

Minutes of the Twenty-first H.O.M.E. Residents' Association Annual General Meeting

held on 16th November 2025 at 1.30 pm at the Ismaili Centre, Addiscombe Road

Present: 37 members present.

Apologies: Natasha Irons MP, Cllr Neil Garrett, George Morvay, Vanessa Holland, Sue Newman, Alex Marshall, James van Domelen.

The Chair, Mira Armour, welcomed residents, Mayor Jason Perry, our councillors Maddie Henson and Jeet Bains and PC Scott Jones and colleagues from Safer neighbourhood Team.

The minutes of the previous AGM were distributed. There were no comments. It was proposed by Norman Young and seconded by Christopher Clayton that the minutes be approved. All agreed.

Chair's Annual Report – distributed to subscribed members by email prior to the AGM
From the complete report Mira Armour emphasised the work H.O.M.E does on planning and traffic (over 7 years). She questioned elected representatives if the air and noise pollution problems which resulted from increased traffic to our roads would be resolved by the time of the next election. Mira thanked Miriam de Souza, who was standing down from the committee, for all her dedicated work on the traffic campaign. She also expressed thanks to the Ismaili community for hosting the meeting. Approval of the report was proposed by Sarah Epton, seconded by Christopher Clayton and agreed by the meeting.

Accounts:

De Rainbow, Treasurer, presented the annual accounts. Funds were slightly up on last year due to increased subscriptions, and savings on the website and printing.

She asked that if any were new to the area, to see her about membership, and tell her how they had heard about HOME.

Irmela Hopkins asked if with an increase in the current level of donations from £5/£10 per couple there would be scope for doing more fun activities. She offered to contribute ideas and organise these. Maddie commented that ASPRA invites members to contribute voluntary donations to specific projects. Mira added that HOME had done this in the past with the new road signs where 'East India Conservation Area' had been added.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Norman Young, seconded by Jenny Emson, and agreed by the meeting.

Election of officers:

Mira introduced two prospective new committee members, Andrew Bennett from Outram Rd (to help with website updating, with Sam Porter) and Marion Marley from Elgin Rd. (to contribute to enhancing community amenities).

Stan Goron was asked to conduct the election, but in the event, Maddie Henson proposed all those standing (as listed in the agenda) be elected en bloc. These were: Chair: Mira Armour; Secretary: Carol Porter; Treasurer: De Rainbow; Committee members: Robert Porter, Andrew Bennett, Stan Goron, Marian Marley, Norman Young, Philip Emson, Jennifer

Emson, and Co-opted: Melanie de Villiers. Suzanne Rixon seconded, and the meeting approved.

Mira continued with a reminder of major concerns for the area. Slides were showing in the background (this presentation is available on our web under tab **Meeting records**). She showed the meeting the Conservation Area's Management Plan, a supplementary guidelines used when determining the planning applications. She urged that members respond when sent an email by Bob Porter on planning applications, as recently sent for 186c Lower Addiscombe Road, 19 Ashburton Road, 16 Elgin Road, 56 Ashburton Road. The enforcement officer had over 220 cases to investigate currently - the normal caseload should be 40-50, so investigations can take some time.

Natasha Irons' office had recently pinpointed a law (Section 70A, Town and Country Planning Act) which could be used to dismiss multiple similar applications on the same property if two similar applications had already been refused within the previous two years. The council had yet to use this law regarding applications in HOME. Similarly, the consideration of how many HMOs were desirable in one road.

Mira also mentioned the UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant for Addiscombe, which is funding the Christmas lights in Addiscombe, normally provided by ASPRA; there would also be a noticeboard put up at the Triangle (which will be cared for by H.O.M.E) and some additional minor improvements to the landscaping at the Triangle. This is all due for completion before March 2026.

During the past year, HOME had also got residents together for local walks, clean ups and litter picking, and a series of Open gardens in the summer.

There was then a question and answer session with the invited guests.

Q: In what ways can HOME help the police in their work locally?

A: Police Sergeant Scott Jones said that alongside the usual 999 emergency and 101 non-emergency contacts (for reporting minor crimes), **Met Engage** was a direct route to intelligence sharing with good results regarding shoplifting, drug use, and anti-social behaviour. It was checked daily and through the information given warrants, arrests and convictions followed. Residents could contribute by giving their email address. A link to Met Engage would go on the HOME website.

To another question, he said that officers were always in uniform (other than today) as visibility in the community is important, and a deterrent.

On Ward priorities, there was a quarterly Ward Panel, determined for and by residents, where concerns could be addressed.

