

Members of the Executive Committee

John Walkington (Vice Chairman), Ken Butler (Treasurer), Charles Hutchings (Area Manager & Historian), Alyce Meheninnitt (Membership Secretary), Peter Mortimer (Transport/Highways Officer), Owen Whalley (Planning Officer), Derek Ritson (Editor Newsletter), Arthur Taylor (Area Manager).

On being invited to take the chair, Bob Akers said it was an honour and a privilege to be elected as Chairman of the Association, especially to lead it into its seventy-fifth year. He was mindful of the excellent Chairmen that had served in the past. Without their great contribution the Association would not be what it is today and he hoped that he could follow their example.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Butler (Treasurer) circulated copies of the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1997 as approved by the Auditors. He confirmed that there was a healthy balance of income over expenditure. To a question about more income over past the year, it was generally felt that this is the result of the increase in subscription fees. The accounts were then formally agreed and accepted. The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his valuable work.

Appointment of Auditors.

The Chairman confirmed that the present auditors McKenzie and Company had carried out their duties in a professional manner. He proposed that their services be retained for the forthcoming year. Seconded by Arthur Taylor, this was agreed.

Reports

The following report prepared by Owen Whalley (Planning Officer) was circulated at the meeting.

The vast bulk of planning applications made in the Ward over the last year comprised proposals to build extensions to existing houses. There continues to be a few proposals, however, for infill or backland housing schemes which have caused anxieties for MORA members who live close to these sites.

Since the last AGM there have been 76 planning applications submitted to the Council in Monks Orchard Ward; this is only three less than the number submitted in 1996/7. Of the 71 applications that have been determined since last March, 85% have been approved. This is a slightly lower percentage than at the last AGM. There are still 16 outstanding applications yet to be determined, the oldest of which dates back to 1991. Over the last year, planning permission has been given by the Council for only two new individual houses; the first in Milford Gardens on the Longheath estate, and the second as an extension to the to Mere End. MORA is grateful for the tremendous work undertaken by a number of local residents in opposing the Mere End scheme and for attending the marathon Planning Committee which finally gave permission for the scheme.

A further housing scheme has just been given planning permission on appeal, which anticipates building 7 new houses on land adjoining the Church Hall car park and using land at the back of properties in Woodmere Avenue and Elsten Way.

Back Garden development continues to be the greatest single concern for most MORA members. The council's Unitary Development Plan has a number of policies designed to safeguard environmental standards, but MORA remains concerned that development is still being permitted which adversely effects existing residents' amenity and privacy. The pressure to continue development in suburban areas such as Monks Orchard is likely to continue in the light of continuing Government pressure to protect the Green Belt.

The future of the buildings and yard of H.W. West & Sons at 139-141 Shirley Road remains uncertain. Various residential redevelopment schemes have been put forward and rejected by the council. The latest scheme for the building of offices, 4 flats and 14 houses was withdrawn very shortly after being submitted.

Those living close to the BP petrol station on Shirley Road were shocked to learn of its redevelopment proposals. The scheme anticipated the use of one of a pair of semi-detached houses next to the existing site, as a shop. Needless to say, the occupiers of the other semi-detached house were very upset. Fortunately, the Council has rejected the scheme and BP has gone away to think about a revised

scheme. In the meantime, however, the vacant house is continuing to deteriorate and BP seem reluctant to maintain it. MORA is still pursuing the company on this issue.

LOCAL AGENDA 21.

Barbara Wilcox outlined the story of Croydon's Local Agenda 21 agreements at the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, Croydon Council began work on Local Agenda 21 in April 1993.



This Agenda aims to help us live within the natural resources of the earth so that future generations will be able to have a reasonable quality of life in the 21st Century and beyond.

The audience was invited to compare two drawings of the same urban area. One depicted an unhealthy and hostile environment with excessive use of fossil fuels, waste of materials, derelict land and neglected buildings. The other showed how the same urban area could be made cleaner, healthier, greener and more environmentally acceptable by using resources sensibly.

The aim of the exercise was to create awareness of what individuals and groups can do to make a difference. After discussion the question was asked, "what sort of environment initiatives could the residents of Monks Orchard undertake?"

Comments on the Sustainable Scenario

Bikes, not fuel-using cars have less effect on the environment. Where less electricity is used, solar and wind generated power has an effect on power stations and the environment. Local business can re-open; therefore less travel is needed. Trees are healthy for environment generally (i.e. regarding pollution, birds, wildlife, etc.)

