking cars. Needless to say the occupier of the other semi-detached house remains very worried about security and uncertain about the

future of the site. MORA is pressing the Council to take enforcement action against this creeping change of use.

Flooding

A member in Tower View whose back garden is suffering from standing water has recently contacted MORA. While a water feature may be desirable in the modern garden, waterlogging to the extent that wellington boots are obligatory and most conventional plants will not grow is not. The occupier of the house has gone to a lot of trouble contacting the Council, Thames Water and the Environment Agency to see how the problem may be overcome, without a great deal of success. None of the public authorities, while happy to advise, want to take responsibility for addressing this issue.

MORA will be conducting a survey of its members to determine to what extent this is a common problem in the ward. The Executive Committee will then consider how best it can encourage one or other of the public agencies to address this problem.

If MORA members at tonight's meeting have any problems concerning planning or development matters, please contact me by telephone on or by writing to me at

Owen Whalley Honorary Planning Officer

Councillors Reports

Councillor Loughborough thanked the Chairman, Officers and helpers for their efforts in keeping MORA going and acting on behalf of the residents, watching what the Council is doing and what it is supposed to be doing. He said busy Councillors often thought that they are doing the right thing but that it is very easy for them to lose touch with those they serve. Residents should always remember that local Councillors are elected to serve them. He said that he relied on residents to tell him when they do not get the services they require. Services such as refuse collection, grass cutting and all those other services we do not think about until they do not happen.

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Councillor Loughborough observed that this was a time of change, for example the Electorial Commission is proposing to alter the electorial boundaries of the borough, which were so carefully created in 1978. This could result in the Monks Orchard ward fading away to become part of Shirley ward and part of Ashburton ward. Another change is that the Croydon Council plans to alter its structure and appoint some of its members as full time paid Executive Councillors who will oversee the work of the various departments.

Concluding, Councillor Loughborough said that one thing he was very sure of is that the need for a strong residents' association is going to be greater not less during this time of change. He could see that pressure for accommodation is going to increase and pressure on every open space is going to grow and grow. Fortunately, we are blessed with a fairly green and open ward and we wish to keep it this way.

MORA and the Millennium.

Bob Akers said that over the past two years the Executive Committee has been considering ways to mark or celebrate the arrival of the new Millennium. Members were asked in the newsletter if they had any ideas or suggestions but no response was received. At present, there is little interest but when the once in a lifetime event arrived members are likely to ask why nothing is being done to mark the occasion? On behalf of the Executive Committee Mrs. Ross-Smith reported that the Council plans to mark the arrival of the new Millennium with a number of events such as a pyrotechnic display, candlelight possession, burial of a time capsule, plus displays, exhibitions, and parties. One idea considered by the Executive Committee was the planting of some commemorative trees in the ward but the Council is already actively doing this. An idea being explored at present is to donate a MORA trophy to each of the schools in the area to be awarded to a student or group of students for their efforts in the community. Senior citizens will not be over looked as contact is being made with the Over Sixty Club to enquire if they required any further help.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Elizabeth Hills began by explaining that the purpose of her visit was to further the idea of Neighbourhood Watch becoming involved in a partnership with Residents' Associations, and how they can work together for the wider benefit of the whole community. Among the extra benefits Neighourhood Watch can bring, research has shown that about 80% of criminals are reluctant to work in an area with an active Neighbourhood Watch because it encourages an interest by residents in what is happening around their homes. In addition, many Insurance Companies give discounts to residents who are members of active Neighbourhood Watches.

Last year the National Neighbourhood Watch Association decided that it could successfully co-operate with Residents' Associations while they both still retain their separate identities. Neighbourhood Watch is no longer solely involved with crime reduction in the community, although protecting property and the flow of information between members and the Police are still important. It now works on a broader level that includes improving the environment to create a caring community that is a safer and friendlier place.

The Crime and Disorder Bill requires the Police and Local Authority to work in partnership, together with other community organisations including Neighbourhood Watch, to improve the environment in which we live and work. This means you can contact the Council, as a Neighbourhood Watch member, if there are problems with graffiti, dumped rubbish, street lighting, etc., in the same way that you contact the Police to report problems with crime.

Co-operation between Residents' Association and Neighbourhood Watch is usually easy because both groups are working toward the same aims, namely improving the area and making it a safer place to live, but Neighbourhood Watch, additionally, includes ways of reducing crimes amongst its priorities.

