



## Minutes of the Addington Residents' Association Annual General Meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at the Addington Methodist Church at 8.00pm.

**Committee Members:** Chairperson Shabbir Halai, Secretary TBA, Treasurer Ian Drake, Magazine Editor Salli Ransom, Website & Advertising Puneet Udasi, Committee Members Alan Chitty, Julian Shakespeare, Keith James, Malcolm Graveling, Mike Bond, Wiktor Molleskog.

**Councillors:** Cllr Joseph Lee, Cllr Robert Ward (Selsdon & Addington Village), Cllr Andy Stranack, Cllr Fatima Zaman (Selsdon Vale & Forestdale).

**In Attendance:** Shabbir Halai (Chair), Ian Drake (Treasurer), Keith James, Mike Bond, Alan Chitty, Julian Shakespeare. Puneet Udasi, Cllr Robert Ward.

**Guests:** Jason Cummings (Conservative Parliamentary Candidate – Croydon East), Natasha Irons (Labour Parliamentary Candidate – Croydon East).

**Apologies:** Salli Ransom, Malcolm Graveling, Cllr Joseph Lee, Wiktor Molleskog, Sarah Jones, Cllr Andy Stranack.

**Absent:** Police Representative.

**Attendees:** 18 Residents also attended the Meeting.

### Meeting Opening

Shabbir opened the Meeting by welcoming and thanking everyone for attending. It was advised that Ian Drake would take the Minutes of the Meeting, in the absence of an appointed Secretary. Shabbir then reminded the Meeting of the two main purposes of the ARA *“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”*.

Each of the attending Committee Members and Guests then introduced themselves to the residents.

### Approval of Minutes

Shabbir then referred to the Minutes of the last AGM which had been published on page 9 of the April 2024 Magazine. After a brief discussion, the Minutes were approved unanimously and adopted.

### Chairman's Report

Shabbir then presented his Chairman's Report on the past year – referring to the current situation regarding the council refusing retrospective planning permission for developing some land that starts at the corner of Falconwood and Huntingfield roads. The owners – John and Richard Cowling had not been consulted on illegal works carried out by the Barrs who own a small field further up the path. Currently, the appeal process is still on-going, and the Committee are monitoring this. On a more positive note, Shabbir mentioned the recent and future Boot Fair Trails; improvements and expansion of the quarterly Magazine, and the recent introduction of the quarterly Prize Draw.

### Treasurer's Report

Ian then presented his Treasurer's Report on the past year's Accounts – which had already been published in detail on page 17 of the April 2024 Magazine. In summary, the ARA had made a cash surplus of £1,900.55 in the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 – which was an improvement of around £900 over the previous year, thanks mainly to an increase in the number of advertisers. The ARA Reserves now stand at just under £21,000.

Ian was asked whether the ARA was subject to any tax liability on its surplus – and Jason Cummings replied that Clubs and Associations of our nature do not have any tax liability on their “normal activities”.

### Guest Speaker – Jason Cummings

Jason Cummings then gave his report – commencing with an apology from Mayor Perry for not being able to attend. His report covered the current state of the Council finances and progress that had been made in the past year; discussions with Government regarding the Council debt burden (subject to the

imminent General Election); the ongoing “Local Planning Review”; the current situation regarding the replacement of Bus Stops where a new contract was close to being awarded and new Bus Stops should be in place this year; plans for new investment in trams rolling stock to overcome current difficulties; and current plans for Heathfield House with a reassurance that it would not be sold-off.

In response to questions from the attendees, Jason confirmed that there would be no development approved on Green Belt land but that development on Brown-land sites was being encouraged, that the new Bus Stops may include some “intelligence” and CCTV facilities. Robert Ward responded to questions regarding the imminent events to be held at Addington Park, that Traffic Management Orders (TMOs) being expanded to cover Huntingfield and Palace Green were being pursued via the Safety Advisory Group (SAG).

Jason then replied to a question regarding the maintenance of the gardens at Heathfield House, expressing a hope that the planned new usage for the house would include an obligation to maintain the gardens. Concerns were raised at the standard of recent grass cutting – to which Jason agreed that it was below standard and that new equipment was expected in 6 weeks and which would also be ULEZ exempt. He confirmed that the bollards had been removed on the cycle lane on the Brighton Road due to various problems they had caused. It was acknowledged that the road holes at the entrance to Addington Park were bad and getting worse – and both Jason and Robert Ward would work to resolve this issue.