Q: There have been disappointing results for HOME from the consultations on traffic problems. Will the Administration be able to do something for us? The number of residents in the HOME area was small compared to all the other areas that had been included in the consultations, so our voice had been drowned out. But even in a previous example, the residents of Canning Road had responded that they were not in favour of measures taken in their road, yet the measures had been implemented. Surely politics should be combined with fairness?

A: Jeet replied acknowledging the traffic problem for HOME residents, and that the Conservatives had said they would do something about it. But they had always said, it must

be right for the whole local community, not just HOME. Even though the previous problem had not had this guiding principle (resulting in the current problems). There had been a series of workshops with all Residents' Associations in the area. As to whether it was a fair consultation, everyone had been involved. Was the voice of HOME diluted? Yes. A solution had been proposed. However, feedback was that the scheme was unwieldy and impractical. The majority of respondents had said that they were against it.

Q: But were the responses from HOME ringfenced? Did HOME residents say they were in favour of the proposal? [Question not answered.] The questioner commented that the feedback was therefore not broken down. Mira commented that other RAs did not specifically object to night time closures in HOME roads (not their roads).

Jeet continued that there could be an experimental scheme at some point in the future. The Croydon flyover would need to be maintained - perhaps there could be some action then. Mira commented that a lot of time and money had been wasted with many meetings, and that you can never please everyone. She likened the problem of traffic to water - plug one gap and leaks would spring up elsewhere - but she objected to our short, direct roads becoming like a river (of traffic).

Jason Perry then continued, on the entire scheme, respondents were not in favour. But the council was still trying to get an experimental order. The original scheme had been overcomplicated.

Norman Young interjected that introduction of night time restrictions would have negligible detrimental impact on the main roads or on other Residents' Association areas. But as other RAs voted in principle against any change, it was just a numbers game and there was no hope of any improvement.

Mira pointed out also that in all of this, no thought or discussion had been given to how ambulances, visitors, deliveries etc would work and this fact has put people of the night time proposal.

Jason insisted the consultation had not been a sham, it had been conducted in good faith. It was wrong to try to right a wrong (Addiscombe West changes) with another wrong (which might move the traffic to another area). He stated that TFL were opposed to night time closures, but other measures eg left/right turns even if experimental may need cameras and lead to Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (implication: undesirable). Norman said Jason had been misinformed about cameras - only monitoring would be needed. Jason then said TFL had agreed to night time closures. He also insisted that they were still working on a solution. They were having week by week discussions. There was a new Corporate Director, Venetia Reed-Baptiste, who had started work the previous week. HOME was being discussed. Abu Barkatoolah, who had conducted the consultations, was a highways engineer.

Q: Please explain what control TFL has over junctions.

A: TFL has to be consulted over these. Their main concern was that buses should not be slowed down along the main roads. TFL had started a consultation (open until February 2026) about bus speeds along the A232 and was looking for ideas. Andy Bennett said details of the consultation were on the H.O.M.E website.

Q: What solution could be offered to the problem with parking close to junctions in HOME?

A: Maddie said she would look at this. Mira suggested there be yellow boxes at road junctions (this had previously been proposed, during the consultations). Maddie agreed. There was also the safety angle. However, others felt that congestion at road junctions would discourage traffic from using our roads.

Both Jeet and Maddie confirmed that they wanted a solution to the traffic problem in HOME and were working for this.

There was a break for refreshments, then the meeting resumed with further questions and comments.

Asmara Mitchell from CHASE RA introduced herself and said she would like to collaborate with HOME on litter picking. She would connect with Mel and Irmela later.

Suzanne Rixon asked about the central Croydon development. Jason said that the Wellesley Road crossing was due to open on 3rd December. The underpass had been filled in. The links to the bridge to East Croydon Station would open in the New Year. The bridge had to be repaired first (£500k). The Allders parade shops were now open (though almost a year later than expected). More shops were due to open. Thanks to the police, town centre crime was down (weapons, shoplifting). The Public Space Protection order had seen anti-social behaviour reduce by 24% (period not specified). A new zero-tolerance policy on fly tipping had seen 30 new officers appointed to deal with it and 50 penalty notices issued in the past month. Abandoned vehicles (including the ones at 56 Ashburton Road) were to be tackled. A consultation was underway to bring smaller HMOs into the licensing regime. This landlord licensing scheme will apply to 16 Elgin Road.

Q: Has anti-social behaviour increased in Addiscombe East due to the Exclusion Zone?

A: No, it hasn't. Traders felt things had much improved.

A Christmas Treasure Trail (organised by ASPRA) poster was displayed. Maddie was sponsoring this.

Mira expressed thanks to members and guests for attending. The meeting closed at 3 pm.