The first step towards establishing a Neighbourhood Watch in a Residents' Association area is to meet with members of the Committee and agree how they can mutually co-operate. A check has to be made to find out how many roads in the Association already have co-ordinators so that the residents can be informed. The Residents' Association can make the assumption that all their members wish to join, but it is preferable that individuals are given a choice. Some people do not wish to belong. For streets where there is no Neighbourhood Watch, letters need to be delivered to find out if the

residents are interested in forming a Watch. Where practical, Residents' Association Stewards can organise or help with the distribution of these letters.

Each Watch must have a co-ordinator. A Watch may be a block of flats, a group of houses, a part of a street, or a complete street. The size of the Watch is not important, as long as there is a co-ordinator responsible for actively running the Watch. Realistically, it makes sense to keep the area manageable, so I recommend that a co-ordinator aims to take on no more than 75 properties. If, however, a Watch has several people willing to help then the size can be increased. If Monks Orchard Residents Association decides to become involved, then I will come to a meeting to discuss how Neighbourhood Watch will work. Meanwhile, I need to get a mailshot letter delivered to all residents to find out the level of interest.

I have a standard set of mailshot documentation but will need your assistance to collate the paperwork to deliver it to residents. Please contact me if you are prepared to volunteer either to collate the paperwork, or else to help to deliver it to residents in your own street. You can either telephone or write to me, at:

Elizabeth Hills, Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer,
. Tel:

MORA OVER-SIXTIES CLUB

It still runs on a Thursday afternoon, from 2.00-4.00, and has been for the last 22 years. All over-sixties are welcome. Your support is needed, as time passes, sadly, it is inevitable that numbers decrease. Get out of the house – have a chat over a cup of tea!!

For more information, please contact Carol Jones, at

Tel:

ZOOM SHIRLEY 1999

Shirley District Guiding is celebrating its 50th birthday this year. We are planning to hold an exciting day of celebration for adults and girls to share – active, creative and with a touch of nostalgia.

If you have been involved with Guiding in Shirley in the past and would like to join us, please phone me for the details:

Liz Bebington, District Commissioner,



1998 ACCOUNTS

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER 1998

	1998	1997	
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Bank Current Account	2321	1,986	
Bank Deposit Account	4562	4,439	
Cash In Hand		34	
Debtors		181	
	6883	6,640	
CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
Audit Fee	Nil		317
NET CURRENT ASSETS:	6,	883	6,323
NET ASSETS	6,	883	6,323
Represented by:-			
Surplus at 01/01/98	6,	425	4,899
Surplus (Deficit) for Year		458	1,424
Surplus at 31/12/98	6,	883	6,323

INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1998

	1998		1997		
INCOME:					
Subscriptions	2,457 126			3,220 88 11	
Bank Interest					
Donation					
		2,583		3,319	
EXPENSES: Printing & Stationery Road Steward Expenses Hire of Hall					
	600 300 284 165 258 10 40	521			
		300	300 140		
		140			
Hire of Vestry					
Subscriptions & Donations		240			
Sundry		5 100			
Over 60's Funding					
Secretary's Expenses		34	34 25 58		
Treasurer's Expenses		25			
Membership Secretary's	58			58	
Expenses	317 84				
Insurance		55	55 100 317		
Bird Sanctuary Expenses Audit Fee Planning Expenses		100			
		317			
		-2,125	1,895	-1,895	
Surplus (Deficit) for year		458		1,424	



Any contributions for future newsletters should be with the Editor by the following dates at the latest. The earlier copy is received the more chance of its inclusion as the total copy must result in a multiple of 4 pages.

Next Issue – June 11th, then Sept 10th and Nov 12th



HEARING IMPAIRMENT OR TINNITUS?

Do you have a hearing impairment or tinnitus, or know someone who has? then help is at hand. The Croydon Hard of Hearing Project is a Registered Charity that is part-funded by The Health Authority and Social Services for one full time and one part time paid staff, and, with 40 volunteers assist in providing: advice, information and counselling for people with hearing impediment. They offer information and advice on Hearing Aid Care, Batteries, Re-tubing, Inductive Loop Systems, Louder Door Bells etc. (for loan, purchase or to test out). In addition, Deaf Awareness Training, Lipreading Classes are available including Social Support Groups for those with a hearing loss.

The Shirley Social Group is one of six thoughout the borough of Croydon. It meets on a Tuesday afternoon, 1.30 - 3.30pm, and is run by two fully-trained Group Organisers who give up their time to create a fun, social afternoon.

The Group provides:

Replacement Batteries, Re-tubing of hearing aids, An inductive loop system used for speech clarity for hearing-aid users.

A varied social program of chats quizzes, outings, speakers on local and topical issues, parties and much more. A cup of tea, a biscuit and a welcoming smile.

