

# East Croydon Community Organisation

## Annual General Meeting

7.45pm Thursday, 13 July 2023

Church of the Nazarene, 55 Lower Addiscombe Rd

### MINUTES

	Attendance	
	<p>Chair: Tomas Howard-Jones</p> <p>Members:, Rod Davies, Sasha Konechni, Angela Vanegas, Jerry Fitzpatrick, Steve Thompson, Mike Griffiths, Jeanette Nathan, Dawn Edwards, Tim Allan, Christina McMahon, Felicita Gimenez Chinchilla, Jo Watson, Marsha Richards, Ann Douthwaite, Angela Simpson, Karyn &amp; Anna Leung, Anne Tompsett, Igluka Gencheva, Melanie Felten, Richard Morley, Paul Ramsey, Joan Tinney, Tonia Daly, Marcie Bhucarry,</p> <p>Non-members: Sarah Jones MP, Councillor Clive Fraser, Councillor Patricia Hay-Justice, Gillian Appleby, Diane Darak, Sangeeta Gobidaas, Anon, Moi, Miriam Heyburn</p> <p>Apologies: Jason Hinton, Tony Skrzypczyk, Fiona Crowe, Councillor Sean Fitzsimons, Andrew Laney,</p>	
1	Steering group members	
	<p>The following people have been proposed and seconded</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Matt Bence</li><li>• Felicita Gimenez Chinchilla</li><li>• Sally Anne Cook</li><li>• Fiona Crowe</li><li>• Dawn Edwards</li><li>• Jerry Fitzpatrick</li><li>• Tomas Howard-Jones</li><li>• Max Kenna</li><li>• Sasha Konechni</li><li>• Tony Skrzypczyk</li><li>• Angela Vanegas</li></ul> <p>Jason Hinton has left the steering group and was thanked for what he has done for ECCO.</p>	
2	Accounts	
	<p>The accounts from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 were noted. The current balance is £125.74.</p>	

	It was suggested that income could be increased by undertaking door-to-door collections in the ECCO area and providing a facility on the website by which people could make donations.	ECCO steering group
<b>3</b>	<b>Actions from AGM 2022</b>	
	<p><b>Bisenden Bed</b></p> <p>The Bisenden bed is the planted area closest to the eastern junction of Bisenden Road and Addiscombe Road. In 2017 we planted a tree in the bed in memory of remarkable local eco-campaigner Joan Pick. We always intended to do more. Post lockdown, Andrea Perry was persuaded to lead a project to do so.</p> <p>In August 2022, 600 leaflets were delivered to houses in the roads closest to the Bisenden bed seeking their views on the following proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a reconfiguration of the bed so that a bench could fit snugly into the reshaped configuration</li> <li>• the recycling of existing materials alongside the use of new sustainable materials</li> <li>• a wood-turned plaque commemorating the life and work of Joan Pick</li> <li>• the restocking of the bed with hardy native shrubs (particularly pollinators)</li> </ul> <p>The leaflet evoked 14 responses, almost all of which were enthusiastic about the proposal. Three respondents expressed interest in doing gardening and maintenance work on the bed. Two respondents expressed concern that the proposed bench would attract anti-social individuals. The latter is a very reasonable concern, but needs to be weighed against the positives which a bench would bring.</p> <p>In May 2023 Maylim, a company specialising in public realm landscaping schemes, agreed to undertake the work and provide the bench. ECCO has also successfully applied for £750 from National Lottery money connected with Croydon's Borough of Culture 2023 status.</p> <p>It was suggested that there should be a plaque in Joan Pick's memory. This will be mounted on the bench, as memorial plaques are not allowed on what is essentially a grass verge.</p> <p>It was also suggested that the tree planted for Joan should be subject to a tree preservation order, but these are not allowed on trees close to major highways.</p> <p>The need to avoid planting species that encroach on the highway and pavement was recommended to avoid displacing cyclists and pedestrians.</p> <p><b>Ward Councillors' Walkabout</b></p> <p>Took place on 22 October 2022. 17 local residents accompanied Addiscombe West Councillors around all the streets in the ECCO area. The main issues raised were</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fly tipping &amp; litter</li> </ul>	Jerry Fitzpatrick

