

MONKS ORCHARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Croydon

(Non Party)

(Independent)

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NEWSLETTER - WINTER 1997

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**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

**AND A HAPPY NEW
YEAR TO ALL OUR
MEMBERS**





SECURITY MATTERS

Our representatives, Mrs. Jean Cook and Ron Scott, have attended meetings of the area Police Consultative Group held in May and August of this year with another scheduled for December. They have also been present at the recent 'Crime Check' Conference held at the Croydon Park Hotel for the whole of the Borough covering many aspects of crime and its prevention along with the question of safety in the community.

Both our representatives now have a telephone link with South Norwood Police Station under the computerised 'Ringmaster' system. This enables messages to be rapidly relayed to Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators concerning local crime incidents e.g. bogus callers, break-ins with violence, etc. Local Schools are also linked to the system.

In recent months special police operations have been mounted in the area of The Glades to combat a sharp rise in the number of burglaries involving homes, garages and sheds during the summer months at various times of day. Another area off Orchard Way also received special police attention where a troublesome gathering of youths was dispersed and some arrests took place.

Our local Home Beat Officer PC Jon Smith does his best to call in at the Monday morning 'Pop In' at St. George's Parish Hall but in his absence messages can be relayed to him at Addington Police Station.

PLANNING NEWS

Development News



How would you like to have a petrol filling station shop open 24 hours on the other side of your party wall.

Well the occupiers of the semi-detached house on Shirley Road next to the B.P. filling station were not impressed. B.P. proposed to demolish the vacant other half of the “semi” and replace it with a new petrol station and shop along the lines of the Tesco Metro shop further down Shirley Road. Fortunately, the Council were persuaded by the most strenuous objections from MORA and local residents that such a scheme was unacceptable and they persuaded B.P. to withdraw the application. The company are now considering how they can modify the scheme to make it more acceptable. In the mean time the vacant house that they own is continuing to deteriorate and cause problems for the neighbours. Come on B.P. how about acting like the responsible caring company you claim to be.

The MORA Planning Officer, Owen Whalley, and local residents had to wait over four hours to put their case to the Croydon Planning Committee last month about a planning application they were very unhappy about. The proposal was to build a bungalow and garages in back garden land at the rear of houses in Woodmere Avenue at the end of Mere End. Unremarkable you may think, but in this case the scheme was designed in such a way to allow the further extension of Mere End to allow the development of yet more back gardens. The Committee were not impressed by the MORA objections but agreed a spoiling condition put forward by Councillor Loughborough to keep the development site in single ownership.

The Council is still considering a revised proposal to redevelop back gardens at the rear of Elstan to provide 2 three bedroom houses, 1 four bedroom and 4 five bedroom houses. MORA

has objected to this scheme as it did to the earlier proposal for 9 houses which is determined at an informal hearing in February next year.



Shirley Oaks Tree Nursery

Lambeth Council finally decided to relinquish its only remaining interest in Shirley Oaks. In October it resolved to sell the Park's Department former tree nursery . This area of land lies between Poppy Lane and Laburnum Gardens in Shirley Oaks and at the back of the western end of Woodmere Avenue.



While the site may appear ideal for further house building a covenant attaching to this land prevents the site being used for this purpose. It also lies within an area of designated Metropolitan Open Land in Croydon Council's Unitary Development Plan which was adopted in January of this year. This formally protects the site from the construction of new buildings other than agricultural type uses, outdoor recreation or sport, or other uses which preserve the open character of the land.

The purchaser may nevertheless feel there is a certain "hope" value in the land against the possibility in perhaps the very long term of securing a development on the land. MORA members should nevertheless be reassured that development is very unlikely.





367 Bus Service

There have been rumours that the popular 367 bus service is to be withdrawn. The service is run by the London Links Bus Company based in Maidstone who have denied that the service is to be withdrawn or rerouted away from The Glade and Orchard Avenue.