For more information, please call: ______, and ask to speak to either Frankie or Suzanne. If you would like to offer to be a volunteer, please contact us. If you get an answerphone message, leave your name and number. We look forward to hearing from you.

LOCAL AGENDA 21

WHAT IS LOCAL AGENDA 21?

Agenda 21 is a program for environmentally responsible development for the 21st Century, which was agreed at the 1992 United Nations' Earth Summit. Croydon is one of the many communities throughout the world who have responded by preparing their own Local Agenda 21. For everyone it means conserving our natural resources, sharing them more fairly and involving all parts of the community in understanding the problems of environmental abuse and helping to solve them.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES – SPRING 1999

Our Future, Our Transport - On the Right Track!

In response to the Government's recent White Paper on integrated transport, the Council has started to develop a Sustainable Transport Strategy for Croydon. The Local Agenda 21 (LA21) office is coordinating this project and will be arranging widespread consultation on a draft of the Strategy during the summer of this year. The Strategy will cover all aspects of transport, including walking, cycling, public transport (plus trams, or course), cars and freight, road safety and health and environmental issues. The aim is to come up with realistic solutions to existing problems and to ensure that future transport developments increase accessibility and choice, and enhance, rather than threaten health and the environment.

If you have any ideas which you think will help, or would like to assist in arranging a consultation workshop, please ring Brian Irving, on or e-mail:

Be Scene to be Green

Come and enjoy a great day out at Croydon's second GREEN FAIR, on Sunday 4th July 1999, at Lloyd Park, in Croydon.

There is music and entertainment from around the world. Stimulate your ears, eyes and taste buds with food, displays and children's activities for a 'greener', healthier, more environmentally friendly way of life.

Details are still being planned, but if you would like to be involved, or have a stall, contact Peter McDonald on

Guide to Green Living in Croydon

A new grassroots guide to living more 'green-ly' in Croydon is being published. It covers 'daily living' topics such as food, gardening, household products, DIY, clothing and transport. A graduate student, Yvan van Royen, has been on a placement with LA21 researching and collating information for the directory.

The LA21 Strategy stresses the need to raise awarenss and promote more sustainable consumer behaviour. The 'Green Guide' will make it easier for everyone in Croydon to live in a more sustainable way.

For your copy, contact: Wendy Clemmey, on 0181-686 4433, Ext. 4935. E-mail: wendy_clemmey@croydon.gov.uk

Tell it how it is

Are you 'greener' than your neighbour? Do you have any environmentally friendly habits? Do you have some green tips worth telling other people about? If so, the LA21 Partnership wants to hear from you. They are working on new ways to tell more people about Local Agenda 21, and want to be sure to give real, local examples. Please contact Peter McDonald, on 0181-686 4433, Ext. 2765. E-mail: peter mcdonald@croydon.gov.uk

'GREEN' COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Croydon's Green Commitment

- ❖ Latest moves in the Council's drive to be more environmentally friendly are:
- ❖ The preparation of a new Council Environment Policy, called 'Croydon's Green Commitment' to replace the current one published in 1995.
- ❖ Positive practical steps being taken by the Continuing Education and Training Service to reduce its environmental impact and spread good practice.
- As reported in the Autumn 1998 newsletter, the Council is working to comply with environmental laws and improve its environmental performance. It aims to reduce the resources it uses, cut pollution from Council-related activities and minimise the waste produced.
- ❖ If you want to know more about environmental, please contact Andrew Coleman, on 0181-686 4433, Ext. 3849.



NOTICE OF SPECIAL REFUSE COLLECTIONS

FREE RUBBISH COLLECTION

Don't miss this opportunity to be rid of all your unwanted rubbish which is not normally collected by the weekly Council collection.

PLEASE FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES: -

Items for disposal must be put out at the front



- and <u>CLEARLY IDENTIFIED</u> for rubbish collection (to avoid confusion with items not required for disposal).
- Place as near to the footway as possible by 9.00 a.m. (Be sure not to obstruct the highway or footpath).
- Please assist in transferring rubbish to the rear of the vehicle, <u>BUT</u> DO NOT LOAD.
- Please be considerate with size and bulk of the items to avoid damage to the vehicle.
- Any TRADE or COMMERCIAL waste (including builders' materials) <u>WILL NOT BE COLLECTED</u>.
- No paint, oil, or similar liquids.
- Acceptance of items will be at the Driver's discretion.
- Large items, such as three-piece suites, washing machines, cookers, etc., can be collected by prior arrangement, for a charge. There is also a free fridge/freezer collection service, just phone 0181-401 1919.