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• insufficient street trees</li> <li>• the poor quality of the environment in the shopping areas of Cherry Orchard Road &amp; Lower Addiscombe Road</li> <li>• the impact of new developments &amp; the lack of benefit to the local area accruing from them</li> </ul> <p>It is hoped that this will become an annual event.</p>	ECCO steering group
<b>4</b>	<b>Presentation by Sarah Jones MP</b>	
	<p>Sarah Jones MP is the Shadow Minister for Policing and the Fire Service, on which topics she works on a national level. Within Croydon, much of her effort in the last year has been directed at the provision of providing cost-of-living support for her Croydon Central constituents.</p> <p>Sarah has recently undertaken a walkabout in Addiscombe West with Cllr Patrica Hay-Justice and Oval Road Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Melanie Felten. Major issues raised included fly tipping and anti-social behaviour. Ark Oval Academy has raised concerns about the safety of their pupils due to anti-social behaviour in the Oval Road passageway. Anti-social behaviour is also a significant issue for the residents of Leslie Grove and Alpha Road.</p> <p>Because property is relatively cheap in Croydon compared to elsewhere in London, other boroughs often place vulnerable people in hostels in our neighbourhood. These are sometimes run by private companies that provide little or no support for those they house. Croydon Council will not always be informed that these hostels exist. Sarah proposes that all the London boroughs should come to an agreement about how to manage this issue.</p> <p>Sarah has received 220 requests for help from residents in Addiscombe West in the past year, fewer than from some other parts of her Croydon Central constituency. Housing, planning, the council tax increase and the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) have formed the bulk of her casework.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Questions &amp; Answers</b>	
	<p><b>When will the bridge over the railway lines from Cherry Orchard Road be operational?</b></p> <p>Cllr Patricia Hay-Justice said that Menta has confirmed that they will provide access to this bridge from their new development by March 2024. This will include a lift, but will not be “cycle-able” as originally promised. However, it is Network Rail that owns the bridge itself and it is not clear whether they will open it up to foot traffic. The bridge was initially planned in response to increasing numbers of rail passengers. They have now decreased to 85% of their pre-pandemic numbers.</p> <p><b>Some people will struggle to pay Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) fees if their vehicles are not compliant. The scrappage scheme should be extended to more people and be available for longer. However, the impact on health of high emissions, particularly on</b></p>	

