



# Coulsdon West Residents' Association

## MINUTES OF THE 72<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING COULSDON WEST RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

Coulsdon Community Centre

1. The Chairman welcomed attendees and introduced the CWRA committee.  
It was explained that our MP, and our Safer Neighbourhood Team were both squeezing our meeting into their busy schedules, and that they would be speaking first, before the main business of the Association's AGM.
2. Chris Philp, MP for Croydon South, was welcomed to the meeting.  
He spoke about a number of items that he is concerned with:
  - a. The Croydon Council bankruptcy is having massive effects throughout the borough. Frontline services such as libraries, Purley pool, recycling, graffiti removal, and lack of grass cutting are all visible to us.
  - b. Planning consent is being given out too readily without due thought and consideration for the impact.
  - c. Supported by several Residents' Associations, there is a campaign for a directly elected mayor of Croydon (DEMOC). This would replace the existing leader and the public would vote on who the Mayor would be.
  - d. Health: Croydon University Hospital has recently spent £22m on its A&E facility, funding has also been approved for a Children's cancer unit.  
Purley Hospital GP Hub is open 365 days a year.  
COVID vaccine programme has been going well.
  - e. Sewage on Chipstead Valley Road (and elsewhere in Coulsdon): the water company, Thames Water, is investigating, and we should have their findings by 30/9/2021.
3. Safer Neighbourhood Team – PC Middleton and PC Hurst were welcomed to the meeting.  
They described some of their concerns and observations about their work.
  - a. The PCs are based at New Addington Police station which means that we do not receive the full benefit of their services, as they sometimes have to commute here by bus!  
When on the beat, their personal cameras are on all the time, recording automatically. Sequences of interest can be saved from being overwritten.
  - b. Any incidents should be reported – women's safety is clearly an issue currently although we live in a safe area with relatively little crime, however catalytic converter thefts are a well known issue in Coulsdon Town.  
We should get in touch if we want to understand how to protect ourselves from petty crime.
  - c. Illegal and dangerous parking on the roundabout by Aldi and Tesco was mentioned – need to inform the Parking enforcement team at Croydon Council.
  - d. They go into schools when they are invited to talk about safety
  - e. Speed limits on road are enforceable – comments from the attendees were made about Marlpit lane
4. The Chairman, Richard Walker, started the formal business.
  - a. Apologies for absence of Keith Watkins
  - b. Minutes of last meeting (EGM March 2021).  
Lewis White approved the minutes and Shelley Rowe seconded.
  - c. Keith Edwards, the Treasurer, read the accounts.  
The accounts were approved by Shelley Rowe and seconded by Nigel Elliot



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- d. Nigel Elliott had helped the committee enormously with a number of proposed changes to the constitution. Richard thanked Nigel, and apologised for the fact that, due to the timescales that are imposed by the existing constitution, the discussion and formal adoption of the new constitution would have to wait until the next General Meeting.
5. Election of Officers and Committee Members.
  - a. The current committee were re-elected unanimously. These are the the appointments:  
Chair: Richard Walker, Planning, Website  
Vice Chair: Lynne Rothberg: Community safety/Police panel  
Secretary: Yasmin Dubash: Roads, parking  
Treasurer: Keith Edwards  
Committee Member: Peter Appleford: Public Transport  
Committee Member: Jeannine Newham: Health and Environment.  
Committee Member: Yvonne Walker: Membership Secretary  
Committee Member: Keith Watkins: Social Media Officer.
  - b. The Chairman thanked Rebecca Guildford and David Rothberg, who were leaving the committee, for their hard work – in Dave's case, for decades!
6. Amish Patel, of Valley Pharmacy talked about the Covid Vaccination Centre at St Aidan's Church. Amish talked about the vaccination process, and he praised the volunteers who helped administer the vaccines – 45,000 patients have been vaccinated there, and without the volunteers this would not have been possible.
7. Discussion
  - a. Shelley Rowe commented that we need to improve our social media presence.  
- The website and social media presence are both in their infancy, and will improve. Any suggestions for improvement, or contributions, are most welcome.
  - b. Make Coulsdon greener – Croydon have a green agenda. With the Queen's Jubilee in 2022, there is the opportunity to mark the occasion in some meaningful way – like planting more trees. There is a scheme that the council have set up, but it can cost around £350 to have a new tree planted outside you house. There are many variables about the types of tree, and whether they will survive where they are planted. CWRA will provide updates on their ideas via the website and other channels.
  - c. The Woodcote medical practice currently has around 18,000 patients registered, which is placing enormous pressure on the practice. CWRA has representatives on both the practice patients' committee, and on the various meetings concerning the proposed health centre on the site of the old Smitham School (the CALAT site).
8. Meeting ended at 9:40pm. Apart from the committee and guest speakers, about 30 people attended.