

THE RIDDLEDOWN RECORDER



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RRA AGM 11th April 2018
7.30pm St Edmund's Church

Crime Prevention Event
21st April 2018 10.45 - 13.45
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Front Cover Photo:

"Riddlesdown", by Alan Brown.

For further information about Alan's painting see www.alanbrownart.net

This is your local Community Magazine – for future issues we welcome your contributions, either directly about Riddlesdown or which are of interest to local residents – send these to editorrra@gmail.com

Further information and past issues of this magazine can be found on our website:

www.riddlesdownresidents.org.uk

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

All Emergencies: (Fire, Police, Ambulance) **999**

Police Non Emergency Number: **101**

Purley Police SNT: **07920 233892**

Sanderstead Police SNT: **020 8721 2470**

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THE RIDDLEDOWN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS



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Keith Powell



Jan Powell



You may write to the Riddlesdown Residents' Association at any of the following addresses:



Please mark your correspondence with the committee member's name, if applicable. Or you can e-mail any committee member at RiddlesdownResidents@gmail.com or at any of the e-mail addresses listed above. RRA Notice Boards are situated by Riddlesdown Pharmacy and on the Green opposite the shops in Lower Barn Rd, on the side wall of St Edmunds Church, by K&K Food & Wine in Mitchley Ave.

We also use the Boards on the Green by St Edmund's Church and in the station waiting room.

Website: www.riddlesdownresidents.org.uk Email RiddlesdownResidents@gmail.com

EDITOR'S NOTES

BY NEIL TARRANT

I would like to open this Recorder open with an apology and a thank you. They are connected. The apology is for the fact that the magazine has been delayed. I recently broke my leg walking across Riddlesdown delaying its production. The thank you goes to the neighbours who dropped everything to come and help me when I had my accident. For me, this was another reminder of the strength of our community.

Elsewhere in this issue of the Recorder you can read about the work of other groups within Riddlesdown, which contribute to our

sense of community. We also celebrate the welcome news that one of our residents has celebrated her 100th Birthday. There are also the usual updates about the activities of the RRA, and the work of our elected representatives. We also include a response to our feedback on the planning consultation meeting that we ran last year. If you have any further comments please do let us know.

I would like to thank all our contributors to this issue and Roger Cherrill for setting the magazine.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BY BRIAN LONGMAN

2017 has been a busy year for the Association on a number of fronts. Planning, transport, health facilities, green belt, local policing, road safety, school liaison. The list goes on. Once again planning continues to be high on the agenda and on behalf of the Association I would like to thank our planning officer, Phil Thomas for his hard work in this area.

Phil once again has worked above and beyond the call of duty, dealing with a wide range of complex planning issues, his knowledge, experience and commitment of time is valued and much appreciated. As many of you will be aware, and was highlighted by Phil in his last report, we have received a growing number of planning applications for the demolition of single houses, and in particular those on corner plots, to build flats. The RRA objected to a number of these schemes, drawing attention to both the size and density of the developments. In some instances, up to 8 flats were proposed to replace a single home, with little commitment for any improvements to the local infrastructure. These issues cannot be ignored. Primary school places, public transport, parking issues, local health services, risk of local flooding are all key to a planning process that supports an increase in housing density.

The Association constantly receives negative feedback from residents concerning our local infrastructure. Many comment on transport links, noting the congestion on the too few buses, and that there is often standing room only on overcrowded trains. Indeed, the 07.46 from Riddlesdown to London Bridge was named as the most crowded train in England

in the autumn of 2016. Other issues include local flooding around the station, traffic congestion near Riddlesdown Collegiate, Croydon's largest senior school, and the availability of local primary school places and the list goes on. Whilst the Association supports appropriate development we need to ensure that our local infrastructure is also maintained and developed so that it continues to meet the growing needs of local residents. Please see planning report for further details.

In 2017 the Association began a process to gain a better understanding of just what local residents wanted Riddlesdown to look like in the future. From roads to railways, housing to health, environment to green belt, while not forgetting the two important issues of infrastructure and local communities. I hope by now that you have all had the opportunity to read the feedback we received from local residents at last year's open meeting. The Association is now engaged in the preparation of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which will be presented to residents at a second and final open meeting in the Spring. Hopefully, we can then present our shared vision 'Supplementary Planning Document' for the future development of Riddlesdown to Croydon Council. If you have not seen the feedback notes from residents they are still available on our website.

In the last issue of the recorder Phil reported on the proposed changes to the students' start and finish times at Riddlesdown Collegiate. When introduced in September 2017, the Association immediately received a large number of complaints from some very angry



residents concerning the traffic gridlock in the roads around the school. In an effort to find a solution, the Association invited the Collegiate Principal to our November committee meeting to discuss the issues and hopefully find a way forward.

Following the meeting, the school wrote to all parents to remind them, that students were welcome to arrive at the school before 8.00am. Students arriving before 8am are requested to wait on site by the Student Entrance. We are informed by the school that the number of students arriving before 8am has increased and the school has observed that there now appears, to be less congestion along Honister Heights, Derwent Drive and Ingleboro Drive than there was, early in the autumn term.

The Association would be interested to know the views of the local residents. Please see the environmental report for further details.

Since the introduction of Safer Neighbourhood teams (SNTs) in 2004, local communities have been able to work with their local SNT to identify and tackle issues of concern to residents. Having attended most of the 'open to the public' SNT meetings over the last fourteen years, I believe that the introduction of the local teams, both in Sanderstead and Purley has made a real and positive contribution to our local community. Crime and anti-social behaviour in Riddlesdown remains low when compared to other areas of Croydon. However, as highlighted in the crime statistics provided by the teams, burglary and motor vehicle crime still remains stubbornly high. In December Sanderstead had eight burglaries and nine thefts of /or from a motor vehicle and Purley had thirteen burglaries and twelve thefts of /or from a motor vehicle.

Recently I was reading an old issue of the Riddlesdown Recorder and it was interesting to note the crime statistics for Riddlesdown for the three months ending April 1969. Nine burglaries, four thefts from motor vehicles and one theft of a pedal cycle. Even more interesting in the same report. "There has been a sharp rise in burglary over this period. Don't forget to telephone Kenley Police Station when you go away even if only for the weekend". A fine example of community policing but burglary and motor vehicle crime, even then was a stubborn problem.

With burglary the message from the Police is simple: burglars usually try a shed or garage first before they burgle a house, because they can often find the tools that they need to get into the house. Therefore make sure that sheds, garages and back gates are securely locked and tools are not left in and around the garden. One burglar recently used a ladder in the victim's own garden to gain access to their house and another gained access via a neighbour's side entrance.

On motor vehicle crime, the police advice is once again simple: do not leave anything on show and remove all valuables from your vehicle when unattended. Even small amounts of cash left in the car, perhaps for the parking meter, can lead to the opportunist thief causing significant damage to the vehicle.

I am pleased to inform residents, that in an effort to help reduce the level of crime in Riddlesdown, the Association working with the Police Safer Neighbourhood team will be arranging a local Crime Prevention event. The event will take place at St Edmunds Church hall on the 21st April between 10.45am and 1.45pm. Pop in and talk to a team of police officers, about the best ways to help protect

your, house, garage, shed or car, with tea, coffee and cake provided by the RRA. Hope to see you on the day.

It is with sadness that we report that Muriel Catt, widow of Ron Catt our previous Chairman passed away in January. Muriel was a good friend of the Residents' Association and will be missed by her many friends in Riddlesdown. Our thoughts are with Muriel's family at this difficult time.

On a different subject, I would like to say a big thank you to the team who organized the RRA, Children's Christmas Party. Neil and

Rachel Tarrant, Nick and Anna Tennant and Laura Bradley, while not forgetting Santa and his team of elves and all the volunteers who helped make the day very special for the children.

Finally a request, we are still in need of road stewards especially in Hyde Road. Due to the large number of houses in Hyde road, it can be divided into four small sections, so each road steward will only have 25 houses. Please can you help? If so, please give me a call, thank you.

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PLANNING MATTERS

BY PHIL THOMAS

It has been a busy six months again on the planning front, with some contentious applications again being submitted and in many cases approved, especially for flats. To summarise these are:

96a Riddlesdown Rd

This application by Aventier for 8 flats and 8 parking spaces in the front garden was submitted to Croydon Council's Planning Committee in late November. A neighbour spoke, as an objector, who would be affected most by this flatted development. He spoke very eloquently and put forward a good case, but this held no weight with the Labour members on the Planning Committee. Purley Ward Cllr Donald Speakman spoke on behalf of Cllr Simon Brew on this application and the discussion at times got quite heated and political. In part this had been caused by the previous application on the agenda, for a flats development at 51 Selcroft Rd (this one is in the Purley & Woocote RA area), where Cllr Speakman gave a passionate speech about Purley and its residents. This application in Selcroft Rd, for 7 flats was also approved. After discussion by the Committee, the vote was made on party political lines (6 Labour – 4 Conservatives) and approval was granted for 8 flats.