#### **Guest Speaker – Natasha Irons**

Natasha Irons then gave her report updating the Meeting from Sarah Jones’ attendance a year ago – covering knife-crime prevention in Croydon, and work to sort out the problems with the Trams. In response to questions raised, Natasha agreed that the provision of facilities for young people (such as a Tree Planting drive) was an important factor in reducing youth crime. In response to concerns raised regarding the cost of the refurbishment of Fairfield Halls, Jason replied that appropriate files had been passed to the police who were continuing with their ongoing investigations and that there were still potential prosecutions to be held.

#### **Guest Speaker – Robert Ward**

Robert Ward then gave his report – in which he emphasised the importance and usefulness of the “Love Clean Streets App”. He also mentioned “No Mow May” which was a policy to encourage wildlife in certain areas and would explain the reason for “partial mowings” in some areas recently. He also emphasised that it was important for residents to report all crime to the Police, to enable them to allocate resources to appropriate areas.

A question was raised regarding the local, now overgrown green area that used to be a pitch-&-put facility, and Jason replied that it was within the Green Belt area and therefore protected but that there were no current plans to restore the site. Robert mentioned that the development of the “Selsdon garage” site was still a pet project of his to monitor. Planned intentions for the Chateau Napoleon building were not known, but Robert agreed to look into it.

#### **Re-Election of Committee Members**

Shabbir then referred to the ARA Rules – and asked for each of the current Committee Members to be re-elected by the attendees. In each case the Members were re-elected by unanimous vote. He advised the Meeting that Wiktor Molleskog and Alan Chitty were standing-down as Committee Members after many years’ service in various capacities – and they received a generous and warm round of applause from everyone.

### **Request for Committee volunteers**

Shabbir then advised that the Committee required new Members and asked for volunteers from the attendees. Peter Bolingbroke, Sheila Kemble and Ian Turner each indicated that they would be willing to join the Committee. (In addition, another resident - Peter Marsen who was unable to attend - has also previously expressed an interest in joining.)

### **AOB**

Concerns were raised regarding the speed of traffic at the top of Gravel Hill, that the former speed camera had been taken away, that there had been a number of serious accidents over several years including deaths, and difficulties and dangers residents faced when attempting to cross this road. Jason clarified that this is a TFL road and, as they have a Vision Zero Policy i.e. aiming for no fatal accident on TFL roads, and recommended that we should contact them, and also consider organising a petition for improvements.

It was requested by a resident that there should be improved local awareness facilities of planned Music Festivals in Addington Park. Shabbir said that the ARA would work on this via its Website, Magazines and WhatsApp Groups. The idea of the inclusion of a QR Code on posters was warmly welcomed.

It was emphasised that car theft and car crime in the area was getting worse. Robert again emphasised the need for all crime to be reported to the police for them to allocate resources accordingly.

### **Meeting Closure**

There being no other questions, Shabbir again thanked everyone for attending and mentioned that the Minutes would be published on the ARA Website: [www.addington-residents.co.uk](http://www.addington-residents.co.uk) The Meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Distribution List:

**Committee Email Addresses:** [addingtonresidents@gmail.com](mailto:addingtonresidents@gmail.com); [shabbir@safetyisthekey.co.uk](mailto:shabbir@safetyisthekey.co.uk); [1palace@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:1palace@blueyonder.co.uk); [krj88@btinternet.com](mailto:krj88@btinternet.com); [salliran@gmail.com](mailto:salliran@gmail.com); [mobile.mike.bond@gmail.com](mailto:mobile.mike.bond@gmail.com); [js1@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:js1@blueyonder.co.uk); [puneet@live.co.uk](mailto:puneet@live.co.uk); [malcolm@graveling.co.uk](mailto:malcolm@graveling.co.uk); Cllr Joseph Lee <[Joseph.Lee@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Joseph.Lee@croydon.gov.uk)>; Cllr Robert Ward <[Robert.Ward@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Robert.Ward@croydon.gov.uk)>