

East Croydon Community Organisation

Ordinary Meeting

Monday, 11 July 2016 8.00pm

MINUTES

	Attendance	
	<p>Chair: Angela Vanegas</p> <p>Facilitators: Rod Davies, Dawn Edwards, Tomas Howard-Jones, Sasha Konechni, Janet Clarke, Esther Sutton</p> <p>Members: Andy King, Becky Rahman Dupuy, Ann Stirling, Eileen O'Driscoll, Gillian Harrison, Grom Ashurst, Shay Clarke, Jeremy Fitzpatrick, Natalie Wright, Oscar Dahling, Stephen Siu, Steve Thompson, Tom & Sarah Wells, Catherine & Paul Holdforth, James Hogg, Tom Wells, Andy Bravery, Pamela and Murdo Macleod</p> <p>Non-members: Amanda Hills, Councillor Patricia Hay Justice, Christopher Hunt</p> <p>Apologies: Hilary Bell, Tina Crawford, Fiona Crowe, Mark Lynch, Marie-Louise Rabe, Tony Skrzypczyk, Christine Thomas</p>	
1	Ark Oval School	
	<p>Development plans and drawings for the school were on display for viewing before and after the meeting.</p> <p>Perna Patel (who will replace Sonia Rutherford as Head in the autumn term) and Eileen Lawlor (Business Manager) spoke about the school, its aims and achievements. It was graded good latest Ofsted inspection. Good feedback was given from parents present at the meeting.</p> <p>The new development is in three phases and completion targeted for May 2017. While construction takes place, part of the existing playing field is being used as a temporary car park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 will include the construction of a new building with a frontage on Cherry Orchard Road and improving the main school entrance. The new building should be in use by years 5 and 6 from January 2017. • Phase 2 will include the development of an ICT suite and a state of the art library in the new building. The use of the top floor of the new building is yet to be determined and pupils will be asked their views. Possibilities include space for small group work or one to one lessons. • Phase 3 will include the removal of temporary classrooms & car park and the development of an all weather, flood lit, multi-use games area, on the school side of the existing playing field <p>The extra space will enable the roll to increase from the current 542 to 630 by 2020 (plus nursery places). Croydon has the greatest need for new school</p>	

	<p>places in the country and that this is expected be an ongoing issue. 341 applications were recently received for 90 places. The school confirmed that they are committed to serve the immediate catchment area (particularly disadvantaged pupils), with all pupils living within 0.6 miles of the school. The class sizes are 27 to 30. Children meeting in the Menta developments will be within this area, but new schools will have opened by the time they are complete.</p> <p>Patricia Hay-Justice, ward councillor, reported that the school makes great efforts to support pupils with SEN and ADHD. The school confirmed that this would remain a strong focus in the redeveloped school. It's aim and ethos is that every child fulfils their full potential with a plan for all pupils from the most able to the less able. For pupils with English as an additional language, they have a language rich environment in the early years focussing on vocabulary and the use of pictures.</p> <p>The school will be able to help the community by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing meeting spaces • Taking part in collaborative funding opportunities • Enabling community use of he new multi-use games area. The school is happy to look at public use of the playing field in the holidays as well. <p>The community will be able to help the school by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing mentors • Helping pupils connect with life outside the school, for example by school trips <p>A member commented that Japanese knotweed (a notifiable plant), is growing in the school grounds. The school replied this is being dug up on 12 July 2016 and they acknowledged that the area needs to be treated accordingly to avoid regrowth.</p> <p>The issue of the poor condition of the public alleyway at the side of the school is something the school continue to try and get fixed and have maintained on a regular basis. They have on-going discussions with Croydon Council on this matter.</p>	
2	Discussion groups	
	<p>The meeting then divided into five discussion groups that made the following suggestions.</p> <p>How the community could support the Ark Oval School. We could</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide speakers on specialist topics, such as religious studies • help with after schools clubs • help with cookery classes • bring more music and arts into the school • listen to children read, intergenerational working • mentor • encourage young people from the brownies, cadets, scouts and guides etc to provide leadership for the younger children • help children learn about the history of their community, for example by 	

	<p>listening to the memories of long term residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help advertise the events and activities that happen at the school, for example the school fair, fund raising events and the tai chi classes • help with initiatives such as the Dulux Trade Smarter Spaces Initiative (www.duluxtradepaintexpert.co.uk vision tab) • help develop a school garden <p>What the community would like from Ark Oval School. They could</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allow public use of the playing fields, multi-use game area and school hall (when not in use by the school, including weekends) eg for adult fitness sessions • put a noticeboard at the entrance to the school, displaying notices of activities in the school facilities and the local community • allow use of the classrooms for adult education eg for learning languages for work • encourage pupils to visit the elderly in nursing homes • become hub for community information, perhaps a councillors surgery • encourage community participation in the summer fair organised by the PTA • host a holiday scheme to help working parents, including half terms • hold an international day • host an Easter Egg hunt • host a music festival or something creative • put solar panels on the new roof of the new building to generate funds or make it a green roof • to decorate the street frontage of the new building by a mural or, better still, a vertical garden • for the fence fronting Oval Road to be planted by climbing plants and have trees just behind it, to improve the environment on Oval Road <p>Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cherryfield meat packing vans causing disruption and possibly pollution from its refrigeration plant. 	
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