The Riddlesdown Rd Developments

Some residents have asked why the RRA (and residents) are opposing these developments where flats and houses are being built that could be utilised by local residents. Unfortunately because these developments

are below 10 units, the developer does not have to supply any affordable homes. This is why all the applications are for 8 or 9 units. It is also interesting to note that for 122 Riddlesdown Rd, where approval was given to Aventier for 8 flats, the house is currently on the market for offers in excess of £1.4m (at time of writing report), and selling with the planning consent in place. One of the two small detached houses that were built behind the houses in Riddlesdown Ave (fronting onto Riddlesdown Rd) is on market for offers in excess of £750,000 (at time of writing report). These prices are not affordable for many, especially young families in the area. It seems owners/developers are doing this to just make money and not provide much needed affordable housing for the younger generation!

The RRA are also aware that some residents are fighting back on these recent planning decisions! We understand that legal opinion has been sought on the restrictive covenant that is in place on land in Riddlesdown Rd, which says on the title deeds, that no flats can be built. The legal opinion given is that this covenant is enforceable for 122 Riddlesdown Rd, where approval has been given for 8 flats. We understand local residents will now apply for a court injunction, subject to costs for legal fees being raised by them, to try and stop this development. If your street is affected by these proposed flatted developments, then it may be worth checking your title deeds to see if there are restrictive covenants in place. A lot of land in Riddlesdown does have them. Some specify that no flats can be built and others actually described the type of dwellings

allowed and the actual numbers of dwellings. This is also why there is no public house in Riddlesdown, or Sanderstead, where there is a covenant restricting the opening of public houses. As far as we are aware, no brewery has challenged this restrictive covenant.

98 Hyde Road

In August, another planning application was submitted by Aventier for; the demolition of the house and the erection of a two-storey building with basement and accommodation in roof space (4 storeys again) comprising of 2 x one bedroom and 6 x two bedroom flats, and the provision of 8 parking spaces. Approval has already been given for 7 x two bedroom flats. This was for the same number of bedrooms as previously approved but with an extra flat and parking space! The decision was made by the Planning Committee in December to grant approval for this additional flat.

48 Mitchley Hill

In September, an application was submitted for the demolition of existing house and the erection of a building comprising 9 x 2 bedroom apartments with parking, secure cycle storage and bin storage and modification of an existing access. This house sits beside the private access way of Borrowdale Close and is partly surrounded by the Green Belt farmland. At the time of writing in early January, no decision has been made by the Council. There are about 130 objections from local residents, and also from the RRA, Councillor Tim Pollard, and Chris Philp MP. This is an application by the owner and not Aventier who have submitted a number of applications in the area recently. We will update more when a decision is made by the Council.

Stop Press – application withdrawn by applicant

4 Rectory Park

In August, another application was again submitted by Aventier for the demolition of existing building and the erection of a two-storey building with accommodation in roof space comprising 2 one-bedroom and 5 two-bedroom flats and with 7 parking spaces. Planning approval has already been granted for 6 two-bedroom flats. However this application was withdrawn by Aventier in early December.

Purley Town Centre – 17 Storey-Tower Building

As many of you will be aware from my last report, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced in April that he had "Called In" Croydon Council's decision to grant planning permission for this large development in Purely District Centre (PDC).

As a reminder, the Council's approval was for the demolition of existing buildings on the two sites. For the island site (surrounded by Banstead Rd, Brighton Rd and Russell Hill Rd), the proposal is to erect a 3 to 17-storey building with basements, comprising 114 flats (1, 2 & 3 bedroom), plus a community and multi-purpose church space, and a retail unit. There are to be 78 car parking spaces for this site (50 for the church/community users and 28 for the residential units, 11 of which will be set aside for Blue Badge holders). For the south site (opposite and fronting Banstead Rd and Brighton Rd), it is proposed to erect a 3 to 8-storey building comprising 106 residential units (again 1, 2 & 3 bedroom) with vehicular access and service bay off Banstead Road. The car parking on this south site is for 9 parking bays.

**Riddlesdown Residents' Association
And Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team**

Crime Prevention Event

St Edmund's Church Hall
21st April 2018, 10.45-13.45

A chance to discuss how best to protect your home with police officers, and to share a tea or coffee with your neighbours.

Riddlesdown Residents' Association

AGM

St Edmund's Church Hall
11th April 2018, 19.30-21.30
All Welcome!

Riddlesdown Residents' Association

Litter Pick

7th April 14.00

Meet at the junction of Dunmail Drive (The White Path) and
Mitchely Hill

Litter-picking Equipment will be provided

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ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

A Public Inquiry has been set from Tuesday 9 January for 8 days and by the time you read this report, the Inquiry will have been completed. The development is being opposed by seven local Residents Associations (RAs). These seven Associations are; Riddlesdown, Hartley & District, Sanderstead, East Coulsdon, Coulsdon West, Old Coulsdon and Kenley & District Residents' Associations. The RAs have applied to the Inspector and we have been granted 'Rule 6' status and we will be presenting our case to the Inspector.

The seven RAs are not opposed to new development on these sites, as we understand that growth will be key to the future vitality and viability of suburban District Centres like Purley. We recognise the acute housing needs in the area and wish to see more new homes that are genuinely affordable provided for local people and our group are not anti-development.

The RAs are aware that the Purley & Woodcote RA (PWRA), in whose area the site is located, supports the proposal, but the feedback the RAs have received from the PWRA members is that this view is not shared by many of their residents. Having assessed the public comments on Croydon Council's Planning website, the RAs have established that 127 of their residents objected to the scheme, 9 supported the scheme and 1 submitted neutral comments.

The main issue with this development is the 17-storey-tall building. The RAs believe it will have an unacceptably harmful impact on the PDC and the surrounding townscape by virtue of it being at least five times higher than the immediate and surrounding buildings in the district centre. The 17-storey tower will be at least twice as high as the proposed

development in Brighton Rd/Banstead Road. We believe the tower will not enhance the skyline, rather it will fragment the townscape through its bulky and dominant appearance. The tall building is to sit immediately behind the pavement on the Brighton Rd frontage. The main entrance would be inappropriately located on the corner of Russell Hill Road and the Brighton Road, given the constant heavy and noisy traffic on the A23.

As the images illustrate, the very high densities proposed on what are very restricted sites, means that this scheme does not form a positive relationship with the existing Purley townscape. The RAs believe it will have a negative impact on the PDC's urban environment and local character.



(Above photograph – source Croydon Council's website/Design & Access Statement)

We believe the density at 817 habitable rooms per hectare (hr/ha) is well beyond the density range in the London Plan density matrix which identifies "urban" areas with a Public Transport Accessibility Level (PTAL) score of 4-6 as being appropriate for schemes between 200 - 700 hr/ha. This site has a PTAL rating of 5. The level of affordable housing at 18% (39 units) is low in terms of the total of 220 residential units proposed. In addition, we are not clear as to how the London Mayor's requirements for

affordable housing were considered in respect to this scheme. At the time the decision on this scheme was made by Croydon Council in December 2016, the Mayor had published a draft 'Affordable Housing and Viability Supplementary Planning Guidance.' This draft proposed that new residential development in London should meet a strict minimum of 35% affordable housing.

The sites are on the edge of the Environment Agency's Flood Risk Zone's 2 and 3. The proposals have the potential to significantly increase surface run-off in an area which already experiences severe flash flooding and drainage issues. The sites are also within 100 metres of the Caterham Bourne, which is prone to periodic extensive flooding, the last significant occasion being in February 2014. Purley, Kenley and Whyteleafe have all experienced extensive flooding in recent years which has resulted in the A22 (Godstone Rd) being closed to all traffic for several weeks.

For the island site, the scheme only makes provision for 50 parking spaces for the Church and community use, whereas the planned auditorium will accommodate 500 people. There will be 28 car parking spaces for the 114 residential units (11 of which will be for blue badge holders). For the south side, there will be 9 accessible car parking spaces for 106 residential units. The 500 seat auditorium is likely to be used on all days of the week, as well as Sunday. When fully utilised this will put considerable pressure on local public car parks which are already at capacity, as well as nearby residential on street parking.

To exit the car park for the island site (church & flats), vehicles will be exiting the site into Russell Hill Rd and will have to turn right into three lanes of traffic already stacking for the

traffic lights on Brighton Rd. If site traffic wishes to go along the A22 (southbound) then it will have to cross at least one lane, if not two lanes, in order to be able to proceed straight on at the second and third set of traffic lights. There is very little option for drivers to ensure they get into the correct lane before the traffic lights on Russell Hill Rd. We believe this is not safe and that it will increase risks of accidents at this location. Traffic entering into the island site will also access at this location on Russell Hill Rd, to add to the congestion. For better road safety, we believe an entrance/exit should be in Banstead Rd.

The proposed development will be a phased construction and is expected to take at least 47 months to complete. The RAs have major concerns about the effect that the development will have on the existing A23/A22 Purley Gyrotory System both during and after construction. Traffic lanes will be closed off during the day. We also believe the recently approved Westfield development in Croydon town centre (which has also been approved by the London Mayor) will also add to traffic congestion on Purley Cross both during construction and more so when it is completed.

These are just some of the issues the RAs will be raising at the Inquiry. We will report further when the Planning Inspector has reported back to the Secretary of State, which is likely to be in the spring to early summer. Most documents, which are public, can be viewed on Croydon Council's Planning website under application No. 16/02994/P.