WHAT WE COULD DO

MORA IDEAS	COMMENTS/INFORMATION
Make joint trips to recycle and shop	If you make a special journey to a recycling centre it probably causes more pollution than you save. It's important to buy recycled products too, and try to cut down the amount we produce in the first place.
Waste taken to factories to produce energy	Your household waste is taken 35 miles by lorry to a dump at Pitsea in Essex; some of South London's waste is converted into energy at the "SELCHIP" plant in Greenwich.
Encourage composting	Ring 0181 760 5524 for an explanatory leaflet.
Ask about water meters which can also save money for water conscious and small households	Thames Water will now install water meters free so you pay according to what you use. Ring 0800 200 800.
Lobby Council to pick up assorted rubbish from kerbside.	Stop Press: the council is planning a pilot collection scheme to start later this year.
Use the milkman – bottles get used many times	Unigate deliver locally : 0181 777 2291
Aluminium Recycling etc. (recycling and reduction of waste).	Aluminium Recycling: For information on setting up of community schemes contact the Aluminium Recycling Association 0121 633 4656
Mailing Preference Service – enables you to say no to 'junk mail'.	Mailing Preference Service : 0345 034599 Freepost 22 London W1E 7EZ
Need to increase overall environmental awareness	Croydon Global Action Plan is a six month program to help households to reduce their environmental impact: details from Karen Langley: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Croydon Community Subscription Agriculture links residents with a Sussex farm which supplies boxes or organic produce to pick-up points in Croydon: details Jeffrey Bolam: [REDACTED].	

Most members said they regularly recycled waste such as paper and glass. However, some asked why the Council did not collect segregated materials, such as newspapers, for recycling along with the normal rubbish. Councillor Loughborough replied that, at present, waste paper

costs more to collect than it can earn, which is uneconomic. Dismay was expressed at the lack of facilities for recycling of plastic containers because these are not biodegradable. Although some are recycled or reused, most finish up in landfill sites.

The message contained in the lecture was that everyone play their part, however small, towards making a difference. Almost every human activity has some direct effect on the environment, from transporting ourselves to work and school, to heating our homes. It is only recently that people are becoming fully aware of the fact that the way we are living is unsustainable and will store up trouble for the future, and that appropriate action should be taken.

For more information on Croydon Local Agenda 21 please contact Barbara Wilcox on [REDACTED].



PLANNING NEWS

Cemetery Update

In January this year, application was made to change the use of the vacant tree nursery in Shirley Oaks to a cemetery. The site backs on the rear gardens of properties in Woodmere Avenue. The applicant submitted very little information and the Council officers asked for more details before they can consider the scheme. Traffic impact, car parking, the effect on the water table, operating hours, proposed landscaping and screening are all key issues that need to be considered. The applicant has said that he will submit these details but as yet the Council is still waiting. MORA has been assured that as soon as any more information is received, both the Association and all those who have lodged objections will be notified. As soon as more details become available, the Association will notify those MORA members living adjacent to the site.

In the mean time, Owen Whalley, the MORA Planning Officer, has had a number of meetings with the Shirley Oaks Residents' Association. The two Associations are working together to frustrate the cemetery proposal. A new planning application is to be submitted by Shirley Oaks Residents' Association, supported by MORA, which will propose that the site be used as a wildlife garden and nature reserve with a water feature. Drawings are being prepared now. If any MORA members have any expertise in technical drawing or nature conservation management, please contact Owen Whalley on [REDACTED].

Elstan Way Traffic Calming



Planning permission was granted on appeal earlier this year for the redevelopment of back garden land

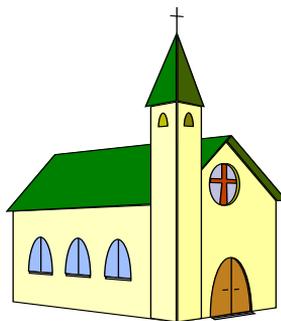
at the rear of Elstan Way and Woodmere Avenue. This consent was subject to the Council's approval of traffic calming measures. On Wednesday 20th May the Council placed a formal notice in the Croydon Guardian as well as notices on lamp columns in Elstan Way advertising these traffic calming proposals. If valid traffic objections are submitted, the Council's Traffic Management Sub-Committee will consider the issue in July. MORA objected to the planning application and subject to considering the traffic calming proposals in detail will also be objecting to the proposed traffic calming measures. MORA has made sure that residents in Elstan Way have received copies of the formal notice and the associated drawing. Elstan Way residents have already submitted a petition, opposing the traffic-calming scheme.



LOCAL AGENDA 21 - NEWS

WALK TO WORSHIP/CHURCH 12-14 JUNE 1998

Make this a car-free Friday, Saturday or Sunday and demonstrate your faith commitment on foot, bicycle or other 'green' means. If you are planning an original or picturesque means of transport, just let Local Agenda 21 know and we can help publicise it for you.



Driving to worship can cause local congestion, and is often over short distances (when cars are most polluting). Some people have no choice over their means of transport to Church, Mosque, Synagogue or Temple, but many others do. And the air was created for free! Croydon Council is co-ordinating a "Don't Choke Croydon" action group (Tel 0181-686 4433, Ext 2236), including community representatives, to encourage groups, schools and individuals to take

part in various activities. Within this, Local Agenda 21 is promoting 'Walk to Worship' with different faith communities. We're happy to provide you with a poster and other literature to promote "Walk to Worship." Call us on 0181-686 4433 Ext 4935. Fax: 0181-760 5791. We look forward to hearing from you.

GREEN FAIR
SUNDAY 5th JULY, 1998

Be Scene to be green! Come and enjoy a great day out at Croydon's International Music Day and Green Fair, on Sunday 5th July, 1998 in Lloyd Park, Croydon. Entertainment from all five continents at the International Music Day. Stimulate your ears, eyes, and taste buds at the Green Café with folk cabaret, food, displays and children's activities for a 'greener, healthier, more environmentally-friendly way of life.



