

East Croydon Community Organisation

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, 9 July 2019

The Church of the Nazarene, 55 Lower Addiscombe Road

MINUTES

	Attendance	
	<p>Chair: Jason Hinton</p> <p>Members: Ian Tonothy, Wah Hing Tonothy, Sally Anne Cook, Tony Skrzypczyk, Councillor Jerry Fitzpatrick, Tomas Howard-Jones, Steve Thompson, Angela Vanegas, Christine Thomas, Fiona Crowe, Olivia Crowe, Mark Pickering, Rachel Lawrence, Rod Davies, Sasha Konechni, Stephen Siu, Mike Griffiths, Esther Sutton, Surevha Patel, Joyce Bradbury, John Iacofano, Marion Matthews, Felicita Gimenez, Jackson, Pam Stubbmeton, Julie Rattenbury, Chris Rattenbury, Anne Kent, Dipenhr Hetal</p> <p>Non-members: Mira Armour (HOME), Bob Porter (HOME), Gordon Thompson (CCRA), Sandra Dodgson (TACRA)</p> <p>Apologies: Andy Bravery, Dawn Edwards, Councillor Sean Fitzsimons, Councillor Patricia Hay-Justice, Anne Keeley</p>	
1	Actions from AGM 2018	
	<p>Clarifying how section 106 money from the Menta development will be used: this will largely be spent on completing the footbridge over the railway lines. However, the work involves land owned by Network Rail and there needs to be further discussions between this organisation and Menta before it can take start. The development is due to start in the autumn and to include the Oval Road Triangle.</p> <p>Street lighting is now too bright: if people want to reduce the effect of a streetlight on their homes, they can contact john.algar@croydon.gov.uk and ask for a baffle to be fitted to the street light causing the problem.</p> <p>All other matters arising were dealt with in the presentations preceding the group discussions.</p>	

2	Steering group members	
	<p>The following people were proposed and seconded by the deadline of 2 July.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andy Bravery • Sally Anne Cook • Fiona Crowe • Rod Davies • Dawn Edwards • Jason Hinton • Tomas Howard-Jones • Sasha Konechni • Tony Skrzypczyk • Esther Sutton • Christine Thomas • Angela Vanegas <p>As no more than 12 steering group members were proposed and seconded, it was not necessary to hold an election at the AGM. It is hoped that members living on roads not currently represented on the steering group will put themselves forward for election next year.</p>	
3	Accounts	
	<p>The accounts from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 were noted.</p> <p>£1580 has been received from Addiscombe West Ward Councillor's budgets for children's activities.</p> <p>£546.22 is carried forward, but this includes £68 for further planting on the Bisenden bed and further expenditure on children's activities. We will have to fund raise for any future events that will incur expenditure.</p>	
4	East Croydon Station Improvements presentation & discussion	
	<p>Angela Vanegas reported that East Croydon station has been allocated £50,000 for improvements that will benefit passengers. This money will come from a passenger compensation fund that the government made Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) set up following the timetable fiasco last year.</p> <p>Suggestions must be made by 31 July 2019. Some had already been received before the AGM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • murals of the kind already organised by the Rise Gallery • anything to improve the appearance of the derelict sorting office, now that it is likely to be with us for many 	

	<p>more years to come.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extra staff to man the platforms for security • peel the hideous decals off the windows on the ramps down to the platforms. Then people can see if the train is there before they break into a stressed out run. • a community garden in the car park area behind the pub • improving the pavement by Porter and Sorter (though this is the responsibility of Network Rail) • finishing the passenger footbridge to reach the Addiscombe side (though this should be carried out by Menta by March 2022). <p>Suggestions and observations made at the AGM included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving the maintenance of the lighting outside East Croydon station • the fact that the passenger ramps are dangerous • the need to chose an improvement that will not be superseded by the redevelopment of the station • improve traffic flow around the taxi pick up point to improve safety and congestion • pop-up retail opportunities on Lansdowne Road • temporary exhibitions or events in the sorting office • demolishing the sorting office and using the space for car parking • greening the area with trees and other plants • cleaning the granite pavements in front of the station • improving the lighting along Cherry Orchard Road from Knolly's House to Cedar Road 	ECCO steering group
5	Traffic Flow presentation & discussion	
	<p>Rod Davies reported that, at the last ECCO AGM, we agreed to help organise a meeting about local traffic flow with all interested groups. The meeting was eventually organised by the ward councillors for Addiscombe East, who paid for a facilitator.</p> <p>Since then three meetings have been held (8 January, 16 March and 27 June). The conclusion of the latter was that the Council officers will investigate closing Havelock, Outram and Elgin roads to southbound traffic from Lower Addiscombe Road. 20,000 existing car journeys a week would be displaced should this happen. In addition, forthcoming changes to the price and availability of parking permits, will lead to fewer parked cars. This will probably increase the number of local car journeys, as they will be speedier. Councillor Jerry Fitzpatrick pointed out that the proposed changes will be consulted on.</p>	