Notification of Planning Applications

Since August 2017, Croydon Council no longer erect street notices regarding a planning application. They are trying to streamline the planning process (to meet Government time limit targets) and they will only erect street notices if there is no postal address beside, or behind the application site, or if it is a major planning application. Instead they will write to the immediate adjoining neighbours only and maybe to occupiers behind and in front of the application site, if the proposal affects those properties. No other occupiers/neighbours will receive a

letter. The RRA and a number of other Residents' Associations (RAs) have raised concerns with the Council that additional adjoining residents should be written to (as happened prior to 2012). They also advise that if you write in to object, you will not receive any further notification from them. You will have to look at the Council's website for up-to-date information. The same applies if you email them, or fill in the form online. The RAs believe this is discriminatory against those who do not have access to the internet. The southern RAs are meeting with the Council in early February and we will further these particular issues with them.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

BY PHIL THOMAS

Litter Pick in Riddlesdown

We had another successful litter pick on 11 November when about 40 people attended and collected over 30 bags of rubbish. Dunmail Drive was cleaned and a great effort made on the farmer's field opposite the Mitchley Ave shops, but there's still much work still to be done on that one!

Again a big thank you from the RRA, to all who took part and to Tony Richardson from Croydon Council for supplying all the materials and having the rubbish removed. Thank you as well, to the 19th Purley scout group for supplying a well-earned cup of tea and the scout hut facilities afterwards. The next litter pick will be on the Saturday 7th April at 2pm. Meet at the junction of Dunmail Drive and Mitchley Hill. If anyone is interested in becoming a "street champion" and keeping other parts of Riddlesdown tidy, then please

e-mail us at:

Riddlesdownresidents@gmail.com and we will put you in touch with Tracey Bellamy at Croydon Council, who is the Street Champion co-ordinator. You can litter pick as little, or often as you like.

Mitchley Ave/Rectory Park

Since November 2016, there have been at least eight motor accidents on the sharp bend at Rectory Park/Mitchley Ave. Virtually all the accidents have involved vehicles coming down Rectory Park and losing control on, or just after the bend. Virtually all the accidents have been when the road is wet!

As a result of these accidents, I pursued Croydon Council and Councillors to get something done to improve road safety and in particular the road surface at this location. Following many emails, I am pleased to report that the Council and their contractor Kier

re-surfaced the section of road on this bend, in late November. It has been laid with a better skid resistant surface. Hopefully this may now reduce the number of accidents on this bend, especially in the wet. But please let the RRA know if further accidents occur at this location and we will again take it up with Croydon Council.

We have also raised with the Council about the general poor road surface condition of all of Mitchley Ave and to a lesser extent Rectory Park. The Council are aware of this poor road surface. Unfortunately the Council's request to TfL for funding this resurfacing work was not met, so they have to look elsewhere as to how to fund these potential works. We will keep you updated on this.

Buttermere Gardens, Derwent Drive, Grisedale Gardens and Grisedale Close – Gas main Renewal

As I mentioned in my last Recorder report, there are major gas main renewal works programmed for Buttermere Gardens, Derwent Drive, Grisedale Gardens and Grisedale Close. These works were due to be undertaken from October 2017, but were postponed by Southern Gas Networks (SGN).

At the time of writing this report in early January, we have been told by the Council that the main Buttermere Gardens gas main renewal project as a whole will now commence on 30 April 2018, with Derwent Drive and Grisedale Gardens & Grisedale Close probably following on after the completion of these works.

For the main Buttermere Gardens gas works renewal from 30 April, the works will be undertaken in two phases. There will be a one way traffic system working in Buttermere

Gdns with entry into this street from Mitchley Ave only. The official diversion route for traffic to gain access onto Mitchley Ave, will be down Dalegarth Gardens. Ingleboro Drive can also be used. Parking restrictions will be put in place for both Buttermere Gardens and Dalegarth Gardens. The RRA have expressed concerns to the Council about Dalegarth Gdns being used as a diversion route (with two way traffic) in view of the narrowness of the street but our comments do not appear to have been taken on board. Residents in all these streets will be notified in due course by both the Council and SGN.

We do not have detailed information from the Council as yet, on the gas main renewal works for Derwent Drive and Grisedale Gdns and Grisedale Close.

However, two sections of SGN's gas main needed to be repaired before the end of April. This will be in Ingleboro Drive close to the Buttermere Gdns junction. This will be carried out under two-way signals with parking suspensions. This is planned for the end of January 2018.

Buttermere Gardens will also have a short section of gas main repaired. This is due to the fact that this section of main is at high risk and must be completed by the end of March 2018. SGN aim to do this in early February. In addition, the whole length of Ingleboro Drive is to be resurfaced by the Council's contractor Kier, from the end of January until early February. So by the time you read this report these other works should have been completed. All these above dates are still subject to confirmation.

There is more information on the RRA website, with two drawings showing the two phases for the Buttermere Gdns works.

Proposed change of times for Riddlesdown Collegiate

Since Riddlesdown Collegiate changed their school times in September, after the summer holidays, the RRA have received many complaints from residents about the traffic situation, with the new times. As a reminder, the Collegiate now operate a school day of, Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 8.30am – 2.40pm and Tuesday and Thursday: 8.30am – 3.30pm.

Following all the complaints the RRA have received from local residents, the committee invited both the Chief Executive of the Collegiate Trust (Gordon Smith) and the Principal of the Collegiate (Soumick Dey) to our committee meeting in November. A representative from the Honister Heights Residents' Association (Sheryl Hollands) and Sanderstead Ward Cllr Lynne Hale were also present.

At the meeting Soumick Dey explained why they have changed the Collegiate day times and why pupils are no longer allowed into the school buildings until 8am. The main reason is that some pupils were arriving from 7am (for an 8.45am start) and during the majority of that time, they were unsupervised. The teaching/support staff are not contracted to be in from 7am. The Collegiate have a duty of care for their pupils, whilst they are on the premises. Mr Dey emphasised that pupils are now allowed to wait in the front of the main building prior to 8am but are not allowed into the canteen, for those who want breakfast (or any other building) until 8am. The registration now starts at 8.30am. Mr Dey did say that before the summer of 2017, at least 90% of pupils were in the Collegiate by 8.30am and this is the main reason they brought forward

the start time.

The RRA made the point that now trying to get 2,000 pupils into the school within about 30/40 minute time frame is causing huge issues for local residents and especially those who live in streets on the south side of Mitchley Ave, which was the main cause of complaints. Some streets on the north side of Mitchley Ave have also noticed a change in traffic volumes/flows during this 30/40 minute period. The RRA did stress that the Collegiate is generally held in high regard by local residents and we want to work with them to address these (and any other issues). We pointed out this traffic problem is mainly affecting residents in Honister, Grisedale Gardens and Close, Derwent Drive and also Mitchley Hill (principally in the afternoons), where parking on both sides of the street is now occurring near to the Mitchley Ave junction. This is, at times, causing issues for other two way traffic to pass. However, this is not the full list of streets affected (also Ingleboro, Buttermere, and to a lesser extent, Eskdale and Dalegarth).

There are also 200 staff who work at the Collegiate and the vast majority of them drive to and from the Collegiate (which adds to traffic issues) and there is not enough parking on site for them all and hence why some staff park in Honister Heights. This is also made worse by some 6th formers who also drive to the Collegiate and park in Honister Hts and/or Grisedale Gdns and Close. Very few pupils/staff cycle to school, where cycle storage facilities are available! We have been advised that some local residents are now also parking on the streets as they were finding it very difficult to get off their driveways in the mornings and this also adds to obstruction on the highway!

One of the main issues is that the Collegiate is built at the end of a cul-de-sac and there is no way out at the other end. Unfortunately the unmade section of Dunmail Drive is privately owned and cannot be used as a one-way street. The Collegiate also, cannot be held responsible for the attitude of some drivers (parents/carers) who block driveways, or drive without due consideration on local streets. As a result of these problems, Soumick Dey has emailed/ written to all parents requesting they, or the carers, drop off pupils in streets further away from the Collegiate and that the children walk to school. This e-mail appears to have only had limited success!

Cllr Lynne Hale asked if there is any way some supervision can be provided to allow pupils into the some of the buildings before 8am, to allow a longer time frame in the mornings for pupils to arrive. There appears to be no magic answer to this problem and we have asked the two Collegiate representatives to go away and look at all possibilities and re-assess the situation. We did not expect any answers from them immediately but it was principally a meeting to express the RRA's and in turn, residents' concerns to them. We will update more in due course, when we get a response from the Collegiate.

42 Riddlesdown Ave – Crossover

The RRA have been made aware from a number of local residents about the steep crossfall on the footway in front of this property. The Council's Highways Department have recently allowed a dropped kerb to be installed at the front, which is situated at the top of a very steep grass bank. Planning permission was then subsequently granted to allow parking in the front garden of

this property and the Planning Department have cited in their Officer's report that the Highways Department allowed this because; "The works have already been undertaken in terms of the excavation of the ground and the installation of the dropped kerb and the accessway. The works to the dropped kerb and accessway have been undertaken in conjunction with the Council's Highways Team. Having consulted the Council's Highway Team it is noted that a crossover with modified adjacent footway gradients has already been constructed in front of the property and meets with the required standards."

