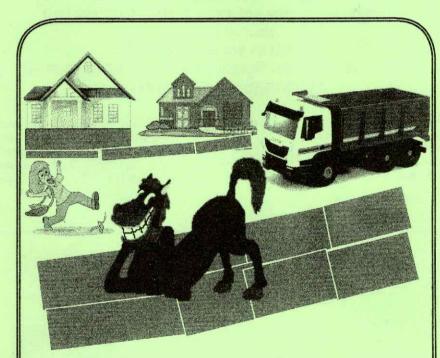




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CROHAM VALLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION SUMMER 2016 NEWSLETTER

A Man's Best Friend? Not always

While we await news from the Council on the big issue of fixed campsites for "travellers", we can turn our attention to other matters or, to be more accurate, other matter.

There have been complaints in recent days that some pet lovers in our area haven't been doing their civic duties when it comes to cleaning up after Fido. Yes, it's not a nice thing to have to do but, for dog owners it goes with the turf – as well as on the turf, obviously.

This is what the Council website says on the subject:

Clear up after your dog

To promote responsible ownership and reduce health problems associated with dog fouling, we have adopted The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. This act rules that it is an offence if the owner, or person in charge of a dog, fails to clean up their animal's faeces from designated land.

These areas include pedestrianized areas, public footways, parks and open spaces, housing land and grass verges. This Act carries a maximum fine of £1,000, and not having a poop scoop (or other means of removing the faeces) or being unaware of the legislation is not an acceptable excuse.

People who are registered blind are exempt from the Act.

Please help: we receive many dog fouling complaints, and rely on the public for information. If you witness a person not cleaning up after their dog has fouled a public space please note the time and date of the incident, with a brief description of the dog and the owner. Please be prepared to provide a statement, if required.

There should be a law against it!

While we're on the subject of naming and shaming, any witnesses to an equally unpleasant and even more substantial offence are invited to spill the beans at editorcvra@gmail.com: only a few weeks ago pedestrians in Ballards Way had to step into the road to get round a heap dumped in the middle of the pavement by a horse!

It's such an unlikely thing to happen in Croydon that, however hot the Council website may be on the subject of dog fouling, it looks like no one's ever thought about horse fouling, and when you think about the relative sizes of the malefactors, it's a big issue.

The Fouling of Land by Dogs London Borough of Croydon Order 2010 is clearly discriminatory: why are dogs targeted, while horses allowed to get away with it?

Is this a bigger issue than fixed "travellers" sites?

It all depends where you stand.

READERS' LETTERS

From Carol Kellas

Just to say that there is a planning application (again) for the rear of 39 Castlemaine Avenue. The notice is in the back lane, so not visible to anyone going down the street. I'm sure our planning watchdogs are on the case.

From Sue Millward

I live in Croham Valley Road, where, as in a number of neighbouring roads, we enjoy beautiful grass verges. Some of these verges are being lovingly tended by the property owners, but, of course, not everyone has the time and/or energy/desire to do this, which is fine.

However, I have noticed an increase in these lovely verges being (repeatedly!!) driven over (and, surprisingly, by the house owners themselves...!!) causing ugly scars and ruts in them and also, at times, causing muddy pavements.

Our driveway exits are very generously wide enough to avoid this and I would ask that residents respect, cherish and appreciate the grass verges, which so many other areas do not enjoy. Very many thanks, in advance.

From committee member Paul W Sowan

The prospect of a caravan site in Conduit Lane and a big new secondary school on the Coombe Lodge or Coombe Road playing

fields (as envisaged in the draft Croydon Local Plan) are, of course, among our current concerns, but this is far from being the first time planning issues have been causes for alarm.

In the nineteenth century, for example, the Whitgift Foundation was going to put Croham Hurst up for sale for housing, and it was only public protests that stopped the then County Borough of Croydon from giving the scheme the go-ahead.