For further information contact Kerri Croudace on 0181-646 4433 Ext. 4935.

SELSDON FORESTRY AND COUNTRY SHOW
15th & 16th AUGUST 1998 10.30am to 5.30pm



Free Entry, Car Parking £5, Free Bus from Selsdon Triangle to the Showground.

VENUE: Selsdon Woods, Old Farleigh Road, South Croydon.

A great summer show for all the Borough with countryside skills and wonders on display plus events and refreshments in plenty.

Local Agenda 21 invites you to look round their "Green Living Room" and learn environmentally-friendly habits for the home. Contacts: Selsdon Show: 0181-760 5756. LA21: 0181-760 5791.

**LA21 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SATURDAY 31st OCTOBER 1998
10.30am to 4.15pm
BRAITHWAITE HALL, KATHERINE STREET**



A date for your diary, is this year's Local Agenda 21 Conference. Get together with others wanting a more sustainable future for the borough! See how we're all doing with the actions in the LA21 document! Help plan the next steps!

Workshops, "teach-ins", surgeries, displays and much more!
To register your interest, telephone 0181-686 4433 Ext. 4935 (0181-760 5791 out of office hours).

THANKS TO ALAN COGIN

Alan Cogin, our Area Manager for the Southern part of the Ward, is retiring after many years as a devoted committee member and area manager. We would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank Alan for his support on the committee and, more recently, his support in the distribution of newsletters. We would also like to wish him and his family well for the future.

NEWSLETTER COPY DATES

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

Next Issue - Sept 12th, Nov 14th, and 6th Feb, 1999.



SECURITY MATTERS



A recent report by the Metropolitan Police Shirley and Selsdon Consultative group showed the number of crime allegations from Jan – March 1998 (with comparisons in brackets for Oct – Dec 1997). The figures are shown below for Monks Orchard Ward, as compared with Spring Park, Heathfield, and Selsdon:

	VEHICLE CRIME	BURGLARY	BEAT CRIME	MAJOR CRIME
MONKS ORCHARD	40 (37)	56 (64)	65 (64)	34 (31)
SPRING PARK	61 (62)	56 (58)	71 (68)	34 (24)
HEATHFIELD	67 (77)	36 (35)	67 (55)	37 (40)
SELSDON	29 (19)	23 (22)	28 (45)	12 (16)

There were **250 arrests** for recorded crime on these Wards for this period, and this resulted in **98 prosecutions**.

MONDAY POLICE SURGERY: 10:30 – noon at St George’s Church, Elstan Way, Shirley. Any resident is welcome to come along and bend my ear about local, non-urgent problems.



EVENTS OF LOCAL INTEREST

June 1998

**Wednesday 17th June,
Walk Shirley – ¾ Mile**

Meet at the Shirley Inn, 7.00pm. Organised by Croydon Ramblers Association (Telephone: XXXXXXXXXX)

Thursday 18th June,

Walk the Loop: Section 4

West Wickham Common to Hamsey Green. Bring Lunch, 9 miles.

Meet at Hayes Station 10.30am. (Downlands Project: XXXXXXXXXX)

July 1998

Sunday 5th July 1:00 to 5:00 pm

Shirley Windmill, Postmill Close, Shirley Hills Road

Shirley Windmill Open Day. Souvenirs & refreshments available

(Friends of the Shirley Windmill – Tony Skrzypczyk 0181 406 4676)

Sunday 12th July 2:00 – 4:30pm

Addington Palace, Gravel Hill

Open Day at Addington Palace. Tours and refreshments available

(Croydon Libraries, Museums and Arts)

Monday, 13th July, daily until Saturday 18th July, 2.00pm

Croydon Palace, Old Palace Road

Guided Tour of the Palace, former residence of the Archbishops of Canterbury. Admission, including tea, £4.00 Adults, £10.00 Family ticket, £3.00 Children and senior citizens. Tour lasts about two hours including tea. Last tour begins daily at 2.30pm.

(Friends of the Old Palace, Croydon)

Sunday, 19th July, 10.30am

Meet at Croydon Clocktower, Katherine Street

Building Stones in the Croydon Architecture. A walk led by Paul Rainey.

(Croydon Society)

Monday, 20th July, until Saturday 25th July, 2.00pm.

Croydon Palace, Old Palace Road

Guided Tour of the Palace, details as 13th May.

(Friends of the Old Palace, Croydon)

Please Note:

A charge is made for some of these events, and visitors are asked to be prepared to contribute to the cost of the functions.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1997/8

President:	Vacant	
Chairman:	████████████████████	████████████████
Bob Akers	██████████	
Vice Chairman:	████████████████████	████████████████
John Walkington	██████	
Acting Secretary:	████████████████████	████████████████
Bob Akers	██████████	
Treasurer:	████████████████████	████████████████
Ken Butler	██████████	
Planning Officer:	████████████████████	████████████████
Owen Whalley		
Minutes Secretary:	████████████████████	████████████████
Bob Akers	██████████	
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	████████████████████	