	<p>The traffic flow discussion group felt that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • traffic management in the area was inconsistent. The people from all the streets need to share the benefits and the burdens of any changes • there should be a working group of all the streets involved • Mira Armour (HOME) suggested that there was little point in this as Croydon Council was only investigating one option. • Tomas Howard-Jones said that it would be good for the community to keep talking about this anyway • Rod Davies suggested that funds from the increase in parking charges could be used to fund a proper study of traffic flow in the area. 	ECCO steering group
6 Environment presentation & discussion		
	<p>Councillor Jerry Fitzpatrick reported that, in the past year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shrubs and bulbs were planted in the Bisenden Bed • Good Gym helped tidy up the remaining raised beds on The Boulevard on six occasions • there were two Clean and Green events, one in the Cross Road area, the other on the roads from Canning to Colson (in conjunction with TACRA and CCRA) • there has been a group working on improving the Lower Addiscombe /Cherry Orchard Rd shopping area • over 50 street trees were planted in the West Addiscombe ward, including The Leslie Arms • we have started to involve Menta and Ark Oval School in a project to sculpt a plane tree in the Oval Road Triangle, due to be felled during the forthcoming development between Cherry Orchard & Oval Roads. <p>The discussion included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the need to keep on top of tidying the planted areas on Addiscombe Road. • incentivising people to turn their front garden spaces into gardens again • having hanging baskets in the Lower Addiscombe Road/Cherry Orchard Road shopping area • turning back alleys into community gardens • adding attractive, solar powered lighting to The Boulevard to improve safety • planters of flowers on the station platforms • improving the area around the Leslie Arms as part of its redevelopment 	ECCO steering group

7	Everything Else presentation & discussion	
	<p>Tony Skrzypczyk reported that last year we organised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lebanon Rd Hallowe'en 31 October (228 people attended) • Half-term children's activities at Ark Oval Primary (44 people attended) • Big lunches on Lebanon Road and Cedar Road 1-2 June (over 70 people attended) <p>No-one came forward to organise events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for young people • on cycling <p>We also attended meetings with or about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other West Addiscombe community groups • The Croydon Local Plan • West Addiscombe Safer Neighbourhood Team • Save the Glamorgan • Network Rail development • 30-18 Addiscombe Road development • Morello Residents' Association <p>Proposed activities for 2018-19 include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crafternoon 14 September at Tunstall Nursery School • Walking tour (incorporating personal as well as historic information) approaching completion). • Quiz at The Oval Tavern 9 October • Lebanon Rd Hallowe'en 31 October • Big lunches June 2020 <p>Relatively few people attended this discussion group. Suggestions included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scope for a Big Lunch in Leslie Grove, as the neighbours appear to get on well with each other • The suitability of Alpha Road for a play street, as it is a cul-de-sac • The possibility of undertaking future projects with Ark Oval School at present as the new headmaster seems determined to turn it round. For example, they will start training teachers, which will help them deal with the teachers' shortage. • Setting up an informal Oval School dads group 	ECCO steering group
8	Any other business	
	<p>Rachel Lawrence lead the discussion on three topics:</p> <p>Local Green Space Designation</p> <p>None of the local green spaces in Croydon has been designated for protection against development and this means we could lose them. The government has stipulated that there must be over 40,000 new dwellings in Croydon</p>	

	<p>and all undesignated spaces are potential building sites. Croydon Council has published an online survey to gather evidence that people value their local green spaces. Littler Road Playground is the only such space in the ECCO area. However, you can submit your views on any of the green spaces in Croydon, not just the ones nearest your home. There is a second survey for suggesting local green spaces that do not appear on the list. Suggestions included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a working group to prioritise which local green spaces to designate • encouraging people to complete the online survey or contact their ward councillors if they have problems doing so. The closing date for the survey is midnight, 22 July 2019. <p>Street drug dealing and rough sleeping These activities are taking place in a garage without a door next to no1 Lebanon Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Jerry Fitzpatrick said that he would take up the matter with the owner of the garage. He pointed out that Croydon Council have an outreach team that try to help rough sleepers. However, they cannot help people who do not want to be helped (such as the lady who sits on the door step of Stephenson House). • Councillor Jerry Fitzpatrick said that street drug dealing is widespread, but that the police lack the resources to follow up sightings. They would need photographic evidence of the transaction actually taking place before acting and that could place the photographer at risk. Tomas Howard-Jones, Chair of the Addiscombe West Safer Neighbourhood Team pointed out that the police allocate resources according to borough-wide priorities and our streets may not be near the top of the list. <p>Recycling and Rubbish Bin Collection Problems include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variable quality of service between one area and another (South Norwood/East Croydon), one road and another (Leslie Grove/Lebanon Road), types of 	<p>ECCO steering group</p> <p>Councillor Jerry Fitzpatrick</p>
--	---	--

	<p>building (houses/flats) and different time periods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abuse from bin collectors • Lack of response to complaints and reports of missed collections, especially when using the app • Bins going missing or other people's bins arriving • Collection dates have changed on the website, bit not in practice • Front garden walls being damaged <p>Reasons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in narrow roads, such as Lebanon Road, drivers abuse the bin men when they can't get past them • the contractor is operating on very narrow profit margins. £5million was taken out of the contract to support social care. The bin men operate under very tight time constraints. • The contract with Veolia is being monitored. However, Croydon Council do not want to re-tender the contract as they are likely to have to pay more for the service. <p>Solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep reporting issues through the available channels • If you don't get a result, contact your ward councillors on addiscombe.west@croydonlabour.org.uk • Label your bins with your house number, so that it is easier for the bin men to return them to the right place or for you to find them if they don't 	<p>ECCO steering group</p>
9	Donations	
	Members kindly donated £63 towards ECCO running costs.	

