

# The ADDINGTON

## ADDINGTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Magazine

2018 Issue 3



*Wild flowers and orchids in the back field behind Pioneer Place in Featherbed Lane*

### Chairman's Report

Since my last Chairman's report the Croydon Development Plan has been adopted with the recommendation of the inspector. It has been announced that John Lewis Partnership is going to be an anchor store in the new Croydon Shopping Centre and development of the Centre is to start in the beginning of 2019 with completion in 2023.

We have now received a written commitment from Councillor Tony Newman that the Back Field of Greenfields Pioneer Place will not be developed and we have been asked to come up with suggestions how to maintain the field. To this extent we may have to ask a wildlife expert to assist us in setting up a detailed plan.

There has been some activity on the parcel of land at Frylands Wood bought by the owner of Pear Tree Farm. At present there has not been any wrong doing but we are monitoring the situation closely. At present we do not have any update on the progress of Fairfield Halls.

I would like to welcome Mrs Aline Antoine who joined our committee at our recent AGM.

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## The Addington **Residents'** Association

Objects of the Association: To ascertain the opinions of the residents and to lay them before appropriate authorities when desirable.

**Please see our website - [www.addingtonresidents.com](http://www.addingtonresidents.com)**

**Please send any articles of local interest that you would like to see published to [editor@addingtonresidents.com](mailto:editor@addingtonresidents.com) as well as any opinions you may have**

**Correspondence for the Association should be addressed to  
ARA, 12 Huntingfield, CR0 9BA**

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### Getting in touch with our Councillors

**Due to the restructuring of the Croydon Wards the area covered by the Residents' Association has been split. Our new councilors are as follows:**

Selsdon and Addington Village:	Helen Pollard Robert Ward	<a href="mailto:helen.pollard@croydon.gov.uk">helen.pollard@croydon.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk">robert.ward@croydon.gov.uk</a>
Selsdon Vale and Forestdale:	Andy Stranack Stuart Milsom	<a href="mailto:andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk">andy.stranack@croydon.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:stuart.milsom@croydon.gov.uk">stuart.milsom@croydon.gov.uk</a>

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Minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting  
held 29th May 2018 at 8.00pm in Addington Methodist Church Hall

Present:

ARA Committee : Wictor Molleskog, Alan Chitty, Mike Bond, Keith James, Geoff Hopper, Paul Bearman, Gina Stoneman, Geoff Jordan, Terry Belsey

Croydon Council : Cllr Helen Pollard, Cllr Robert Ward

Other Residents : 17 residents attended

- 1) Apologies had been received from Malcolm Graveling (committee member).
- 2) Minutes of 2017 AGM were read by Wiktor Molleskog. Noted that these should be available in printed form for future years. The Minutes were adopted (proposed and seconded from the floor and carried unanimously).
- 3) Matters Arising from Minutes of 2017 AGM:
  - a) Croydon Development Plan
    - i) The CDP has been adopted by the Council, incorporating most of the recommendations proposed by the independent Planning Inspector.
    - ii) The Intensification Zone boundary around the Forestdale shops area was redrawn in the final version.
    - iii) A potential conflict remains between the CDP target for Croydon to build 30,000 homes within the **next 20 years and the London Mayor's edict for Croydon to deliver 20,000 homes within just 10 years.**
  - b) Greenfields Pioneer Place
    - i) Letters were sent to Croydon Council and Kingdom Hall Trust seeking to clarify plans for the 7+ acre site and to ask the Council to consider bringing it back into public ownership.
    - ii) Plantlife, a wild plant conservation charity, are producing a maintenance plan to help preserve the wild flower and other natural amenities.
    - c) The 20mph speed limit for residential areas across Croydon has now been implemented borough-wide, with most roads under Council control included: TfL-managed bus routes are generally excluded.

#### 4) Chairman's Report 2018

The last year has been quite challenging with the Croydon Development Plan, Greenfields Pioneer Place and the Forestdale Arms.

With respect to the Croydon Development Plan we have attended various meetings and made representations on behalf of our residents. We are pleased to see that the fields along Huntingfield have been given better protection than before and that Falconwood Meadow has been given greenbelt status.

Greenfields Pioneer Place is an ongoing concern. We have written to the Leader of the Council Tony Newman to seek assurance that the site will not be developed and to see if it is a possibility to get the backfield back into public ownership. **This field was sold by Croydon Council to the Jehovah's Witnesses for £9000 without any public consultation.**

We have not got a written answer from Mr Newman, but at a Question & Answer session which we attended we got **a verbal assurance from him that the site would not be developed 'on his watch'.**

We have also written to Kingdom Hall on this matter but have not received an answer.