In the 1920s the County Borough's plan to demolish the Whitgift Almshouses (built in the late sixteenth century) to widen North End and create space for tram lines was defeated, but only when it reached the House of Lords.

Two years after the end of World War II, the council put forward a plan for a new main road straight across Lloyd Park....another abandoned bad idea!

One regrettable council scheme which did go ahead was the landfill site in the Ballards Plantation, occupied by what is now Royal Russell School. Until the 1950s the area between Conduit Lane and the 1920s school buildings resembled the ridges and valleys of Addington Hills, but the council entered into an agreement with the school to fill up the valleys with refuse and grass them over to create playing fields. An access road that was created for the purpose was supposed to have been removed and the site restored to its original state,

but this never happened.

This episode was the start of the decline of the north end of Conduit Lane from the attractive bridleway it once was to its present state of a fly-tipped car park!

Planning and development threats in Croham Valley have come and gone, and will continue to do so. Local groups like the CVRA are vital to help us preserve of our Green Belt!

From Chris Philp MP

I am delighted that the Croydon CCG listened to our concerns about Purley Hospital, and the new service which is due to start in April 2017 will have the morning opening hours restored, starting at 8am. They also say that from April 2017 they will once again be able to make immediate referrals to the X-ray machine (which is just down the corridor) for everything apart from suspected fractures, which will still need a trip to Mayday.

The council has recently announced that it is 'consulting' on the future of our libraries. I am concerned that this will mean cuts to professional staff whose advice and help is valued by so many residents. If you would like to help convince the Council to keep the libraries as they are, please sign this petition:

www.surveymonkey.net/r/handsoffourlibraries and share the link

with others. You can also contribute to the consultation on the Croydon Council website.

If you have any constituency concerns you would like me to take up, or if you would like a tour of the Houses of Parliament, please email me on chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk

From our Vice-President Angela Shaw

I was putting out my empty milk bottles on the step beside my rather battered Express cool box when I started to reminisce about South Croydon when it was still a village. I began to visualise it in its past glory.

It lay by the station in Croham Road. There were two dairies, United and Express, selling bacon sliced from the joint, cheese sliced from the whole cheese, butter cut from the slab and patted into shape before weighing it and, of course, bottles of milk.

There was a butcher's shop, a grocer's shop, where you could buy your biscuits, loose and sugar was weighed out for you, a fishmonger's, a sweet shop, and a Post Office, which also sold newspapers and cards. There was a barber's shop, a chemist, where the great glass bottles with coloured fluid in them stood at the windows, and a greengrocer. There was a cobbler and an electrical shop where you could have repairs done as well as buy electrical items.

All are gone now, replaced by fast food shops and estate agents and the like so that we tend to go to the supermarkets for food these days. The fishmonger was the hero of the village. Milk was delivered by horse and cart from Ballards Farm and one day the horse bolted with the cart and our hero stepped out of his shop into the street and caught and calmed the horse until the milkman arrived on foot!

Electric floats now bring my milk to the door and Ballards Farm is a housing estate. Times change!

From our Chairman Edward Glynn

Concern has been expressed about the recent refurbishment of the surface of Ballards Farm Road. The Council has had large gravel stones laid down and these have been firmed down to make a relatively smooth surface. In consequence, there have been reports of motor vehicles travelling along the lane at fast speeds. Not only is this dangerous for horse riders and walkers but it is illegal for motor vehicles to use a bridleway, which is its designation, without specific lawful authority.

I have written to the Council on behalf of the Association and await their response.

Volunteer Required

The Committee are urgently seeking a new Minutes Secretary. This would involve the taking of the Minutes at six meetings per year and at the AGM. If you enjoy knowing what is going on and could find the time to help us please contact Edward on 020 8657 4861.

PLANNING NEWS

2 & 2A Campden Road

Following the dismissal by the Planning Inspectorate of the appeal against the Council's refusal to grant planning permission for a block of twenty flats on this site, the Developer has submitted a new application.