The RRA would agree with local residents that the crossfall on this footway is now too steep, especially for the elderly and disabled in the area. Various highway standards and guidance say that crossfalls on footways should not be more than 3%. This is as a result of the Disability Discrimination Act Regulations. We believe the crossfall for the new dropped kerb is more than 3%. As the guidance says; "Variable crossfalls, such as may be found when travelling along a street with vehicle cross-overs, can be irritating as it affects the steering of wheelchair users and can also cause problems for people with walking difficulties. There is also a risk of the wheelchair and/or motorised scooters toppling over." The angle of the footway is also dangerous in ice and snow.

The RRA have recently taken this up with the Council's Director of Streets and also Ward Councillors. We will report more in due course, on the Council's response.



Riddlesdown has another new notice board!

The RRA have another new notice board in Riddlesdown and yet again many thanks go to Croydon Council and the Sanderstead Ward Councillors (Cllr Yvette Hopley) for providing the funds from their community budget, to allow the RRA to purchase this notice board. Thanks also go to Steve Iles, Director of Streets at the Council for coordinating the works.

The board was again erected free of charge in early January, by the Kier Group, (Croydon

Council's Highways Contractor) and the RRA are grateful to them as well, for this kind gesture. The board was manufactured by Hallmark, in Uckfield.

The notice board is located on the green in Lower Barn Rd beside St Edmund's Church and replaces the rotted, wooden notice board, which had to be removed for safety reasons. The board is for all Riddlesdown residents / groups use, but please, no notices advertising goods for sale, or any services offering work.

MEMBERSHIP

BY JOHN RAPP

I have previously talked about the 1930s – Riddlesdown Residents' Association was founded in 1937 – when life was much simpler and the residents would meet as they walked to and from home. These days, there is more pressure on parents, with often both working to support their family. Meeting and talking with each other is frequently a casualty of that increased pressure.

However Riddlesdown is becoming young and vibrant with parents and children meeting at Christmas time for the Christmas Party. Facebook is providing easy and effective communication and was used both before and after the successful Children's Party.

“A great big thank you to RRA and to all involved in putting on such a fantastic Christmas party for local children. I'm sure it is rare for local communities to come together in this way and that is what makes Riddlesdown special. My children all

thoroughly enjoyed themselves and I really do appreciate the time and effort that many dedicated to put on the event. Wishing all at RRA a very Merry Christmas. Best wishes, Helen.”

The Association is there for residents' concerns, offers guidance to outside organisations towards doing more of what Residents' concerns require. That work, like everything, has to be supported and I ask Residents both to give voice – as has been done with the Future of Riddlesdown Workshops – and also take up membership of the Association at £3.00 per year. Kevin Baker's article (P29, issue 204, Autumn 2017) talks about a Road Steward enjoying meeting residents. If you feel able to be a Road Steward, or to join the Committee, I, or any Committee Member, will happily talk your wish to help through with you.

TRANSPORT

BY JOHN RAPP

In May 2018, a twenty miles-per-hour speed limit will be applied to most of our local roads. As a new timetable giving stopping ThamesLink trains at London Bridge will also be introduced in May 2018, and the 412 bus service is running well (since being allocated more resources in March 2017), I have decided that an overview could be useful for our members.

I attended a presentation of the Mayor's Draft Transport Strategy earlier this year, and learned that the aim is to make public transport both greener and more attractive compared to other transport modes. I have been sampling unattractive motoring during this year and would not wish to again

experience a Friday evening drive through London from South Mimms to Purley, or, again on any Friday, the M25 near Heathrow.

With the roads being made slower, is there any good news for us as drivers? By the end of 2019 both ThamesLink and the Elizabeth Line are expected to be fully operational, with the Northern and Bakerloo Tube Line extensions not far behind. These projects are expected to contribute towards making travel by public transport more attractive.

I have decided not to fill pages with indications of the future picked up during personal experience. However, I am available to discuss this area individually if desired.

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YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS & ARTICLES

Thank you to all the RRA Committee for their contributions – we now have your contributions, information, articles, letters and photographs on the following pages.

Happy Birthday Gwen Margaret Rapp

In January, I was asked to do an article about Gwen, a lady living in Riddlesdown, who will be 100 years old in May. Not having done anything like this before, it was with some trepidation that I went to speak to her along with my husband, John. I need not have worried, she is a lovely lady and she soon put me at ease.

She looks years younger than her age and when I asked her what the secret was she said it was due to being a vegetarian for seventy years and also enjoying a glass of wine or whisky and soda. Which I was told was part due to when she served time in the Wrens. She recalled that on one occasion, although she could not remember why, she was “gated”, that is, confined to camp. When she was free again, her friends helped her to celebrate and drink too much which ended with her being quite wobbly.

Gwen was born in Fulham and lived on King's Road before moving to Purley about fifty years ago. She now has the company of her cat, Kitty, who was a stray and adopted her.

As a scholarship pupil at Haberdasher's School, she was eagerly employed by the BBC in the News Department, which with her added Air Raid Function, gave her a relaxed outlook on life.

Gwen was determined to give something back to life, and showed her love of animals by being an early helper when Foal farm, the animal rescue centre in Biggin Hill, was set up.

She appreciates the village feel of Riddlesdown with its station and parade of shops from which she receives a lot of help. Supported by that help, she has no intention of going into a home and is proud that she is up and dressed early each morning.

I am sure that the Riddlesdown Community will join me in wishing Gwen congratulations, a happy birthday, and continued good health.

Christmas Party Report Neil Tarrant

On 2nd December 2017 the RRA hosted its annual children's Christmas party at St Edmund's Church. It was attended by around 60 children, who also brought along their grown ups. The children enjoyed entertainment from Jeronimo the Entertainer, who put on a magic show and ran a series of games. Santa, ably assisted by his elves, was once again resident in his grotto. Whilst the children were distracted the adults were able to enjoy tea, coffee and cakes and even a cheeky mulled wine to get them into the Christmas spirit. We look forward to seeing many of you again on 1 December 2018, and hope to see new faces too!

As ever, there are many people to thank for making this event happen. In addition to Rachel Tarrant, Nick and Anna Tennant and Laura Bradley, I would like to thank all the volunteers who came to help set up and pack away, and run the event. Special thanks also go to Santa and his elves for taking the time to attend the party during what is for them a very busy time of the year.

MP's Report

Chris Philp

Purley Skyscraper

Public hearings into the Purley Skyscraper have now finished. Last year the Labour-run council decided to approve the skyscraper. Following campaigning from myself and others, the Government "called in" the council's decision. This is an extremely rare step for the Government to take and means that a public inquiry was held by an Independent Planning Inspector.

The inspector's decision on the site will be final.

The level of opposition to this project from local residents has been overwhelming – over 10,000 people signed a petition – and the thoughtful and well-crafted arguments put forwards by many residents have created an incredibly strong case against the skyscraper, led by Riddlesdown's own Phil Thomas.

I have now raised my points at the Public Inquiry and I believe that I have made as clear a case against the proposal as I could have. If the final decision is in favour of the skyscraper, it will certainly not be due to a lack of opposition.

While I agree that the site needs re-development, a 17-storey skyscraper would be completely out of character in a quiet town like Purley. The current plans also lack proper parking provision, which would put a huge strain on existing parking spaces, and is lacking in adequate flood protection. These plans need to be rejected so that a new application, one that is in keeping with the area, can be put forwards. Five to seven floors would be more suitable.

I will keep residents updated with the result of the inquiry as soon as I receive any information.

Southern Rail

I am very pleased to report that the drivers' union ASLEF has recently called off their ongoing strike action and reached an agreement on Southern Rail. Over the past year or so, the RMT and ASLEF have been on official strike for over 40 days, with unofficial action on many other days. The dispute was over who opens and closes the doors and whether the train can still run if the conductor does not show up (for example, because of short-notice sickness). The Office of Rail and Road has found Driver Operated Doors to be safe. All of London Underground, one third of UK surface trains and most of continental Europe run perfectly safely with Driver Operated Doors and now the ASLEF Union finally agrees they are safe too.

Moreover, every train that was scheduled to have two people on board (driver + conductor) will continue to be scheduled to run with two people on board, with the conductor looking after customers. Only in exceptional circumstances – for example the conductor not turning up for work – will the train run with no conductor. There are no pay cuts – in fact there is a very big pay rise for drivers – no redundancies and no genuine safety issues. But despite this, the RMT is continuing to strike and has actually widened their strike action to several other networks such as South Western Trains. The service on Southern is still not acceptable and I will keep up the pressure to improve it.

Councillor's Report - Cllr Lynne Hale Planning News

In recent months a number of planning applications have been approved by the Council's Planning committee which my Sanderstead Ward colleagues, Tim and Yvette, and I have objected to, in support of the serious concerns being raised by local residents and Riddlesdown Residents' Association.