We made an objection of the development of a drive-through Restaurant on the Forestdale Arms site and are **pleased to say that the development was refused. We have also supported a motion by Forestdale Residents' Association to have the Forestdale Arms declared an Asset of Community Value.**

We have also attended various meetings with our councillors during the year.

We have got the Noticeboard up and running and anything of importance will be posted there and on the Addington Residents' website.

Some residents have expressed the opinion that The Addington which is our quarterly Magazine is a waste of time. These people are entitled to their opinion of course but the Magazine gives us revenue and puts us on the map. However the Magazine does not write itself and we owe great thanks to Salli our Editor. I would again ask that any resident who feels able to contribute with articles or short stories for the Magazine to please get in touch with Salli. Please remember Addington Residents is your Association and the Magazine is your Magazine and your input can help to make them both better.

#### 5) Treasurer's Report

- a) Alan Chitty reported that again it has been a successful financial year for the Association. Subscriptions **are showing a small increase over last year's figure whilst advertising revenue has increased over the** period. Our costs have been kept down and no substantial payments have been made or are outstanding. Our net assets stand at £10,136 made up as £3,407 in General Reserves, £1,729 in the Fighting Fund and £5,000 in the Discretionary Fund we created last year to provide a buffer for any future eventualities which might arise.
- b) The Accounts were audited by Mr. Winston Leeks and are appended to these Minutes. Our thanks to Winston.
- c) Keith James reiterated how important subscriptions and donations remain for our financial wellbeing.
- d) The Accounts were adopted (proposed and seconded from the floor and carried unanimously).

#### 6) Resignation & Re-Election of Committee members

- a) As Louise Bond has moved out of the area, she has not put herself forward for re-election, but all other members of the current Committee have agreed to continue. A new member volunteered, Mrs. Aline Antoine and, together with the remaining existing members, all were proposed and seconded from the floor and elected unanimously. The current committee members are Wiktor Molleskog, Alan Chitty, Mike Bond, Keith James, Geoff Jordan, Geoff Hopper, Terry Belsey, Gina Stoneman, Malcolm Graveling, Salli Ransom, Paul Bearman and Antoine Aline.

#### 7) Any Other Business

- a) Paul Bearman expressed the view that the Committee would like to see the Greenfields backfield site made more widely accessible, with the wild flowers and wildlife protected. He will continue to pursue this.
- b) **Cllr Helen Pollard advised that the new electoral boundaries now split ARA's catchment area into two** different Council wards. Most residents continue to fall in Selsdon & Addington Village, the representatives are Cllr Helen Pollard and Cllr Robert Ward, but a few streets now fall in Selsdon Vale & Forestdale, where the representatives are Cllr Andy Stranack and Cllr Stuart Milsom (all Conservative). At least one councillor will try to attend all our meetings.
- c) Cllr Robert Ward advised that obtaining Asset of Community Value status for Forestdale Arms will require on-going maintenance and community effort. He noted that several community activities are scheduled regularly in the Pub.
- d) Some discussion took place, led by residents present, as to possible Park & Ride solutions to encourage more use of Trams and Buses locally, and to promote healthier living. These will be discussed by the committee soon. Note that the small portion of the field on Kent Gate Way has the National Grid access building to the Croydon Cable Tunnel, but the remainder of those fields are protected to some degree.
- e) Similarly, there was some concern expressed from the floor that Croydon Council were reluctant to mend potholes in a timely manner but were also reluctant to pay compensation in cases where cars had been damaged. Cllr Pollard agreed to take up these issues with the appropriate Council department.
- f) Residents also expressed concern with the parking in Falconwood Road, worrying that inconsiderate parking may prevent emergency vehicles from gaining prompt access. The Committee will monitor this, and an article will be published in The Magazine to remind residents.

#### 8) Meeting closed at 9.25pm.



The back Recreation Field at Greenfields, Featherbed Lane

In March this year the “Croydon plan” was adopted by the council following the planning inspectors report. One good thing for locals was the increased protection given to local green amenity land which is now being called the “Featherbed green corridor”.

The horse fields bordering Featherbed Lane and Huntingfield were given increased protection and Falconwood Meadow opposite the turning to Courtwood Lane, was made an area of special conservation interest. However the real treasure for conservationist, environmentalist, and all members of the local community lies just the other side of the fence to Falconwood Meadow in the back recreation field which was sold by the council for a token fee of £9,000 to the local Jehovah's Witnesses in 1991.