The new application is still for twenty flats, but smaller in size, contained in two separate blocks rather than a single block. The Council's decision is expected shortly.

39 Castlemaine Avenue,

An application to convert the garage at the rear of the property into a two-bedroom house had previously been refused by the Council and dismissed on appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. The garage faced onto a narrow lane accessed from Binfield Road.

However, a subsequent application to the Council to retain a single storey extension to the detached garage to form an ancillary building to the main house has been approved, conditional upon assurances given by the applicant that the building will only be accessed from Castlemaine Avenue and not via the rear access road.

86 Coombe Road (access from Castlemaine Avenue)

A proposal to demolish the detached house on a corner plot and build a block of nine two-bedroom flats, with an underground car park accessed from Castlemaine Avenue, was refused by the Council last year as was a second proposal for eight (rather than nine) two-bedroom flats.

Both refusals were appealed by the Developer. The Planning Inspector dismissed the first appeal but allowed the second appeal. Subsequently, the Developer submitted a revised application for a block of seven flats. The Council's decision is expected shortly

69 Croham Road (corner of Castlemaine Avenue)

Yet another application to develop a corner plot into flats. The existing house has been empty for a number of years since it was vacated as a home for adults with special needs. A planning application has recently been made to extend the existing single dwelling and convert it into seven flats. We consider the plans to be an overdevelopment of the site and have submitted an objection.

23 Melville Avenue

Similar to 69 Croham Road, this house was formerly a home for adults with special needs and has been empty for some years. Planning permission is sought to extend the present house and convert it into five two-bedroom flats. Again, an overdevelopment and detrimental to neighbours.

10 Croham Valley Road

The proposed demolition of the existing four bedroom detached house and its replacement with a pair of four bedroom semi-detached houses would be a massive over-

development of the site and has been refused by the Council.

FARLEY ROAD MEDICAL PRACTICE

There will be an open evening from 7pm to 9pm on Tuesday 12th July at St John's Hall, Upper Selsdon Road, and patients of the practice are invited to come and share their views.

The meeting is about how the service provided by the practice can be improved, by listening to patients' views and ideas.

It must be stressed that this Isn't a forum for clinical complaints, which must always be addressed to the practice manager, Tracy Keogh, who is always happy to hear individuals' concerns.

If you would like to attend the meeting, you are asked to put a note with your name and address in the suggestion box in the surgery, as it would obviously be helpful to know how many people will be attending.

AND FINALLY...

A national newspaper recently compared the streets of Upper Norwood with San Francisco, several years after our own area was likened to Beverley Hills on these very pages. California dreaming? You heard it here first!

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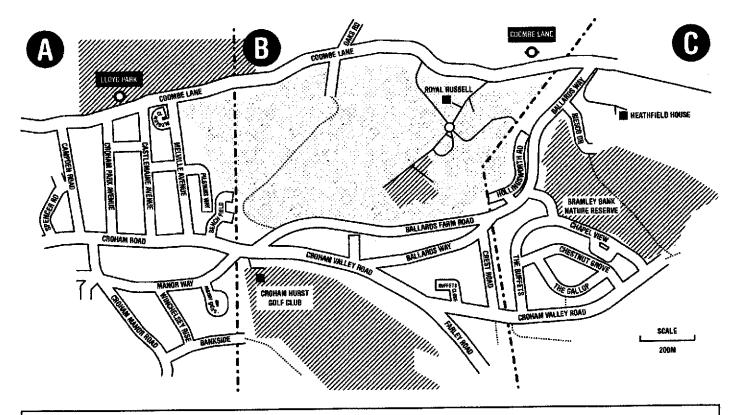
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The above map indicates the areas that are covered by each of the Association's representatives in respect of planning applications or any other matter of concern. The phone numbers to contact for each area are as follows: A: 8688 9558 B: 8657 8787 C: 8657 6585