For example, 98 Hyde Road was, and remains, a serious concern. Having already obtained consent for a development of 7 flats, the developer went back to Planning with another application to increase this to 8 flats. It may not seem much, but it increased the amount of the site which this development would occupy - an additional 110 square metres - which is of particular concern because the site is located within an area of high risk of surface water flooding. The total area to be concreted over now amounts to about 45% of the site, which is certainly out of character with neighbouring houses and their generous gardens.

Unfortunately, the Labour-controlled Planning Committee did not sympathise and approved the application.

The other major problem which I had with this application was the flaws in the statements which the developer had submitted to support the application. Whilst the same developer has done this before, the information submitted with 98 Hyde Road was littered with errors and was absolutely dreadful. For example, apparently the site is close to open spaces like Parkfields Rec. and Stanhope Grove playing fields - which are in Bromley!! It is also apparently 135 metres from Monks Orchard bus stops in Shirley, which is miles away. It

stated a PTAL (Public Transport accessibility Level) of 5 - but it's actually 2; it referred to 3 storeys but detailed 4 storeys in the table immediately below this statement.

The Council's Head of Development Management accepted my representations around these sloppy errors, advising that the details would be thoroughly checked. One was, however, left wondering whether anything in the formal application was accurate.

Although just out of the Riddlesdown area, another interesting planning case is the same developer's proposal for 11 Briton Hill Road, where the planning application for the demolition of this single detached property and the development of a block of 9 flats has now been put into abeyance. This is because the property on this site is a unique Aladdin Company building, having been shipped over to the UK from Canada for an Ideal Home Exhibition and subsequently erected on its current site in 1922. An application for this property to be listed has been lodged with Historic England and we have fully supported that application. The Council and the developer have agreed not to pursue this application pending the outcome of the Listing application.

However, I am concerned that if the current administration stays in control, these types of applications are likely to be just the start of a significant number of changes to the character of Riddlesdown, which so many of us enjoy and are the reasons for our choosing to live in this lovely area.

Of particular significance is a Paper which was taken to the Council's Scrutiny & Overview Committee on 23rd January entitled "Evolution of the Suburbs Supplementary

Planning Document”. You can read the details by visiting

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/documents/s5126/Evolution%20of%20the%20Suburbs%20report.pdf>

In essence the Paper sets out the design guidance policies which the Council will use to deliver some 30,000+ new homes across the Borough in the next 18 years and how intensification will be a key feature. Clearly, we do need more homes as demand is far outstripping supply but we do question whether it wouldn't be better to build on some of the derelict sites in Central Croydon first. With its excellent transport links sites like the former Royal Mail Sorting Office at East Croydon and the former Nestle building, are crying out for re-development.

Intensification zones in Shirley, Forestdale, Kenley and South Croydon have been specifically identified, but across the borough suburban development will include the key features of conversion, addition, infill and plot subdivision, rear garden development and regeneration. Whilst it is good to see some focus on good design, the intensity of the proposals would have quite an impact on the character of our local streets.

Policy guidance is proposed in relation to existing plots and homes as follows:

- In-fill including plot subdivision: this can include subdivision of large plots into smaller parcels of land
- Rear garden development: constructing new buildings in rear gardens of existing properties
- Regeneration: replacement of existing buildings (including the replacement of detached or semi-detached houses with

flats) with a development that increases the density and massing

At the heart of the new Policy is a push to 'exploit to maximise the potential of a site to accommodate development' and whilst it states that the approach would 'integrate ancillary spaces and minimise impact on the surrounding area' - it looks as if it will be quite a challenge to really maintain the inherently 'green' feel of many of our local streets.

No mention is made in this paper about how the impact of such intensification on local infrastructure such as school places and GPs, will be mitigated.

If re-elected, the Council is proposing formally to consult on the proposals this summer, consider representations and make post-consultation amendments in September and adopt the policy in October 2018. Whilst Scrutiny were advised that consultation on these proposals will take place in 'July-August' we have requested that this be reconsidered since it is prime holiday time.

That said, an incoming Conservative Council would immediately review this Paper.

More details about contentious planning applications as well as updates on other local news can be found on our Sanderstead blog at: <http://www.croydonconservatives.com/>

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Councillor's Report - Cllr Lynne Hale
and Cllr Yvette Hopley
Shadow Cabinet Member for Adult Social
Care and Health

Changes to the Delivery of Adult Social Care and Health

Many residents will know that Adult Social Care and Health services are undergoing a significant change. The total population registered across Croydon's clinical commissioning group (CCG) is currently 377,570. The over 65s represent 13% of this population, some 47,390 people, and is expected to grow by a fifth in the next ten years. In 2014, it was noted that there was a strong case for paying special attention to people who are aged 65 and over as the ageing population place an increased pressure on the health and care system. This was acknowledged in the work undertaken by the Conservative administration which approved the progression to Outcomes Based Commissioning for the over 65s.

Over the past few years the CCG, the council and its partners have been working to achieve integration between health and social care both in commissioning and at the point of service delivery. Recently this has been exemplified in the Better Care Fund (BCF) programme and through the establishment of multi-disciplinary health and social care teams.

Commissioning for outcomes rather than activity allows services to be delivered in a personalised way and is designed to focus on wellbeing. It enables providers to truly transform care: I and my colleagues are entirely supportive of this model of care, not least because we were the pioneers.

The most recent cabinet paper has taken this

work a further step forward under the heading of the One Croydon Alliance, which includes an integrated Health and Social Care system consisting of the following partners: Croydon Council, the CCG, Age UK, GPs, The NHS and South London and Maudsley Mental Health Foundation Trust. It extends the original one year contract for a further nine years.

Part of this integrated model of care includes the LIFE services – Living Independently For Everyone and the Integrated Community Networks (ICN). As a result of the implementation of this service in the north of the borough the results have shown that 80% of regaining independence packages ceased within six weeks compared to 18% prior to the changes. This allowed the closure of 56 beds at Croydon University Hospital (CUH) – thus easing pressure on hospital beds. Intervention at an early stage with 180 people through multi-disciplinary working has prevented further pressure at CUH but more importantly allowed people to stay in the comfort of their own home. This work needs to take place in the south of the borough as not all residents access CUH. Many go to East Surrey, St Helier, Kings and St George's Hospitals.

Whilst I am fully supportive of the model of care, my concern is that this system is not yet operational in the south of the borough. I have put forward a strong case for the residents of Sanderstead and those in neighbouring wards where the demographics are quite different. I am assured that the multi-disciplinary teams and huddles (proactive weekly case management teams working from GP practices) will be in place in the south soon. Currently only 30 out of the 57 practices have



been implemented. The Personal Independence Co-ordinators are also not operational in our area. They will be employed by the voluntary sector independent of social services and the NHS. They will work intensively with people with long term conditions, if necessary on a one to one basis, and hopefully will reduce the number of people in hospital and facilitate discharge from hospital thus enabling more residents to remain independent in their own home.

I will continue to lobby for a model of care that is fit for purpose in the south, a place where I serve residents in a ward that has the highest percentage of elderly who often have the most complex health needs. I believe it would have been sensible to implement this model of care in the south first given the high percentage of residents that fall into the bracket of “over 65s”.

Pledge to Support Carers

Many of you will know that during a recent council meeting I spoke putting forward our first manifesto pledge for the 2018 local elections – “Cutting council tax for Croydon’s Carers”.

I know from my own experience that carers make considerable sacrifices to care for loved ones within their home. That’s why I and my colleagues felt it was important to use council tax discounts to support carers: it will exempt some carers from council tax entirely. This is the right thing to do to help these pillars of our community, without whom so many would have a much poorer quality of life.

Being a carer can be incredibly difficult. We wanted to help, in a small way, to alleviate a pressure on those who give up so much to care for elderly relatives. I am proud that this

was our first announced manifesto commitment, and I will work with my colleagues to do all that we can to develop innovative ways to support all our residents.”

The pledge is inspired by similar schemes across the country who seek to reward the hard work of carers. Council’s like Bournemouth have successfully run discounts and exemptions for carers for a number of years.

Community Budgets

Along with my ward colleagues we have been able to make a number of grants in response to requests to support worthy causes and projects in Sanderstead. We have added to the Christmas lights – many of you will have seen the wonderful display around the trees at the gruffy and Sanderstead Recreation ground along with new decorations for the lamp posts which were jointly funded by the SRA. Donations included Purley Beeches bulb planting, Purley Food Hub, Sanderstead Plantation to fund training in selective herbicides, Riddlesdown Residents’ Association’s new notice board, Belly dancing to ease trauma, the South East Cancer Help Centre, Wetheren Tree Garden rose planting, 18th Purley Scouts for solar panels and the autism society to improve understanding and awareness and of course Sanderstead Neighbourhood Care. One of the main projects will be new pathways in King’s Woods. We are still looking at work we will take forward with the Friends. We want to maintain the natural beauty of the woods whilst helping to improve the pathways.

St Edmund's Church

All Creatures Great and Small - Riddlesdown's Pets Party. Bless them.

A couple of years ago a cat belonging to one of the congregation members at St Edmund's Riddlesdown followed its owner down the road and attended the Church's Annual General Meeting. She was not allowed to vote.