The service currently operates a “hail and ride” system through Monks Orchard with no designated bus stops. Some MORA members have commented that this causes two particular problems

- with the buses stopping close to junctions tempting passengers to cross the road in potentially dangerous locations. One problem area is the junction of Orchard Avenue with Orchard Way where the curve in the road limits visibility. (MORA is trying to address this problem by asking the Council to cut back some of the tree growth in this area).
- because on street parking is increasing particularly at the bottom of the Glade, buses cannot stop without blocking traffic and so continue some distance beyond where passengers want to alight. Buses from Croydon to Bromley sometimes cannot stop at the bottom of the Glade at all and so only let passengers off at the Long Lane bus stop

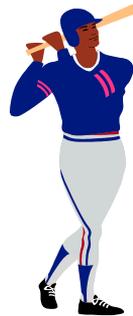
Both problems could perhaps be addressed by the marking of formal bus stops along this section of the route. These could be sited in safe locations and would discourage parking at the bus stops.

What do you think? MORA would like to know whether members generally feel this is a problem that could be resolved by asking for formal bus stops or would this take away the convenience and flexibility that the current system allows. Please let us know by contacting the Planning Officer, Owen Whalley at [REDACTED] or the Transport Officer, Peter Mortimer, at [REDACTED].



ROYAL MARSDEN HOSPITAL CANCER APPEAL

The Orchard Golf Society which is based on the Orchard Public House – Landlord Barrie Foden - has organised a collection for the ROYAL MARSDEN HOSPITAL CANCER APPEAL.



The Captain of the Society, Richard Stone Esq. , together with his Committee, has organised through tournaments, raffles and donations, and, with the help of Barclays Bank plc, has collected a sum in excess of £10,000. This is an excellent achievement and hope that members will continue to support this appeal in the coming year.



WICKHAM ROAD XMAS LIGHTS



Residents and business-owners in Wickham Road turned out in force on Friday 22nd November, to celebrate the turning-on of the Wickham Road Christmas lights. Highlights of the event included a street party, a choir, a fire eater and a competition to spot-the-dalmations in the shop window, the winner of

which was sent a family ticket to see Cinderella at Fairfield Halls in Park Lane, Croydon.



WAS IT ONLY JUST PLANNING?

CLOSED and boarded up shop fronts with fire risks from piles of papers below letter boxes depressed the Orchard Way shopping locality and for years No. 124 Orchard Way gave much concern to both MORA and local residents. Attempts to have the premises made safe failed, but at least planning permission for a “fast food take-a-way” was refused.



But the concerns have now been alleviated as Nik Cornwell and Tracey, his wife, have realised their ambition to open up a hairdressing salon – traditional men’s Barber and ladies salon section - at 124 Orchard Way.

Nik Cornwell, trained at Eltham in one of the family’s four shops, has been searching for the last five years for premises to branch out on his own and start his own traditional men’s barber’s.

Tracey, his wife, who trained in Central Croydon, shared his ambition but aimed for a ladies salon section.

In searching for a name for the premises a number of coincidences occurred which seemed to keep saying something. A roll of paper picked up in the road had two pictures of Charlie Chaplin which are now on display in the shop. Then, a rare statuette of Chaplin got broken – but that same morning another was found in a second-hand shop. And, on the day Nik and Tracey picked up the keys of the shop, one of Chaplin’s pictures fell off the wall of their home in Orchard Way. Result – Barber’s and Ladies Salon named **“Chaplins”**



COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1997

President: Vacant

Chairman: Vacant

Vice Chairman: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
John Walkington [REDACTED]

Acting Secretary: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Bob Akers [REDACTED]

Treasurer: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Ken Butler [REDACTED]

Planning Officer: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Owen Whalley [REDACTED]

Minutes Secretary: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Bob Akers [REDACTED]

Editor: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Derek Ritson [REDACTED]

Transport Officer: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Peter Mortimer [REDACTED]

Highways Officer: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Peter Mortimer [REDACTED]

Membership Sec: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Alyce Menhinnitt [REDACTED]

Hon. Historian [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
& Area Manager: [REDACTED]
Charles Hutchings

Area Manager: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Arthur Taylor [REDACTED]