

The H.O.M.E. Residents' Association

www.home.addiscombe.net

AGM 21st August 2021 Annual Reports for the year 2020-21

The H.O.M.E Residents' Association (RA) was formed in 2004 and exists for the benefit of the residents in Havelock Road, Outram Road, Mulberry Lane, Elgin Road and Ashburton Road/Gardens/Close and the sections of Lower Addiscombe and Addiscombe Road between those roads.

It aims to preserve, conserve and improve the environment in the H.O.M.E roads as well as in outlying areas that have an effect on our area. For this reason, we see great benefit in working with neighbouring residents' associations for the Addiscombe community.

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H.O.M.E RA Chair's Report

We are holding our 17th Annual General Meeting of H.O.M.E Residents' Association at the home of the late Shirley Mills. Shirley was one of our longest-standing members, a lovely and charismatic person who shared her home with us for a H.O.M.E Social in 2015. It is, therefore, so touching to be at 18 Outram Road again, but, this time, without Shirley. We are very grateful to Tracey Hague, Shirley's daughter, for this gesture to our community.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, we have not been able to have our usual range of activities and what we did have was done mainly virtually. You will notice that our web www.home.addiscombe.net has been transformed beyond recognition by Sam Porter, and for this we are very grateful.

I would encourage you to:

- visit our web page www.home.addiscombe.net to obtain and contribute relevant information
- join and share in our [Facebook.com/groups/homera](https://www.facebook.com/groups/homera)
- follow our Twitter account
- follow our [Youtube](#) which we are keen to use more
- [become a member](#) by subscribing to our emails
- take the lead on some issue or activity that you particularly care about

By doing the above you can make it easier for us to stay in touch with you and to spread the word quickly on any issue important for the community.

A short overview of the last year can be summarised by the ever-growing traffic concerns and the impact of anti-social behaviour on some of our residents

Below you will find a short summary and mention of activities which are not covered by other reports – you can find more about each topic on our web page, under their own headings.

Trees in H.O.M.E roads

We are losing trees either from traffic damage or by disease (pruning and pollarding at the wrong time of year). We have managed to get over 20 trees replaced in Havelock Road and Ashburton Rd. *These trees need watering in the first two years so please when you go for a walk fill a plastic bottle with water and water a tree.*

The Triangle - Contact Carol Porter to help with the upkeep of this bulb-filled patch on the corner of Ashburton Rd and Lower Addiscombe Road. We have held one clean-up of the Triangle this year. There will be more.

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Satellite dishes: Satellite dishes are unsightly and should not be affixed to any property where they can be seen from the street. You will find a new pdf document on our website with more information <https://www.home.addiscombe.net/planning-applications>

Newsletters and leaflets

Due to coronavirus restrictions, we have printed only one Newsletter for door to door distribution in Winter 2020. You can find all our newsletters at <https://www.home.addiscombe.net/newsletters>.

We have also recently produced 2500 Traffic and Social Media leaflets for door to door distribution.

Mid - Croydon Conservation Area Advisory Panel – This Panel comments on the planning applications in several conservation areas. Panel member: Mira Armour.

Many, by doing a little, can achieve a lot. Among your committee and H.O.M.E residents there are some people who are doing an extraordinary amount of work. Thank you from all of us. Our committee and residents' association rely on such individuals. This, you will see from the reports that follow and which are signed by the lead person. Please join us; it is great to have new people helping and taking the lead on issues close to their heart.

Mira Armour, Chair, AGM 2021

H.O.M.E RA TREASURER'S REPORT

My apologies for being unable to attend today for my first and final presentation as HOME Treasurer as I have relocated to Somerset. I would like to propose Norman Young take over as Treasurer.

I am pleased to present the HOME accounts for 2020/21 and I am grateful to Mira who will read out this short report. H.O.M.E accounts run from AGM to AGM. The accounts start on 6 September 2020 and run to 21 August 2021.

Thank you to those who paid subs over the past year. If you have not joined or wish to check if you are up-to-date on your membership, or should any of your details have changed, particularly email addresses please don't hesitate to talk to the committee today. On behalf of HOME, thank you for your continued support. In the current climate we are still accepting cash and cheques but would prefer you to pay your subs via bank transfer if at all possible.

Our Bank details are: Co-operative bank The HOME Residents Association A/C 65134788 Sort Code 089299
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Due to the ongoing Covid19 restrictions there were no social events so our outgoings for such events and our income from raffles have reduced over the past year. Our main expenditure, as in 2020/21, relates to making sure we keep in touch with residents and hence the cost of a) the website (which I am sure you will agree is amazing thanks to the hard work of many but with particular commendation to Carol and Sam Porter) and b) information leaflets. The committee continues to regularly identify methods to keep costs of both communication channels down. The website is excellent value for money and on-line purchase of printed materials is very competitive.

In conclusion, the current status of HOME is that we are holding £2,553.73 across the bank account and cash.

Thank you

On behalf of Susan Fender (outgoing Treasurer)

Proposed:

Seconded:

The H.O.M.E. Residents' Association

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HOME Traffic Report

The Traffic sub-committee has adopted the following strategy over the past year:

1. To raise awareness across the local and broader community of the unacceptable traffic escalation on HOME roads as a direct consequence of poorly planned traffic management in Addiscombe West.
2. To continue lobbying officers and politicians to do the right thing by residents in either a) extending the traffic mitigation scheme to include our roads or b) undo the changes made to date.