Following in the footsteps of that pioneer pussycat St Edmund's is now inviting the pets of Riddlesdown to bring their owners to a Pet Service where we will celebrate and give thanks for the joy that pets bring.

All are welcome – with or without pets – and if the children wish to dress up with a pet theme that will add even more colour and fun to the festivities. There will be blessing of the pets and owners that care for them, a few songs sung and refreshments

Fun and a little bit of mayhem is expected and everyone and living thing (except the dangerous or uncontrollable ones) will be welcomed at St Edmund's Church at 3 p.m. on Sunday 10th June 2018

Riddlesdown Collegiate

Soumick Dey -- Principal

As we reach the midpoint of the academic year, there has been much to celebrate at Riddlesdown Collegiate. At the time of last writing, students had just received their A-Level results – the best we have ever seen at the Collegiate – and the week after, there followed some outstanding GCSE results with a record-breaking number of top grades. Last summer was the first time that students across the country took new, more difficult, GCSEs in English and Mathematics, now graded 9-1. Whilst the national dip in results may have

been expected, students at the Collegiate achieved superb results, even better than in previous year. 89% of students achieved grade 9-4 in English and 80% in Maths; 25% of all grades were at A*/A (or new grades 9-7) and students achieved 32 grade 9s in total. This level of success led to a packed hall for our annual Collegiate Celebration Evening where we recognised our highest achievers, and made for a very positive start to the new academic year.

Our open events in September attracted about 2000 visitors and students were proud to show them around the Collegiate. Two months later, we were pleased to be selected for the Croydon Secondary School of the Year Award 2017. This award came as a consequence of what we achieve with our students across the curriculum and through wider learning experiences. We have always placed a real emphasis on the importance of engaging students in activities inside and outside of the classroom that will help them to develop key skills and qualities for later life – the award recognised that and we felt privileged to have been nominated.

In December, we were delighted to receive confirmation that our application for the World Class Schools Quality Mark had been successful and that Riddlesdown Collegiate was now officially a World Class School. Application for this prestigious award is by invitation only, a prerequisite being that any potential schools must be judged to be outstanding by OFSTED (which we were in May 2016). The application and assessment processes were then entirely driven by students, the philosophy being that World Class Schools produce World Class students and so their efforts and contributions should

showcase the qualities of the school – and they did! Our students are our best ambassadors and we were very proud that their work resulted in this recognition. Riddlesdown Collegiate now joins a group of just 60 top performing schools in the UK and, as always, we remain ambitious for what we will continue to achieve in the future.

A great example of the quality of our students' talents and efforts was the Collegiate production of *My Fair Lady* this term. A hugely committed and brilliant cast, orchestra and technical crew of almost 200 students worked together with staff to deliver four superb performances. Audiences were blown away by the standard of what they saw and heard, with many commenting that the show was nothing like a "school play", but much more like the West End! The performing arts at the Collegiate have been significantly enhanced following the construction of The @RC, our multi-million pound arts centre, in 2014 and, over a number of years, the Collegiate has now developed quite a reputation for excellence in the arts.

It is from the strength of Riddlesdown Collegiate that our multi-academy trust (MAT), The Collegiate Trust, has grown. The Trust also operates Gossops Green Primary School and Waterfield Primary School in Crawley, whilst The Quest Academy in Selsdon has been approved to join also in the coming months. At the same time, Courtwood Primary School, also in Selsdon, is currently consulting on joining too. The growth of the Trust allows greater collaboration between schools and will lead to more young people benefitting from the exceptional education that the Trust seeks to provide.

19th Purley Scout Group

Liz O'Brien

Group Scout Leader

Since the last edition we have been busy working with the local community. We were asked by Priscilla's Tea Rooms to represent Croydon Scouting at their Community Day which took place on Saturday 30th September. Croydon Scouting were able to provide and run their climbing tower which is always a great success. We had over 200 climbers on the day (including Spiderman), children handed out flyers and we got 22 contacts of potential new young children for various groups in the Croydon area. All have now been contacted so we hope they take up the fantastic opportunity that Scouting brings to young people.

On Monday 6th November over 170 people attended our annual fireworks and bonfire. They were treated to an amazing display and had hot dogs and tomato soup to keep them warm along with our well known tasty hot chocolate. Fireworks are expensive so we never make a massive profit on these occasions but it is so lovely to see so many families and also this year we had 2 other scout groups and some members from the New Addington Pathfinders.

On Saturday 11th November we joined forces with the Riddlesdown Residents Association to take part in a litter pick. We started from the bottom gate and worked our way up to Riddlesdown Collegiate. The Council provided hi-vis jackets, litter pickers and rubbish bags and we had a good mix of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. This can go towards the children's "Our World" challenge badges, we always enjoy helping with such a great community project.

We have a number of fundraising events coming up. We are still looking to renovate our toilets this year which includes putting in a disabled toilet and shower and widening doors for wheelchair access, so all money raised will be going towards this project. Also there has been some wear and tear on the electrics with loss of power in some of our heaters over these cold winter months so always needing to raise money. Dates are as follows:-

- Saturday 24th February – Cubs are taking part in the annual Swimathon run by Purley Rotary with 60% of funds going to the Group and 40% to the rotary.
- Saturday 17th March – Family Quiz 3pm onwards (tickets £5 each which includes quiz and a burger or hot dog).
- Saturday 23rd June – Family Fun Day (details to follow but if anyone is able to help run a stall or offer a raffle price please let me know).

We also have our annual trip to Group visit to PGL outdoor activity centre to look forward to again, along with various Group and District events.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about what we do and how you can help us please do contact me. My scout email address is GSL@19thpurley.org.uk

Letter to the Editor

As we continue to develop our Supplementary Planning Document, we are grateful for the following response to the issues raised in our previous issue. We invite a range of views and opinions. Do you agree? Let us know.

Dear Sirs,

I cannot let some of the ideas expressed in the Autumn issue of The Riddlesdown Recorder regarding the development of Riddlesdown “Common” go unchallenged. Throughout the

magazine there are a number of incorrect references to Riddlesdown Common. The land is not a “Common”. It is private land, owned and managed by the City of London Corporation, as stated on the site’s notice boards and in their publicity literature. The only time the word “Common” appears on the noticeboards is to explain that Riddlesdown is not a common.

I note calls for Croydon Council to provide litter bins on the land. There are at present only dog-waste bins which are emptied by a paid contractor. The City of London Corporation own the land, not Croydon Council. So if bins are provided by anybody there will be a cost to empty them. Why should Croydon Council provide and empty the bins free of charge? It does not own the land. If the City of London Corporation install bins and pay for them to be emptied surely it would be reasonable to charge visitors for using Riddlesdown, like paying for parking on National Trust land. At the moment most visitors take their litter away with them, as anybody who appreciates and respects the place would. The litter generated by the students at Riddlesdown Collegiate should be a matter for themselves and the school staff. Perhaps the school could pay for bins to be installed and emptied. That would be a nice gesture.

Following on, there are suggestions that Riddlesdown should be provided with picnic areas and benches. This again will generate more rubbish unless the visitors take their waste away with them. It is quite possible, and more enjoyable, to spread a blanket on the grass and have a picnic while being careful not to crush or damage any special plant life. I can get passionate about Bee Orchids and Hummingbird Hawkmoths but not litter bins and picnic table.



Why should there be a café or another playground for children when we have facilities in Sanderstead and Whyteleafe? Both not 20 minutes away from Riddlesdown car park. Would the Residents' Association be prepared to lease/purchase parcels of land from the City of London Corporation and pay for and build a café, its infrastructure and playground? Probably not.

As for Riddlesdown being "over-managed for cattle/sheep" these animals are so essential to the conservation of the wild-flower meadows that we enjoy year after year. The wild-flower meadows are rich in rare and beautiful plants which attract so many species of butterflies and bees. It may not be known that in recent years 31 species of butterfly have been counted including, this summer, the Purple Hairstreak, recorded for the first time in 20 years. And who knew that dormice outnumber rabbits on Riddlesdown? Moths are plentiful enough to sustain a sizeable population of bats and we have some rare and wonderful spiders. It is by no accident that Riddlesdown is so special and thanks must be given to the rangers and teams of volunteers who keep it that way. Quite appropriately, some people regard Riddlesdown primarily as a Nature Reserve rather than a playground or a dog's toilet. Riddlesdown is an important wildlife haven in the County of Surrey and even more so in the Borough of Croydon. I note the rather patronising comment in the magazine that Riddlesdown "was considered to be well-managed by the Corporation of London" (like they are a firm of gardeners, although they do own the land and protect the habitat) but "there was a perception that it is not used enough..." I disagree. Riddlesdown is used by thousands of residents every day – and night. The local wildlife.

If Riddlesdown could be more child-friendly

then perhaps we need to organise nature rambles and bug hunts. Let them search for spiders, let them hear the birdsong in Spring and let them marvel at the colours and variety of the butterflies and flowers. Let them gather blackberries and conkers. Step forward any volunteers.

Our target for the next 50 years and beyond should be the upkeep and sustainability of Riddlesdown as a wonderful nature reserve amid the urban sprawl of Croydon, Purley and Kenley. A little bit of countryside as it used to be. Children don't need more swings and a café. They have all that in Sanderstead Recreation Ground. Riddlesdown has far more to offer. Let them go out and meet Mother Nature at her best.

