

Coulsdon West Residents' Association
74th AGM (for the year 2022)
8th June 2023, at Coulsdon Community Centre.

Minutes

Attendees: Invited guests Tom Oliver, Councillor Mario Creatura, Adrian Fosberry, Gill Hickman and Ben Taylor (other Ras), and about 35 members representing around 30 CWRA households.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Councillors Ian Parker and Luke Shortland; guests Charlie King, Graham Lomas; members Keith Edwards (treasurer), Peter Appleford, Andy Middleton, Richard Shore (independent examiner), Kevin Slegg, Durgesh Vyas, and Lewis White.
2. **Presentation by guest speaker** Tom Oliver, ranger with the City of London Corporation. Tom works locally at Happy Valley and Farthing Downs, Coulsdon and Ashstead Commons. Through a series of slides and detailed commentary Tom gave insights into how the land, vegetation and wildlife is being managed and protected to maintain the rural flavour of our area.
3. **Update on the work of Friends of Rickman Hill Park.** Keith Watkins, Chair of FoRHP, updated the meeting on developments with the maintenance of the park and Mother Kitty's Shaw.

Mother Kitty's Shaw A lot of work has taken place over a two-year period to restore Mother Kitty's Shaw. Through volunteer work, the dense undergrowth has been thinned out to introduce more light and open up the paths again; low dead hedge walls have been established to define the paths. A variety of nesting boxes have been installed and some are already being used. The ancient bluebells have now returned for the first time in some twenty years.

Rickman Hill Park has also benefited from volunteer work. New trees donated by the Woodland Trust have been planted to replace stock on the boundary of the park. Further saplings will be arriving in November. A programme of bench-building is also underway. With money donated by Tesco, 6 new benches have been built and will be installed in the park shortly.

There is on-going discussion with the Council about how to improve the security of the park boundary. The Council has recently installed more tree trunks. Grass cutting is an on-going issue. The park has only just received its first cut of the year. There is an on-going problem with fly tipping but a swift response from the 'Love Clean Streets' initiative is keeping the problem under control.

The local volunteer group which meets every couple of weeks for 2 hours needs more members. Any residents with an interest in protecting green spaces is welcome to join. The activities include litter picking, servicing nesting boxes, dead hedge wall maintenance, planting saplings, reporting fly tips.

4. **Previous Minutes** were approved. Proposer: Bill Kilvington and seconder: Jimmy Curtis.
5. **CWRA Report for 2022.** Chairman, Richard Walker spoke about the following headings:

Membership of the CWRA Committee: New members are urgently needed to avoid the association failing. Current vacancies are for a membership secretary, a newsletter editor and an second person to work on planning applications with Richard, and somebody to assist the treasurer. We also need some new road stewards. Please contact Richard to express an interest in any of the above or to contribute new ideas.

Planning applications: As Jason Perry promised last year, the planning process is getting better under his leadership. So now, hardly any of the unwanted developments proposed for Coulsdon are getting approved.

Problems still remain however with the notification process for neighbouring properties. Residents need to scan the planning register on the Croydon Council website and watch out for notices being posted on lampposts. Councillors Mario, Ian and Luke are posting information sheets through the doors of nearby properties to support public awareness.

The Whitgift Centre project has been resuscitated. Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield has purchased a 25- acre chunk of central Croydon, which includes the Whitgift Centre and Centrale areas.

The Medical Centre Coulsdon and Purley Pool developments are still work in progress. Councillor Mario assured the meeting that these are still top priorities for the mayor. Jason Perry is working finding the funding.

A defibrillator for Chipstead Valley – see Keith Watkins report below.

Remembrance. Charlie King, Chairman of the East Coulsdon Residents' Association, together with other agencies and financial support from Truelove successfully led a successful project to get the names of 16 missing heros added to the memorial to the fallen in Marlpit Lane Park. Two plaques with the missing names were installed into the memorial, and were re-dedicated on Armistice Day 2022 by Pastor Newman.

The CWRA newsletter. Thanks to Ian Blackwell and the company he works for, for funding the newsletter and flyers.

6. **Accounts & financial report** for 2022 presented by Keith Watkins
7. **Approval of accounts: Accounts for the year 2022-23 were approved.** Proposer: Geoff Hunt and seconder: Bill Kilvington
Independent Examiner, Richard Shore, was re-appointed.
8. **The defibrillator project** was presented by Keith Watkins. Keith had successfully led a fundraising project to get a defibrillator installed on the wall of the Smuggler's Inn. This has proved very successful and has already been activated three times.

9. **Election of committee.** Those standing for the CWRA Committee were re-elected en bloc by a show of hands.

The Committee is now made up of:

Richard Walker (Chairman)

Keith Edwards (Treasurer)

Peter Appleford, Bill Kilvington, Jeannine Newham, Dave Rawlinson,

Doreen Rawlinson, Durgesh Vyas, Keith Watkins (Committee members).

10. **Update from Councillor Mario Creatura.** RAs are invaluable for informing Councillors of the priorities in individual areas of the Borough. As a local man, Mario has a strong commitment to making Croydon and Coulsdon fit for its residents. Councillors have been championing support for better planning in Coulsdon-planning for infrastructure and homes. Issues such as preserving green spaces and supporting the reopening of Purley pool are also high on the agenda. The Coulsdon Councillors hold regular outdoor surgeries outside Aldi to talk to residents about local issues. In response to a question, Mario explained the significance of ward boundary changes in Croydon. Effectively, there will be an additional councillor for the Borough.

11. **Close:** The chairman thanked everyone for attending, especially guests Tom Oliver and Councillor Mario Creatura, and representatives from East and Old Coulsdon, Gill Hickman and Adrian Fosberry, and Ben Taylor of Cane Hill. Refreshments were served.

Jeannine Newham

13/06/2023