Point 1

Actions:

- Attempting to enhance our visibility online and using Twitter and Facebook more aggressively to expose the unacceptability of the situation.
- Conducting a leaflet drop to try to persuade more people onto our online platforms
- Continuing to raise profile of the deteriorating traffic situation via articles in the H.O.M.E newsletter (see the Christmas 2020 edition for the latest article)
- Writing directly to councillors and our MP as private residents to air serious concerns and personal impact of H.O.M.E traffic volume on individual lives and encouraging residents to do the same.

Successes:

- Ongoing exposure of the situation in our roads has led to unease amongst politicians and officers, some of whom have now acknowledged that the previous decisions in Addiscombe were a mistake
- We now have 145 followers on Twitter, up from single digits in 2020.

Ongoing challenges:

- Despite our best efforts, it has proved challenging to motivate our local community to engage with our online platforms. This may be due to a lack of digital accessibility for some of our members.

Point 2

Actions:

- Regular meetings with officers and politicians have been held all year, including with our MP and councillors.

Successes:

- Money has now been committed to reviewing the feasibility of an Addiscombe-wide traffic management review.
- Strong and positive relationships have been built with some politicians, particularly Muhammad Ali, Jessica Leigh and Sarah Jones MP.

Ongoing challenges:

- The Council's current position of bankruptcy has left its leadership in disarray. Regular turnover of staff, a lack of funds and general malaise has meant that turning apparent goodwill into positive action has been extremely challenging to achieve.
- The extent to which residents are being 'managed' through goodwill and words of empathy, rather than helped to find assertive solutions, is difficult to establish.
- The politicisation of the matter (in a split ward) is fuelling a lack of transparency and consistency over motivation and intended action.

Main points for discussion and decision at the AGM:

1. Do we support, in principle, an Addiscombe-wide traffic management review and how do we best support politicians to turn intent into action?
2. How do we ensure our social media pressure is more consistent?
3. How do we better engage the broader community in our ward to get behind the drive for action?

Nicholas Hewlett, HOME Traffic Subcommittee Lead

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Neighbourhood Watch Report

The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) are trying to get the East Addiscombe Ward Panel up and running again since Covid but haven't actually managed a meeting this year so far.

HOME organised a neighbourhood walk-around with some interested members and 2 officers from the SNT discussing a range of issues including anti-social behaviour and speeding traffic. This resulted in some graffiti being cleaned up and the SNT visiting a property known for playing loud music late at night. The process for addressing noise is now explained on the HOME website.

The Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association is having its AGM and Crime Prevention Day on Saturday, 6th November at the Royal Russell School. If you would like to attend, please let me know so I can arrange an invitation for you.

Melanie de Villiers, HOME Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

Noise Pollution

Croydon Council no longer has a 24 hour telephone hotline to report noise problems - their office hours are now standard (9am to 5 pm). Any sites where there are noise issues after those hours cannot be visited. You are encouraged to keep an audio recording of noise issues and keep a detailed log - when it started, when it finished, the impact it has had on you. **One of our members is an audio expert and has offered to help if cases progress this far without resolution (call or email us for help).** Ideally try to find out if there are other neighbours who have been affected by the noise.

They do seem to respond quickly via email POLLUTION@croydon.gov.uk

And, if the noise issue is remotely regular, they will open a case and send you a form to update with details. I think they need four specific events where the noise level was unacceptable to proceed with any action. If the noise comes from more than one household (in a block of flats/HMO etc.) you will need a separate reference number for each 'offending' neighbour. This makes complaining/getting a result more problematic.

Norman Young, Committee Member

Future Dates for your Diary:

H.O.M.E Clean up - after a long break we plan to collect litter on Saturday, 2nd October 10-12 noon. Meet at 11 Havelock Road. Tools will be provided. Check www.home.addiscombe.net for updates before turning up.

Havelock Road and Mulberry Lane Exercise Street – these roads or part of them will be closed at a certain date and time, yet to be determined and approved. This will give us a safe space for meeting and for adult and children activities.

Please come forward if you would like to lead this activity.

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Planning Report (AGM Sept 2021)

Once again, the council has rejected most of the planning applications that we objected to in our conservation area in the last year. Notable ones were as follows:

In progress at the last AGM was the proposal to build a block of five flats on the garages site between Havelock, Outram and Mulberry, overlooking the backs of properties on all three roads and with difficult access. The proposal was rejected - thanks to all those who objected.

Adjacent to the previous one was a proposal to put a pair of semi-detached houses in the back gardens of 45-47 Outram, again overlooking and with poor access. Although rejected, this one has just been appealed but seems very unlikely to succeed.

At 19 Ashburton, Mr Datoos tried the appeal route after the council rejected his attempt to turn his back garden out-building monstrosity into a disabled flat. That appeal was recently rejected.

The developer of Appletree Cottage gave up and sold it after his reduced 4 flat scheme was rejected.

The large house at 86 Outram rumbles on. After initially proposing to turn it into six flats, a scheme for 3 flats seemed close to acceptance but was turned down on details. Instead of correcting the details, they are currently going down the appeal route.

Similarly, 37 Havelock finally accepted that three flats was the best they were going to get for the main house. However, they are appealing in an attempt to get their back garden dwelling approved (alias 'granny flat', alias 'office/storage').

The committee decided that it was not worth bothering all members of the residents association with many of the minor applications of which there have been a lot. In these cases Bob Porter has commented on behalf of the RA. One of these which we lost was a back extension at 50 Elgin.

In process are 10 Elgin, 54 Elgin, and a back extension at 56 Ashburton. It is now apparent that parts of the gardens at 50-56 Ashburton are being used to repair or deal in old cars and caravans.

Thank you for your help,

Robert Porter, H.O.M.E RA Planning Lead