Yours faithfully
Michael Rowland

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COMMUNITY PAGES

Short pieces on local associations, events and activities. Submissions should be of around 150-200 words. Each edition we will also offer a 'Featured Group' section, in which an individual group can give a more detailed account of its activities and aims. If you would be interested in submitting an extended feature on your group please contact the editor at editorrra@gmail.com or on 020 8668 4061 to discuss.

Community Information:

A - Z of organisations in or close to Riddlesdown (more details on the RRA website)

Bourne Society

Their website includes details of local publications, historical information, downloadable leaflets of walks around the area and photographs of Riddlesdown. Member only meetings; membership £10 a year. There is also a specific Sanderstead Local History Group, which holds monthly meetings for a charge of £2 per meeting for Bourne Society members only.
www.bournesoc.org.uk

Cantilena Singers

Cantilena Singers Ladies' Choir was originally formed in 1986. There are no auditions and members do not need to be able to read music. Membership is encouraged for any adult female who is interested to learn and work at achieving a high enough standard for public performance. Members of the choir pay a subscription fee (at present £49 per term). Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings between 7.30 – 9.30pm. Choir members are encouraged to play a part in the running of the choir and there are publicity, fundraising, social and library sub-committees. We are a friendly choir and welcome new members. If you are interested in trying us out please come along to a meeting in the Methodist Church, Sanderstead) and / or contact Jill on 07957 627 783.

Croydon Art Society

Holds meetings & exhibitions – information at <http://www.croydonartsociety.org.uk/>

Croydon Camera Club

Meets at Shirley Methodist Church Hall most Wednesdays of the year & has outings to photogenic locations. Further Information www.croydoncameraclub.org.uk

Croydon Decorative and Fine Arts Society

Lectures take place on the 2nd Thursday of each month except August and December at 10.45 a.m. in All Saints Church Hall, Onslow Gardens, Sanderstead CR2 9AB. Tea/coffee and biscuits from 10.00 a.m. Visitors welcome. Other activities include Special Interest Days, Visits and Study Tours. Membership Secretary; 020 8680 3049.

CNHSS – Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society

Indoor meetings are usually held in the Small Hall of the East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, almost opposite East Croydon Station. www.cnhss.co.uk/

Croydon Symphonic Band

An amateur community wind band with 50 or so players that was formed by an ex Riddlesdown resident over 40 years ago. The band is based in Croydon. New members always welcome. www.csb.org.uk



FoFD - Friends of Farthing Downs

Regular talks & walks & meetings & exhibitions. Hold a Sunday Tea on Farthing Downs the last Sunday of each month, May to September. For more information - e-mail; fofd2@btinternet.com or telephone: 01737 554449.

London Mozart Players

For details of concerts some of which take place locally.

www.londonmozartplayers.com/

North Wood Morris Men -Croydon's Own Morris Dancers

They are always looking for new members to dance or play music. They will train dancers and musicians from scratch if need be. All are welcome.

<http://www.northwoodmorris.co.uk/>

Parkrun; Riddlesdown Common

Free 5km Run Every Saturday at 9am - Further details and to register

www.parkrun.org.uk/riddlesdown/

Purley Bury Sports & Social Club

(Brancaster Lane):

Bowls www.purleyburybc.co.uk/

Croquet www.purleyburycroquet.org.uk/

Tennis www.purleyburytennisclub.net/

Purley and District Townswomen's Guild

Meet in the Lounge, United Reformed Church, 906 Brighton Road, Purley CR8 2LN (next to Purley Hospital). First Tuesday every month, 2 – 4pm. Hold regular talks, lunches, etc. Try before you buy! First meeting free. www.purley-guild.webplus.net/ or email admin@purley-guild.com

Purley Literary Society

Meetings run from October to March. Talks are in the hall of the Purley URC Church, 906 Brighton Road – next to Purley Hospital, at 8pm. Visitors pay £5 at the door or season ticket; £22 for eleven talks or 6 talks £12.

More information: www.purley-literary-society.com

Ramblers (Croydon) -

www.croydonramblers.org.uk

Ramblers (Surrey) –

www.surreyramblers.org.uk

Riddlesdown Lawn Tennis Club,

Lower Barn Rd

A small friendly club where everyone is welcome - regardless of age, experience or skill. Junior section with full coaching sessions organised by MDL Coaching on Sat mornings throughout year. Further details – Dave Kerr - 07773 818443. www.riddlesdownltc.com/

RSPB Croydon Local Group

Monthly Illustrated Wildlife Talks in South Croydon at Whitgift Sports Club, Croham Manor Road -

off Croham Road. South Croydon, CR2 7BG
Second Monday of each month, 2pm and again at 8pm.

Admission £4.00. Everyone is welcome, not just RSPB members.

Free refreshments. A selection of RSPB goods, nuts & seeds are on sale.

Parking limited on site but free in adjacent roads.

64 & 433 buses stop nearby in Croham Road. Whitgift Sports Club, Croham Manor Road - off Croham Road. South Croydon, CR2 7BG
Second Monday of each month, 2pm and again at 8pm.

Admission £4.00. Everyone is welcome, not just RSPB members.

Free refreshments. A selection of RSPB goods, nuts & seeds are on sale.

Parking limited on site but free in adjacent roads.

64 & 433 buses stop nearby in Croham Road.

MONDAY APR. 10, 2017: "Pineapple Peril". Ann Scott explains the challenge to wildlife in the Kenyan coastal forests as ever more fruit is grown for the western world.

MONDAY MAY 8, 2017: "Reserved for Birds". Brian Nobbs takes us to several RSPB reserves in the UK, each requiring a different management approach and regime to maintain habitat and visitor interest.

MONDAY JUN. 12, 2017: No meeting.

MONDAY JUL. 10, 2017: "Gardening with Wildlife". Adrian Thomas, author of the RSPB book, explains how you can easily fit in wildlife gardening alongside everything else you want from your garden.

MONDAY AUG. 14, 2017: Group AGM and talk by the Group's Environment Subcommittee.

MONDAY SEP. 11, 2017: "Footloose in Namibia". John Lawrence describes a fun packed excursion – by independent travel along the coast road – heading north from Cape Town via the Skeleton Coast and Etosha National Park. There will be lots to see and plenty of anecdotes to keep everyone amused.

MONDAY OCT. 9, 2017: "Birds in Art". Jackie Gardner, one of Britain's finest wildlife artists, looks at the changing trends in the depiction of birds and describes her transition from a "naturalist interested in art" to an "artist

interested in nature".

For more information contact John Davis on 020-8640 4578

or see www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon

St Edmund's Church & Community Hall, Riddlesdown

St Edmund's is a dual purpose building, used both as a church hall and a Riddlesdown community resource. Its congregation are mainly from the Riddlesdown resident community and are friendly and welcoming to all. Sunday services are at 8am and 9.15am. Worship varies week by week. Rev'd Susan Atkinson-Jones is the Team Vicar of Edmund's. Further information: www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk/st_edmund

St Edmund's Lunch Club

St Edmund's Lunch Club for the Retired meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in the month at St Edmund's at 12.30 pm. The hot lunch costs £3.45, with a small extra charge for tea or coffee. The team hopes that you will enjoy yourself at the lunch club and we look forward to welcoming you many times.

St Edmund's Caring Group

SECG is a voluntary group in Riddlesdown which supports residents in remaining independent and at home when life becomes a little more difficult. We have wonderful volunteers who are happy to help in numerous ways; shopping and being taken to medical appointments are the most popular. Volunteering is such a rewarding experience knowing that you have helped someone to do something that would otherwise have seemed impossible is marvellous. Young or old, if you require support, reassurance or any information, please do give us a call. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please call



our new telephone number 020 8651 9442. We are open 10-12 weekday mornings and at all other times there is an answer phone.

St Edmund's Tuesday Night Badminton Club

Tuesday night badminton takes place between 8 - 9.30pm in St. Edmund's church hall during term time. We are a friendly mixed club with a mix of ability and would encourage new members to join. No absolute beginners please. Contact details: Mrs Christine Whitmarsh on 8660 2178 or just drop in one Tuesday evening.

Scouts and Girl Guiding

19th Purley (Riddlesdown), Dunmail Drive, off Mitchley Hill

www.croydonscouting.org.uk/

11th Purley Scout Group; St James Church Hall, Lower Road, Kenley

Beavers – Fridays; 1630 - 1730;

Cubs – Mondays; 1830 - 2000

Scouts – Tuesdays; 1900 - 2100

Enquiries to Peter Pearce (Group Scout Leader) 07947 889920 or

[www.http://11thpurley.org.uk/](http://www.11thpurley.org.uk/)

16th Purley Scout Group (All Saint's Group, Sanderstead)

www.croydonscouting.org.uk/where-do-we-meet/beavers-cubs-and-scouts/16th-purley-7th-sanderstead-all-saints-group/

18th Purley (United Reform Church).

Scout HQ in Farm Fields.