The Back Field has become a haven for some of our more exotic and special plant species, including Yellow Rattle, Purple Pyramid Orchid, and the Bee Orchid.



Just before the Orchids bloom in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week in June the whole field has one of the highest densities of oxeye daisies, forming the most amazing carpet of wild flowers.

In the meantime Local residents, councillors and politicians undertake to continue to protect the site from commercial development.

One end of the field has a Badger sett and for several years a lone Roebuck has also taken up residence on the Greenfields Site.



Local residents, Members of the Addington Residents Association, and conservationists were delighted that prior to the Council election in May, statements were obtained from both major Political Parties that they would not allow development of the site in the near future.

In fact the Leader of the Council, Councillor Tony Newman, went further when he asked voters to trust him on the issue of development of the Greenfields site. He said “not on my watch”. Councillor Tim Pollard gave similar assurances regarding development of the site which lies inside the metropolitan Green Belt. The Addington Residents’ Association are now happy to report that Councillor Newman has backed up his statement in writing, and regarding the Back Field has said that if the Jehovah’s Witnesses go ahead with the sale of the site the Council will take the field back into public ownership if local residents can come up with a sustainable management plan, and enough volunteers to look after this special site.

Local Councillors Helen Pollard and Robert Ward recently visited the site and took pictures of the amazing display of wild flowers. Councillor Helen Pollard is now councillor for the environment.



Even though the local congregation of Jehovah's witnesses has given a statement to the charities commission that they provide local green amenity space, few locals have ever had access to observe the flower display or just enjoy the peace and tranquillity the back field has to offer. Before being sold in 1991, several local schools, clubs and dog walkers had unrestricted access to the recreation field.

The ARA have also written to the "Kingdom Halls Trust" (the legal Body of the Jehovah's Witnesses that own the land) asking them to state clearly what their intentions are regarding the sale of the site. It is sad that the Jehovah's Witnesses fail to communicate in a meaningful way with both local residents and the ARA, who have not received a reply to their letter.

On her recent visit to the site Councillor Helen Pollard posed the question "In the event that the Jehovah's witnesses do sell the site minus the back field with its flora and fauna as described herein, what would local residents like to see on the site given the sites location inside the green belt and its D3 planning status?"

The ARA would like to hear from the whole local community on this. If you have an opinion please contact the ARA by email to [chairman@addingtonresidents.com](mailto:chairman@addingtonresidents.com) or in writing to Chairman ARA 12 Huntingfield, Addington, Croydon CR0 9BA



*Pyramid and bee orchids  
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Many of us come along every week, some of us just come when we can. We are all ages: our youngest visitor was about 6 months old and our oldest regular – well, I wouldn't want to enquire! Some people are very local, but others come by car, bus or tram from further afield.

Singing is good for companionship, good for your health – and it's good fun. The best and easiest plan is just to turn up one Tuesday at 3.00pm, Everyone is friendly and new people are always welcome. If you need to know more, you can ring Janet Davies on 020 8656 1732



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Next Issue - The next issue will be produced in October 2018. Articles should reach the editor by 5th of the month for inclusion in the issue.

Disclaimer - The Addington Residents' Association (ARA) take all reasonable efforts to ensure that the information provided both verbally and in articles and advertisements in this Magazine is accurate. If the need arises, readers should carefully check the information provided to ensure it is satisfactory for their purpose as the ARA will not accept any responsibility for such information which is provided in good faith.

### Accounts

Income	£ (2018)	£
(2017)		
Subscriptions	826	809
advertising	2120	1145
Ward purse		702
Interest	5	3
Total	2951	2659
Expenditure		
Room Hire/AGM	160	160
Printing	675	669
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Panoramic Windows	11 Hamsey Green, Sanderstead, Surrey CR2 9BX Telephone 020 8651 2461
Paul Sinden Tree Surgery	Paul Sinden, Hillside House, Glossop Road South Croydon, CR2 CR2 0PW (Mail Only) Telephone 0208 686 9207 (24 hours) <b>This contractor is on Croydon Council's 'approved' list'</b>
PCTECH Computer sales & repairs	169 Selsdon Park Road, Selsdon Telephone: 020 8651 1151
RGC Decorators	Roy Chaffey 07956 132439 or 020 8651 9047
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The information above is provided in good faith from recommendations received by us. We cannot however, take any responsibility for any of the traders listed and you should always be prepared to ask for references from the traders themselves.

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