

COULSDON WEST

residents' association



**MINUTES OF THE 70TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
COULSDON WEST RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Tuesday 28th May 2019 at 7.30pm
Coulsdon Community Centre**

CURRENT COMMITTEE

Chair (Vacant)
Vice-Chair (Vacant)
Lucy Acres
Peter Appleford
Rita Barfoot (Secretary-Elect)
Regan Barfoot
Jean Biggs
Geoff Hunt (Meeting Chair)
Lynne Rothberg
Michael Southwell (Treasurer-Elect)

APOLOGIES

Chris Philp
Peter Appleford

Members in attendance – approximately 20

1. The Chair welcomed attendees and introduced the committee. The retiring committee members – Steve Mead, Michael Swadling, Sumera Shamin and Jaydev Vyas were thanked for their work with our best wishes for every success in their future endeavours.

2. Guest Speaker: Mr Mason McIlroy, from The Council's Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Mason gave a comprehensive overview of the work done by the team to combat fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour (ASB), neighbour disputes as well as littering and dog fouling. Coulsdon town centre contains some ASB hot spots which receive attention from the team. An attendee mentioned the after school/early evening gatherings of youngsters meaning no harm, but could be intimidating through numbers. Concern was raised that drivers parking on the pavements outside Tesco were forcing pedestrians to walk in the road.

LBC now has illegal encampment enforcement powers requiring travellers to move within 24 hrs. Abandoned vehicles are ticketed with 7-day removal notices unless they pose a public safety risk when they can be removed immediately. Vehicles used by fly-tippers are seized and crushed, although even with CCTV, proof is sometimes difficult to establish. Concern was raised about the number of abandoned nitrous oxide canisters to be found at a number of locations within the town and whether such inhalation would render drivers unfit to drive.

The SNT would welcome extra CCTV cameras monitoring the town but these are unlikely due to the cost of installation and monitoring. They work with the police to tackle theft of and from motor vehicles.

Mason highlighted an app to download from Croydon Council which allows residents to report issues directly with the council and with the SNT.

Mason said he would clarify the position of various points made and would feed back to us.

He was thanked for his time and his talk was both informative and well received.

3. Last Year's Minutes were approved and seconded by the attendees. Peter Morgan asked that his delivery of leaflets concerning the Woodcote School parking restrictions be acknowledged by the committee – duly acknowledged.

4. Matters/Actions arising from last AGM

Despite many local objections the Woodcote School traffic restrictions were ratified and continue to cause the expected inconvenience and safety concerns to residents in nearby roads. LBC has announced similar schemes near other schools in the Borough, but these are unlikely to affect CWRA.

The Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCCG) with local GP practices worked hard to find acceptable relocation places for Dr Khan's patients with the Old Coulsdon practise taking the majority.

5. Planning Updates

Following recent meetings with both the CCCG and Brick by Brick (BxB) the latest news on the medical centre and preparations for the Lion Green Car Park construction were highlighted.

Medical Centre. Although funding has yet to be finalised the building of the centre is considered to be absolutely vital in the planned reorganisation of the NHS which will focus on more local community based medical and social care. The aims are to provide early intervention to prevent the need for hospital admission and to allow discharge from hospital as soon as the patient is considered well enough because social care provision will be in place. Discussions are ongoing as to what the new centre will contain but physiotherapy, diabetic clinics, and mental health support have been mentioned. Charitable and voluntary organisations will have much involvement. They anticipate that the building will take 42 weeks to construct with another 24 weeks to set up and they hope to finish by October 2020.

Lion Green Road. Keeping part of the car park (50-60%) open during construction is accepted and tenders are out with the following timeline. Firstly, a survey for any unexploded bombs must be carried out. Courtesy of the local historical society, wartime photos show the bomb destruction of the properties where Lorimers now stands, which is not far from the field where the car park lies.

Next the archaeologists will complete their work, estimated to take 4 weeks with construction and occupation of affordable homes taking priority but it is likely that work on private homes will run concurrently. There will be restrictions on contractors parking on the site. We have requested a greater proportion of short term (4hrs) parking to allow for people needing longer than 1hr to conclude their business.

Missing buses. A member, supported by others, enquired as to why, particularly during the middle of the day 463 buses from Coulsdon South station disappear from the countdown screen, meaning a wait of over an hour in some cases. A brief discussion surmised that timetable conflict could result in buses turning back before reaching the end of the route.

It was agreed that Peter Appleford, our public transport committee member, should be asked to investigate.

6. Financial Report by Treasurer.

Detailed accounts were presented to attendees upon arrival. The treasurer reported on the 2018 accounts. These showed a surplus of £1,316.33 compared to £1,538.45 for 2017. The advertising income was £996, down from £1,204.75 in 2017. Membership subscriptions were £2,187.60 down from £2,998.21 in 2017. Cash and savings increased by £1,316.33 to a total of £15,882.73. The treasurer wished to draw attention to the standing order mandate form printed on the back of each newsletter to aid subscription collection, with only about 100 submitted so far. The accounts were proposed, seconded and accepted by the attendees.

8. The Future of CWRA as an Association

In spite of featuring prominently in recent Newsletters, our appeals for community support in terms of more road stewards (to deliver newsletters and collect subscriptions) and to attract committee members to share CWRA work, have met with little response. We gratefully thank new recruits, but these are outweighed by those who cannot continue. As our committee comprises of volunteers who give their spare time for the community whilst juggling all the family and other commitments which weigh so heavily on us all at this time, we understand.

CWRA must change as we lag behind our sister RAs who have already embraced the digital age, with eye-catching websites, interactive Facebook activity, up to date e-blast registers to quickly disseminate community news and means to follow our membership activity. The present committee freely admit that we totally lack the expertise to deal with this, so our treasurer indicated a willingness to use up to £1000 from our reserves to facilitate these changes. The platforms established must reflect serious issues that most concern our residents and to that end we need to attract an IT committee member willing to act as administrator to regulate content.

Attendee suggestions included: possibly paying for postage of hard copies to be sent with others suggesting that perhaps a neighbour or relative could download from the website for members lacking internet access.

Although there is much to do we were heartened by the attendees' desire that CWRA remains an independent association, reflecting the views of Coulsdon West residents. It is certainly not too late, with your support, to keep CWRA as a relevant force for good for us all.

9. Re-election of officers.

The re-election of our officers was proposed, seconded and approved by the attendees.

10. AOB

Nothing raised.

The meeting closed at 10pm