PLEASE NOTE - THE ROUNDS HAVE CHANGED

Due to COST CUTTING by CROYDON COUNCIL, the round have had to be reduced. But we managed to keep SIX ROUNDS. There will only be ONE COLLECTION per YEAR, but the area for each round has been reduced.

The dates for the next Special Refuse collections service arranged by MORA are as follows: -

ROUND ONE: SUNDAY 6TH JUNE

Dustcart meet at SHIRLEY AVE - Junct. with WICKHAM ROAD, down SHIRLEY AVE to SHIRLEY RD, up SHIRLEY RD, down BARNFIELD AVE, up VALLEY WALK, ELDON AVE, WICKHAM ROAD to ORCHARD AVE, down FIRSBY AVE, up VERDAYNE AVE, down RIDGEMOUNT AVE, up WICKHAM AVE, along WICKHAM ROAD to CHESTON AVE, PARKFIELDS; back to ORCHARD AVE (1-77/2-72) via WILKES GDNS, RUSSETT DRIVE, POTTERS CLOSE, then WOODLAND WAY, HIGH TREES.

ROUND TWO: SUNDAY 13TH JUNE

Dustcart meet at CORNER of WOODMERE AVE/ORCHARD AVE, ELSTAN WAY, TOWER VIEW & EDGEWOOD GREEN, WOODMERE AVE, PIPERS GDNS, ROUND GROVE, MERE END, WOODMERE CLOSE, WOODMERE GDNS, GLADESIDE nos: to 1-49/2-48) LORNE GDNS & LORNE AVE.

ROUND THREE: SUNDAY 20th JUNE

Dustcart meet at BYWOOD AVE, THE ROSERY, CHAFFINCH AVE, CHAFFINCH CLOSE, BROOKSIDE WAY, MEADOW AVE, GLADESIDE nos: 51-91/50-94 (as far as Lorne Avenue) via HOMER ROAD, GLADESIDE, FAIRHAVEN WAY, LAVENDAR WAY, GWYNNE AVE, GLENWOOD, MARDELL ROAD, LONGHEATH GDNS.

ROUND FOUR: SUNDAY 27TH JUNE

Dustcart meet at corner ORCHARD WAY/BURREL CLOSE, ORCHARD WAY up to 45/84, via SLOANE WALK, BARONS WALK, BARONS CLOSE, KEMPTON WALK, REGENCY WALK, CASTLETON CLOSE, HAM VIEW, RADNOR WALK, KELVINGTON CLOSE, OVERSTONE GDNS, CARRINGTON CLOSE.

ROUND FIVE: SUNDAY 4TH JULY

Dustcart meet at the bottom of The Glade/Long Lane end; THE GLADE 72/109 (up to Greenview Ave) taking in OAK WAY, ALDERSMEAD AVE, STOKES ROAD, GREENVIEW AVE, ASHTREE WAY, taking in ASHTREE CLOSE, FAIRWAY CLOSE, FAIRFORD AVE, FAIRFORD CLOSE, OAKWAY, STONELEIGH PARK AVE.

ROUND SIX: SUNDAY 11TH JULY

Dustcart meet at ORCHARD GROVE, LYCONBY GDNS, COVERACK CLOSE, ORCHARD RISE, OAKVIEW GROVE, PIPPIN CLOSE, FRESHFIELDS down ORCHARD AVE (from nos. 79-125/74-100), down THE GLADE (Nos. 1-70/2-107 as far as Greenview Avenue), via GLADE GDNS, CAMROSE CLOSE, DARLEY CLOSE.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1999/2000

President:	Vacant	
Chairman:		
Vice Chairman: John Walkington		
Acting Secretary: Bob Akers		
Acting Treasurer: John Walkington		
Planning Officer: Owen Whalley		
Minutes Secretary: Bob Akers		
Newsletter Editor: Derek Ritson		
Transport Officer: Peter Mortimer		
Highways Officer: Peter Mortimer		
Membership Sec: Alyce Menhinnitt		
Hon. Historian & Area Manager: Charles Hutchings		
Area Manager: Arthur Taylor		

HISTORICAL AGM MINUTES

Following the Association's A.G.M. in March, which was **the 75**th **Anniversary**, it was hoped to reproduce the minutes of the 1st A.G.M. in 1924. Unfortunately, the earliest AGM Minutes we do have is for the 7th which was held in 1930. The committee felt that it might be interesting for members to be able to read a copy of such an ancient historical document.

However, as we have filled this newsletter with the current AGM and other relevant material and have reached the 16 page milestone, we will hopefully publish a copy of the Minutes of the 7th AGM in the next newsletter.