<http://www.18thpurley.org.uk/>

Beavers – Thursdays; 5.00 – 6.00pm

Cubs – Mondays; 6.30 to 8.00pm

Scouts – Thursdays; 7.30 to 9.00pm

Croydon Girl Guiding

www.girlguidinglaser.org.uk/gdlgallery/croydon

Sanderstead Cricket Club

14 Old Saw Mill, Limpsfield Rd, Sanderstead (entrance opposite The Gruffy). Website; <http://sanderstead.play-cricket.com/>

Sanderstead Dramatic Club -

Contact Mr John Desbottes - Tel 01883 625656 - <http://www.sdclub.org.uk/>

Sanderstead Evening Townswomen's Guild

Contact Mrs Doreen Nicholls - Tel 020 8657 2072. Meets 3rd Monday of the month at 7.45pm at Sanderstead Methodist Church Hall. www.the-tg.com/Guild/sanderstead-evening/375.aspx

Sanderstead Horticultural Society

Wettern Tree Garden, Purley Oaks Road. Membership £6 per family. Contact Val Burley 020 8651 5837. Five member lectures a year & Garden Outings to great gardens. Other member benefits including horticultural advice & Knights discount.

Sanderstead Village WI

<http://www.sandersteadwi.btck.co.uk/>

Selsdon Camera Club

Meet Fridays at 7.30 pm (for a 7.45 pm start) The Methodist Halls 102 Limpsfield Road, Sanderstead.

<http://www.selsdoncameraclub.co.uk/>

Selsdon Little Leagues Football & Netball

Providing Football and Netball for local children in the Croydon area.

http://selsdonlittleleagues.leaguerepublic.com/l/newsArticle/new_website.html

Stagecoach Croydon - Theatre Arts Schools for Children

Fridays at Riddlesdown Collegiate
4.30 - 7.30pm; 6 - 18 years; 4.15 - 5.45pm; 4 - 6 years.

Saturdays at Croydon High School
10 am - 1pm or 2.30pm - 5.30pm; 6-18 years;
9.30 am - 11am or 11.15am - 12.45pm; 4-6 years. Tel 0845 265 7083
www.stagecoach.co.uk/croydon

Surrey Wildlife Trust

More Information Tel: 01483 795440 or
www.surreywildlifetrust.org

The Jolly Farmers

Live Music & Entertainment several times a week, usually free.

7 Purley Road, Purley CR8 2HA, Tel: 0208 660 2076 or www.jollyfarmers-purley.co.uk

The PROBUS Club of Sanderstead & Riddlesdown

Meet at Old Whitgiftians Sports Club, Croham Rd, S Croydon. From noon on first Tuesday of every month. Further details- Mike Phillips - 020 8407 0305

The University of the Third Age (U3A)

The Third Age Trust is the national representative body for the Universities of Third Age (U3As) in the UK. U3As are self-help, self-managed lifelong learning co-operatives for older people no longer in full time work, providing opportunities for their members to share learning experiences in a wide range of interest groups and to pursue learning not for qualifications, but for fun.
<http://www.u3a.org.uk/>

Walk & Cycle Surrey

Further information:
<http://www.walkandcycle.co.uk/surreytrails>

Warlingham Horticultural Society

Hold Regular flower shows & plant sales in Warlingham & outings

<http://home2.btconnect.com/bransby/hort/hort.htm>

Yoga with Veronica

A mixed ability class suitable for all ages which takes place on Tuesday evenings in St Edmund's Church Hall during term-time between 6.15 - 7.30pm. Yoga will improve your flexibility and strength and help you relax and de-stress after your busy day. Contact: Veronica Moulder; Tel 07803 728868.


DISCLAIMER

Every effort is made to ensure that the above information is factually correct and is made in good faith but accuracy must not be assumed and no responsibility can be taken for any actions arising in the case of error or otherwise. Please bring to the attention of the Editor, any inaccuracies.

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If you would like to place an Advert, please contact Neil
editorrrra@riddlesdown.org 

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Our MP (Croydon South - Conservative); Mr Chris Philp MP, The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA Tel; 020 7219 8026 or visit his Friday mornings surgery; 36 Brighton Rd, Purley CR8 2LG (telephone for appointment times).

Email; chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk website; www.chrisphilp.com

OUR COUNCILLORS: All letters to Councillors should be sent: c/o The Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX

Note there are local elections on 3 May 2018 and the Purley Ward will change and some Councillors will also change after this date. See the RRA website for new details.

PURLEY WARD

Donald Speakman

Tel: 8405 6752

Email: donald.speakman@croydon.gov.uk

Simon Brew

Tel: 020 8668 0814

Email: simon.brew@croydon.gov.uk

Badsha Quadir

Tel: 8668 3672

Email: badsha.quadir@croydon.gov.uk

SANDERSTEAD WARD

Yvette Hopley

Tel: 8657 0973

Email: yvette.hopley@croydon.gov.uk

Lynne Hale

Tel: 8405 6721

Email: lynne.hale@croydon.gov.uk

Tim Pollard

Tel: 8251 8500

Email: councillor@timpollard.co.uk

GREATER LONDON ASSEMBLY MEMBER FOR CROYDON & SUTTON

Steve O'Connell (Conservative)

Tel: 020 7983 4353 Email: steve.o'connell@london.gov.uk Website: www.steveoconnell.org

RIDDLEDOWN/LONDON TRAIN TIMES (SOUTHERN RAILWAY)

Times below are from 10 December 2017 until 19 May 2018. Residents are advised to check and confirm times with Southern Railway or National Rail.

To East Croydon (EC), & London Victoria, (London Bridge (LB)): Weekdays: 06.15(LB), 06.42(LB), 07.02, 07.11(LB), 07.35, 07.46(LB), 08.04, 08.18(LB), 08.37, 08.46(LB), 09.06, 09.36 then 06 and 36 mins past hour (except the 17.37) until 23.06 (Plus LB train at 18.46, EC only trains at 19.16, 19.46 & 20.16).

Saturdays (To Victoria only): 07.06, 07.36, and then 36 and 06 mins past hour until 23.06.

Sundays (To Victoria only): 08.49, 09.41, and then 11 and 41 mins past hour until 20.41, 21.41, 22.41, 23.38.

To London Bridge - No direct services Saturdays & Sundays.

From London Victoria to Riddlesdown: Weekdays: 05.47, 06.24, 07.32, 08.53, 09.23, 09.54 and then 23 and 53 mins past hour until 22.23, 22.54 (Mon to Thurs) 22.53 (Fri only), 23.23, 23.47.

Saturdays: 06.23, 06.53 and then 23 and 53 mins past hour until 23.24 & 23.47.

Sundays: 07.47, 08.53, 09.23, 09.53, 10.23, 10.53 and then 23 & 53 mins past hour until 19.53, 20.53, 21.53, 22.36.

From London Bridge to Riddlesdown: Weekdays: 07.03, 07.18, 07.50, 08.24, 17.13, 17.44, 18.17 & 18.47.

Saturdays & Sundays: No direct Services.

From East Croydon to Riddlesdown: Weekdays: 06.06, 06.41, 07.17 (to Hurst Green), 07.34, 07.50, 08.09, 08.41, 09.11, 09.41, 10.11, then 41 and 10 mins past hour until 16.40, 17.10, 17.30, 17.42, 17.58, 18.11, 18.31, 18.43, 19.02, 19.11, 19.41, 20.10, 20.42, 21.10, then 41 mins and 10 mins past hour until 00.16.

Saturdays: 06.41, 07.10 then 41 & 10 mins past hour (except the 09.11) until 23.41 & 00.07.

Sundays: 08.10, 09.10, 09.40, & then 10 & 40 mins past hour (except the 11.11) until 21.11, 22.10, 22.57.

Enquiries: Southern Customer Services: Tel: 08451 272920 or www.southernrailway.com National Rail Enquiries: 08457 484950 or www.nationalrail.co.uk

Local Bus Route and Frequency

Bus 412 (Arriva)

The 412 starts/ends at West Croydon Bus Station and travels along Wellesley Rd, Katharine Str, High Str, South End, Selsdon Rd, Upper Selsdon Rd, Addington Rd (stop for Selsdon), Rectory Park, Mitchley Ave, Downs Court Rd, Godstone Rd, & ends/starts at Brighton Rd, at Purley Hospital.

Frequency Weekdays & Saturdays: Early; 20 mins, Peak; 15 mins, Daytime; 15 mins, Evenings; 20 mins, Late Evenings; 30 mins. Frequency Sundays; 30 mins.

Enquiries: TfL London Buses: Tel; 0845 300 7000 or TfL website: www.tfl.gov.uk

Links also available via the Transport section on the RRA website: www.riddlesdownresidents.org.uk

Timetables are subject to change, so if in doubt, check with TfL or the Operator(s). The RRA cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the above information.

Library Closing Days: Purley and Selsdon – Wednesdays and Sundays: Sanderstead – Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays.

Croydon Council's telephone number for all enquiries: 020 8726 6000, website www.croydon.gov.uk Address:

London Borough of Croydon, Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, Croydon, CR0 1EA.

RRA Committee Meetings: usually 3rd Wednesday in January, March, September, November. Contact a Committee member for details. The AGM is on 11 April 2018 at 7.30pm in St Edmunds Church Hall.

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