	<p><b>that of children, needs to be considered.</b></p> <p>Some people will struggle to pay ULEZ fees if their vehicles are not compliant. Sarah Jones said that she supports the scheme but is concerned that the scrappage payments are not available to all who need them that. People who have been turned down should contact her office for support. She pointed out that the introduction of the scheme into central London was relatively uncontroversial, perhaps because there is more public transport and provision for cyclists. Cllr Patricia Hay-Justice agreed that the scrappage scheme should be available for longer, but pointed out that the scheme was being brought in because central government requires a reduction in emissions. Click here to read the letter (dated 14 May 2020) from the Secretary of State for Transport to the Mayor of London instructing him to do so – see paragraph 12h <a href="https://content.tfl.gov.uk/extraordinary-funding-and-financing-agreement-may-2020.pdf">https://content.tfl.gov.uk/extraordinary-funding-and-financing-agreement-may-2020.pdf</a></p> <p><b>What date is planned for the replacement of the zebra crossing on Cherry Orchard Road?</b></p> <p>Cllr Patricia Hay-Justice said that she had just been told that this crossing would not be replaced. She will try to find whether the promise to reinstate it was made in writing. It was hoped that people would use the crossings to the north or south of the one that was removed, but that has not been the case and there is a significant safety issue at present. It was suggested that perhaps the crossing to the north be moved to a position between Oval Road and Cedar Road, as people intending to use the bridge across the railway lines are likely to cross there. Post meeting note: the Croydon Council roadworks web page currently show that a crossing will be installed between 18 October – 3 November 2023 in this location <a href="https://www.croydon.gov.uk/parking-streets-and-transport/street-maintenance-repairs-and-improvements/roadworks-and-closures/roadworks">https://www.croydon.gov.uk/parking-streets-and-transport/street-maintenance-repairs-and-improvements/roadworks-and-closures/roadworks</a></p> <p><b>Will Sarah Jones MP advocate for the distinct recognition of transsexuals within policies and legislation?</b></p> <p>In June 2023, parliament debated the re-definition of the word “sex” in the Equality Act 2010. In this discussion, the term transsexuals was declared outdated. This was reiterated by Baroness Falkner, Chair of the Equality &amp; Human Rights Commission at the Women and Equalities Select Committee on 12 July. Sarah Jones was asked</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether she supports the erasure of transsexuals from the discourse on trans rights?</li> <li>• What her views are on the redefinition of “transsexual” to include individuals that do not share their medical condition, experience or needs?</li> <li>• Whether she could ensure that the complex biological reality of transsexuals is accounted for in debates on the definition of “sex”?</li> <li>• What steps she would take to improve public education about the medical condition of transsexualism and dispel harmful misconceptions?</li> </ul>	<p>Sarah Jones MP</p>
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	<p>Sarah Jones apologised for not responding to previous approaches on this matter and will contact the questioner directly.</p> <p><b>Why is so little of the section 106 development money being spent in our area, in particular the local shopping areas leading off the Leslie Arms roundabout which are in a terrible state?</b></p> <p>The need to improve the environment for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), including shops, has been an issue since ECCO was founded in 2014. However there has been no improvement since that time. Indeed, conditions have declined. Cllr Clive Fraser suggested that ECCO make a case for the projects that they would like to be implemented from section 106 development money and the public infrastructure levy, such as grants to improve shop fronts. These could build on the suggestions made at the public meeting held last year  <a href="https://eastcroydon.org.uk/2022/02/22/reminder-public-meeting-24-february-2022-community-regeneration-of-cherry-orchard-and-lower-addiscombe-road/">https://eastcroydon.org.uk/2022/02/22/reminder-public-meeting-24-february-2022-community-regeneration-of-cherry-orchard-and-lower-addiscombe-road/</a>. Cllr Hay Justice suggested that a walkabout could take place with the Croydon Council business manager to discuss what could be done.</p> <p><b>When will the community engagement start on the Healthy Street scheme for the area between Addiscombe &amp; Lower Addiscombe Road (and how secure is the funding to support any improvements suggested by it)?</b></p> <p>Cllr Patricia Hay-Justice reported that the funding of £40,000 connected with this project is for data gathering (including car usage monitoring) and community engagement only. Once the data has been processed, a public meeting will be held for residents of Addiscombe West, Addiscombe East and Shirley North Wards to suggest suitable projects. When this has taken place, funding will need to be sought to implement the projects. Much of the funding is likely to come from the Mayor of London.</p> <p><b>Where are the services provided by the Central Croydon GP Hub delivered from now that they no longer use the premises in Brickwood Road?</b></p> <p>Cllr Clive Fraser will endeavour to find out.</p> <p><b>Why has work stopped on the former Cherryfields meat packing site on Cherry Orchard Road?</b></p> <p>Cllr Clive Fraser reported that the first building contractor had gone into administration. The Housing Association responsible for the development has been in the process of retendering the contract and the announcement of a new contractor is awaited.</p> <p><b>Could CCTV be installed in Oval Road to deter criminal and anti-social behaviour, such as theft of cars and over filling of skips?</b></p> <p>Sarah Jones MP responded that there should soon be more police walking the street to deter thieves and drug users. If the skip is a fire hazard, report it to her office which can raise the issue as such.</p> <p><b>What can be done to prevent people taking drugs or drinking in the street?</b></p> <p>If the people concerned live in hostels, contacting the social landlords</p>	<p>ECCO steering group</p> <p>ECCO steering group</p> <p>Cllr Clive Fraser</p> <p>Cllr Clive Fraser</p>
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who own them can be effective. Hopefully the increased presence of police on the streets will also help. Cllr Patricia Hay-Justice pointed out that the Public Space Protection Order covering central Croydon does not extend as far as Cherry Orchard Road, as the local councillors had originally sought. See the map below for its extent.

#### SCHEDULE 1

This Schedule contains the following map:

Appendix A: Map 1 of PSPO area



8	<b>Any other business</b>	
	<p><b>Alpha Road &amp; Leslie Grove alleyways</b> The alleyway between the two roads is being used for dumping rubbish, drug dealing, drug taking and anti-social behaviour. Marsha Richards and Felicita Gimenez Chinchilla are planning to hold a meeting of residents to discuss possible solutions. These may include gating the alleyways, should sufficient funds be raised.</p> <p><b>ECCO events</b> Events bring local people together and raise funds for ECCO. In 2022-23 these have included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an East Croydon history walk (as part of the celebrations for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society)</li> <li>• Hallowe'en</li> <li>• Lebanon Road Big Lunch</li> </ul>	<p>Marsha Richards &amp; Felicita Gimenez Chinchilla</p> <p>ECCO Steering Group</p>

	<p>Another East Croydon history walk is planned for Saturday, 9 September as part of the London-wide Open House festival.</p> <p><b>Clean &amp; Green Initiatives</b> These have included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobbying Croydon Council to plant 46 street trees in Oval Road &amp; arranging a celebration to commemorate the event</li> <li>• Organising four clean-ups of The Boulevard on Addiscombe Road with Good Gym</li> <li>• Encouraging Network Rail to remove the graffiti from the hoarding around the former sorting office site next to East Croydon station</li> <li>• Encouraging Croydon Council to prioritise the re-surfacing of Colson Road</li> </ul>	ECCO Steering Group
<b>9</b>	<b>Next steps</b>	
	<p>The minutes of this meeting will be posted on the ECCO website by 3 August</p> <p>The ECCO Steering Group will meet in September 2023 to follow up actions noted above</p>	ECCO Steering Group