

Celebrating our heritage and community

A community project initiated by local residents was formally inaugurated in Addiscombe, East Croydon on the 8th of January 2017. That day saw the official unveiling of the first of a series of special road signs that state that the roads in question are located in the East India Estate Conservation Area, a conservation area that was set up in 2008 in that part of Addiscombe between Addiscombe and Lower Addiscombe Road bounded by Ashburton Road and Canning Road.

The unveiling took place at the corner of Mulberry Lane and Havelock Road in the presence of Gavin Barlow, MP for Croydon Central and Government Minister for Housing and London, Addiscombe Councillors, Patricia Hay-Justice and Mark Watson, our local Safer Neighbourhood Team, Council officials, the Council Contractor Kier and local residents.

The project was the brainchild of HOME Residents' Association, which along with Canning & Clyde Residents' Association cover the area in question. Two residents of HOME worked closely for a year with Robert Rosser of Croydon Council on the project, which was part funded by Ward money made available to HOME by Addiscombe Councillors, Patricia Hay-Justice, Sean Fitzsimons and Mark Watson, and part by donations from residents. Councillor Mark Watson and Steve Isles, Director of Streets at Croydon Council, were particularly instrumental in seeing the project through, as were KEIR, who made and installed the signs as part of their social and corporate responsibility policy.

HOME Residents' Association was formed in January 2004 to save one of the area's fine Victorian villas from demolition and replacement by an overbearing and mediocre block of flats. Following success in this, the Association continued to monitor planning applications, objecting to those which were considered inappropriate to the area until, in 2008,

with the help of the then Addiscombe Councillors, Russell Jackson, Andrew Price and Maria Garcia, the Council agreed to the establishment of the East India Estate Conservation Area. This name commemorates the fact that the area in question was the property of the East India Company, who from 1809 to 1858, had their engineering college based at Addiscombe Place, a large mansion, located more or less where Outram Road now is. A few years later, in 1861, the college and grounds were sold off by auction to the British Land Company, their functions having been transferred to Woolwich and Sandhurst. The mansion and most of the other buildings were demolished and the land divided up into five roads, named after eminent East India figures, Canning, Outram, Clyde, Elgin and Havelock, who, however, had nothing to do with Addiscombe!

Since 2008, HOME has continued to thrive, maintaining relationships with other local residents' associations and groupings, the Council, the local Councillors, London Assembly representative and MP for the benefit of its members and the local community. The H.O.M.E in Bloom competition in Spring each year and the socials have contributed to the sense of belonging. This year H.O.M.E is planning an Open Gardens event to let residents enjoy some imaginative small and some large traditional gardens in the area.

More on how H.O.M.E came about at:
www.home.addiscombe.net/home-story

The East India Estate Conservation Area was designated in March 2008. The EAST INDIA ESTATE CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL AND MANAGEMENT PLAN can be found at:
www.home.addiscombe.net/planning-applications
www.home.addiscombe.net/home-story

See www.addiscombe.net for information on residents' associations in Addiscombe.

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