

Minutes of the Addington Residents' Association (ARA)
Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 28 May 2026 at
Addington Methodist Church at 7.30 pm

Committee Members: Shabbir Halai (Chair), Peter Bolingbroke (Secretary), Ian Drake (Treasurer), Salli Ransom (Magazine Editor, Website), Puneet Udasi (Advertising), Julian Shakespeare, Keith James, Malcolm Graveling, Mike Bond, Sheila Kemble, Marianna Cherry.
Councillors: Cllr Joseph Lee & Cllr Robert Ward (Selsdon & Addington Village), Cllr Andy Stranack & Cllr Jack Barwell (Selsdon Vale & Forestdale). **Regular Invitees:** Church: Deacon Al Henry. Police: Sgt James Morrow. Fire Brigade: Darren Joy.

In attendance: Shabbir Halai (Chair), Peter Bolingbroke (Secretary), Ian Drake (Treasurer), Mike Bond, Marianna Cherry, Keith James, Sheila Kemble, Salli Ransom, Julian Shakespeare, Puneet Udasi

Guests: Mayor Jason Perry (8.15 pm onwards), Cllr Joseph Lee, Cllr Robert Ward, Sgt Morrow, PC Ross, PCSO Buwaya, Deacon Al Henry

Apologies: Malcolm Graveling, Station Officer Darren Joy, MP Natasha Irons.

Attendance: 36 people attended in total

Welcome and Introductions

Shabbir opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking everyone for attending. He saw the purpose of the AGM as an opportunity to report on ARA activities during the past year, report on the finances of the ARA, receive input from residents, and consider any changes to the ARA constitution. Each of the attending committee members and guests then introduced themselves to the residents.

Adoption of the Minutes of the previous AGM held on 3 June 2025

Shabbir referred to the minutes of the previous ARA AGM which had been published on the ARA website. The minutes were adopted by the meeting without comment.

Chairman's Report

Shabbir presented his Chairman's report on the past year. The ARA is a non-political organisation with two main functions: "To ascertain the opinions of the residents and to lay them before the appropriate authorities when desirable" and "To encourage social activities among its members". The ARA Committee has addressed a number of issues affecting the local community, including road safety, speeding, fly-tipping, and concerts held in Addington Park. The issue of the unauthorised attempted development at the corner of Huntingfield and Falconwood Road has been inactive; the concrete blocks will remain in place to prevent any further attempts. The social side has been active with a Boot Fair Trail, which will be held again on 17 July 2026. ARA also supported the Easter Egg Hunt organised by the Methodist Church. The ARA quarterly magazine continues to grow with articles of general interest submitted by residents, and the quarterly prize draw continues for residents who have paid the voluntary £5 ARA subscription.

Treasurer's Report

Ian referred to his report for the financial year from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, shown on page 7 of the April Magazine. There was no unusual expenditure in the year. Subscriptions were down by 4%, and additional collection agents have been recruited to address that issue. Advertising income increased by 14%, leading to an overall surplus of £1,935.07 for the year. The total reserves of ARA on 31 March 2026 stood at £24,561.22. The Fighting Funds have been absorbed into the general reserves; Ian confirmed that this would not affect the availability of those funds for ARA campaigning should the need arise, since the general reserve could be used for that purpose.

Update from Jason Perry (Croydon Executive Mayor)

Mayor Perry opened by affirming that he considered it a great privilege to be re-elected as Croydon's first elected mayor, and there remains a huge amount to do, especially regarding improving the look and feel of the borough, dealing with the budget, and progressing the regeneration of the town centre. In response to questions from the meeting he commented:

- He is committed to preservation of Croydon's green spaces, including Hutchinson's Bank, for which the lease to London Wildlife Trust is due for renewal shortly;
- The Council has an active youth engagement team which tends to work through established community groups and faith partnerships to deliver commissioned work; the team also works through schools; Council does not currently publish which groups are involved, relying on the groups to conduct their own publicity;
- Work on regeneration of the town centre has started with six units on the former Allders site; redevelopment of the Whitgift Centre is likely to result in less retail space and more residential and green space; monthly meetings are held with Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield but timescales for the redevelopment are difficult to predict; St George's Walk is owned by R&F, which is not progressing any development so a change of owner may be required;
- Croydon Council has operated under "No Overall Control" for the last four years and that remains the situation after recent local elections; the Executive Mayor holds the executive power and works with Labour on the budget and on major strategies; a two-thirds majority of Councillors would be required to block the Mayor's proposals;
- Policing levels are controlled by the Mayor of London; recently police have been more visible in the town centre, and Parkguard Ltd have also been appointed to provide additional security presence;
- There is no change in Mayor Perry's position that the existing green belt should be preserved, but the London Mayor can call in planning decisions for review;
- 90% of fly-tips on Council-owned land are cleared within 24 hours, and compliance officers have been appointed to investigate the sources of fly-tips; most fly-tippers are dealt with by fixed-penalty fines in the range £400-£1,000; the most serious tips are prosecuted via the criminal courts; to encourage residents to dispose of waste appropriately a "rolling rubbish" service and mobile collection van will be trialled;
- The current hazardous waste service, in which medical waste other than sharps is placed in normal domestic waste bins and is collected every two weeks, has been in place for about one year and is considered to be generally satisfactory, and avoids any stigma associated with the previous yellow bins; however any particular issues should be raised with local Councillors;
- A review of parking restrictions outside schools is under way, since a standard two-hour restriction morning and afternoon may not be appropriate for all schools; the Council does not have sufficient resources to send a traffic warden to each school every day;
- There may be support for the idea of planters at Forestdale shopping centre instead of recycling bins, though maintenance arrangements would be required and some residents may prefer the recycling bins; Andy Stranack will be asked to develop the idea; The ARA Committee will also organise a vote with the local residents.
- The planting of large numbers of mature trees in North End is considered impractical and Mayor Perry is considering other ways of "greening" the space;
- Croydon's rates of Council tax are acknowledged to be the second-highest in London; this is partly a consequence of the accumulated £1.4 billion debt; the debt has now been stabilised and slightly reduced; Mayor Perry's approach is to work to restore Council services for example, grass cutting, graffiti removal, road repairs (the latter having a budget of £17 million);
- In view of the problems with dog-walkers depositing dog excrement in the bins at the Methodist Church, Councillors will look at provision of a dog-waste bin in the vicinity;

- Mayor Perry is aware of shortcomings in the Love Clean Streets app, in which some reports are closed down without any action being taken and with no feedback as to why the report has been closed in that way; Council will aim to modify the app so that it provides the reason for closure of a report;
- The Council's strategy on SEND is developed in discussion with parents and other stakeholders, and takes account of the strategy proposed in the current White Paper; it is acknowledged that a lot of the provision involves use of out-of-borough schools which is not ideal, but represents a growing problem;
- Car parking at district centres now includes the first hour free; however the main town centre car parks are not owned by the Council, and the charges are set by the operators; this represents a sizeable source of income for the Council, but Mayor Perry is looking at the possibility of free parking on bank holidays, to align Croydon with other nearby boroughs.

Update from Police Representative

Sgt Morrow reported as follows:

- The new licensee at the Kingsmen pub has a positive attitude towards police and has been helpful in identifying the causes of previous problems, even at the cost of damage to the pub and his car; arrests had been made;
- in the last 12 months there has been some deterioration in relationships with staff at John Ruskin College, who seem to prioritise relationships with students even when offences such as shoplifting and drug use are involved. However recent operations at the college with a sniffer dog had successfully found eight students carrying cannabis;
- An application has been submitted to hold another “Made in the 90s” event in Addington Park; as in previous years there will be a traffic management team provided by the event organisers, but there will be stronger requirements to avoid a repetition of the problems of 2025 (e.g. street marshals leaving their posts because they had been promised free entry to the event).
- Improper use of motorbikes and mopeds has been a problem, especially causing damage on the golf course. Pursuit of these vehicles is difficult but the Safer Neighbourhood Team recently had assistance from the police helicopter service which flew over Addington and New Addington, acquiring video evidence that led to two arrests and seizure of two motorbikes. It is intended that further helicopter flights will be conducted at regular intervals and the results passed to the local team.
- Uniformed and plain-clothes patrols are continuing; one recent patrol led to an arrest within 5 minutes of a serious assault;
- A recent speed-gun operation in the local area led to 28 Notices of Intended Prosecution for speeding.

Update from Local Councillors

Cllr Ward reported on developments at the former Selsdon Park Hotel site (latterly Birch). The site will be operated by BH Group, who are committing £30M to bring the site back to being a hotel. The hotel is expected to include padel courts, and reopening of the lido, and is expected to operate as a four-star hotel. The hotel is expected to open in 12 to 14 months.

Cllr Lee reported on discussions regarding the “Made in the 90s” event. Ideas under consideration include provision of parking on Rowdown Fields, and use of a WhatsApp group including the Councillors and the tow truck operator, to ensure that improperly parked vehicles are removed quickly. In discussion Cllr Ward noted that he had commented at length regarding the requirements that should be adopted for the event; he considered that there should be improvements year-on-year, to which end he would wish to see professional security and event management people used, and an adequate scope for the Traffic Management Order.

Resignations, re-election of ARA Committee members

Shabbir noted that all existing members of the ARA Committee were willing to continue to serve on the Committee. Re-election of all existing members was proposed by Jan Moore, seconded by Premjit Marwah and carried unanimously by the meeting. Shabbir also noted that up to four additional Committee members could be appointed; anyone interested in joining the Committee should contact an existing Committee member.

Any Other Business

Mayor Perry reported that, following the recent success of Crystal Palace football club, he had proposed a parade by the team but this had been declined by the club chairman;



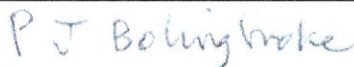
Regarding the display of artworks by the Croydon Art Society, which had previously taken place in Fairfield Halls, Mayor Perry noted that use of Fairfield Halls was now managed by BH Live and would no longer be available without charge, but a possible solution might be to use the Clocktower;

It was noted that an international food market is organised about three times a year in North End, funded by the Croydon BID team, but is not widely advertised; additionally the South End Food Festival should be held again in 2026;

It was noted that the Grants Vue Cinema had now closed; the new owners of the site are believed to be talking to other cinema operators with a view to bringing back cinema.

Meeting closure

The Chair closed the meeting at approximately 9.40pm by thanking all for attending.

Chair Name/Signature	Treasurer Name/Signature	Secretary Name/Signature
Shabbir Halai	Ian Drake	Peter Bolingbroke
		

General Information:

ARA website: www.addington-residents.co.uk

2025 ARA Advert Advertising prices are:

£40: 4 x small adverts per year. £90: 1 x single full-page advert. £90: 4 x quarter-page adverts per year. £175: 4 x half-page adverts per year. £265: 4 x full-page adverts per year.

Send adverts to: addingtonresidents@gmail.com

Bank Transfer Details: A/C Name: Addington Residents Association | Sort Code: 40-35-40 | A/C No.: 81491253. (Use name & address as pay ref.)

16 Roads are part of the ARA:

Abbots Green	Crossways	Falconwood Rd	Farleigh Dean Crescent
Farnborough Ave (2-20)	Farnborough Crescent	Featherbed Lane	Gravel Hill
Huntingfield	Kerr Close	Lomond Garden	Palace Green
Rawlins Close	Selsdon Park Rd (75-213)	Silverwood Close	Waterworks Cottages