



<https://www.phranorbury.co.uk/>

PHRA NEWSLETTER SPRING 2023

You are Invited to the Annual General Meeting of the **POLLARDS HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION** on **Thursday 27th April 2023 @ Norbury Library, 1 Beatrice Avenue, SW16 4UW.**

We welcome you to join us as a new member or to renew your membership to the PHRA for 2023. New Registration & Membership Renewal will be available on the evening between 6.30 to 7pm (You must be a Pollards Hill resident and within the catchment area, due to a maximum venue capacity of 60 persons, proof of your name and address will be requested at the door)

- We are now collecting subscriptions for 2023 – 2024. Membership runs from April to March each year.
- Cost per household £5.
- Membership entitles you to vote in the PHRA meetings and have your say as to how your local area is run and developed.
- As a member you are also entitled to the PHRA newsletter which is issued throughout the year.
- The PHRA works on the preservation of the environment, maintains links with Croydon Council on a variety of issues including; Roads, Preservation of Green spaces, Grass verges and Trees, Planning, Fly tipping and Steet Cleaning.

JOIN THE PHRA AND TAKE AN INTEREST IN WHERE YOU LIVE. **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

**PHRA AGM 27TH
APRIL 2023 6.30-
9pm**

**NORBURY LIBRARY,
BEATRICE AVE, SW16 4UW**

GUEST SPEAKERS

CROYDON EXECUTIVE

Mayor: Jason Perry

Local SNT Police

**Ken Hulme – James
Alexander Estate Agents**

**Refreshments
available**

We look forward to
meeting you at the AGM.

Pollards Hill Residents' Association

- PHRA and the other four Norbury Resident's Associations provide a collective strength to ensure that we have a voice in issues that affect the preservation of the environment and community.
- Croydon Council inform and consult us of any proposals that impact our neighbourhood.
- We stage events to improve the local environment and community cohesiveness, for example the viewers plaque on the hilltop, litter picks and bulb planting.
- We have a discount card accepted at a number of local shops and restaurants
- We monitor local planning applications
- We provide information, advice and assistance through our meeting, face to face, newsletter and regular emails
- We organise a variety of events aimed at bringing the community together

PHRA Norbury Area

PHRA covers the area around Pollards Hill Park and includes the following roads: Beatrice Avenue, Beech Road, Briar Road, Cranbourne Close, Ena Road (between Norbury Court and Pollards Wood Road), Forrest Gardens, Highdaun Drive, Hill Drive, Norbury Court Road (optional), Pollards Crescent, Pollards Hill East, Pollards Hill North, Pollards Hill South, Pollards Hill West, Pollards Wood Road and Tall Trees.

To protect, enhance and maintain the area for the benefit of owners, tenants, households and visitors.

PHRA was formed in May 1988 and since then has undertaken a range of activities and campaigns at the request of members to maintain and improve the area around Pollards Hill and is a key to keeping our local environment and community alive and well.

Dear Neighbours, it's been a tumultuous Three years, the pandemic isolated us and our community cohesiveness declined but we are determined to bring life back into the PHRA - make it, once again, an active vehicle for residents issues and concerns.

We would like to thank the retired members of the committee for their contribution over the years' We now look forward and to the future recruitment of new committee members to step into the available vacancies, to progress us forward. Looking forward to meeting with you at our next AGM on the 27th April. Best wishes Jim - Chair PHRA

Pollards Hill Residents' Association

The PHRA committee asked me to write a piece on 66 Pollards Hill North, the Old Vicarage, now that site works have commenced and many of you will be wondering, what is going on.



What is going on?

For those of you who are unsure of how planning applications are decided at committee level. The planning committee is democratically formed of political parties, represented by various ward councillors, that then debate each planning application, reviewing the merits of each proposal. Labour had 5 members inclusive of the chair and the Conservatives had 4 members. The vote of abstention left a tie (4 vs 4) on the vote, in this instance the chair has an additional vote, known as the casting vote. The result being five Labour votes in favour and four Conservatives votes against the proposed scheme. If our councillor had voted against the scheme and aligned with her residents in Pollards Hill, the vote would have fallen. You can watch how this unfolded via the Croydon Council webcast; Link provided here - <https://civico.net/croydon/15120-Planning-Committee>

Rest assured, I have already watched the webcast and advise you not to waste your time, just skip past the waffle and cut to the pertinent section by scrolling to 58:42 mins of the webcast.



The much beloved Old Vicarage

The woodland to the rear was briefly used as a school playground circa 1930 with many mature trees including oaks contained within the boundaries. The land was also used as an allotment during WW2 and later used for church summer fetes. The site also provided a rich environment for nesting birds, bats, Foxes, badgers etc. The Council's Development and Environmental department in 2014 recognised that the site was within an area of archaeological significance and archaeological potential.

The planning history regarding this site is far too comprehensive to cover in this short article - there are over a hundred documents lodged at Croydon council - with a combination of granted and refused outcomes. So, I have opted to start from the most recent grant of planning permission dated 7th April 2022.

The vote to demolish the beautiful Old Vicarage got waived through under the "previous administration" controlled planning committee. This included our very own ward councillor, her stated preference was, that an intensification of the site, with more social housing was the preferred option. She abstained at the vote and this, coupled with her colleague and chair of the committee, exercising his right to use the casting vote, sealed the decision. On the 6th of December 2022 saw a sad day for Pollards Hill as the Old Vicarage was bulldozed.



Croydon Town Hall where councillors make the decisions on local planning matters.

For many of us the Old Vicarage was a landmark. We loved the distinctiveness of the building – constructed circa 1910. - with its wide frontage, elongated façade, and leaded fenestration, facing onto Pollards Hill North and flanking the top of Beech Road.

During the demolition phase I noticed that the building had cavity brick wall construction and must have been one of the earlier buildings constructed in this way. This type of construction was popularised in the late 1920's, making it a rare instance of a building ahead of its time and a prime example of a unique and still relevant building for its age.



Over 50 trees felled including Oaks.

Pollards Hill Residents' Association



9 new homes

The new scheme is for the erection of 9 houses on the site with one detached and four pairs of semi-detached dwellings designed to be modern, contemporary and introduce a new character to the Pollards Hill area. The dwellings have been designed to accommodate one parking space per plot, which will most likely cause vehicular overspill and increase parking stress on Pollards Hill. Bizarrely it was mooted during the planning committee meeting that no off-street parking would have been preferred, this will no doubt boggle your mind. Love it or hate it? This is now the fullback position for the site, and it is worth noting that until the construction of the scheme has been completed, there is a potential for further planning applications to come forward, however this is unlikely.

Like many of you, I did object to the demolition of the vicarage, our representations were ignored and unsuccessful. We failed to convince the decision makers the importance of the Old Vicarage being retained as part of the Pollards Hill character and heritage.

Since 2014 this site has had around 50 mature established trees, including oaks, uprooted. Is this environmentally sustainable, or even part of a "greener future"?

Now that 66 Pollards Hill North, the Old Vicarage has been relinquished to a past memory of 'the Hill', we are left with the knowledge that partisan decision making ignored the wishes of the residents and removed any hope of Pollards Hill being granted heritage status. The question is why?



just before its demise

Adam, Vice Chair - Pollards Hill Residents' Association



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Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) and PHRA

SNT Ward Meeting

PHRA resumed participation with the local SNT police quarterly ward meetings by attending an on-line meeting on Wednesday 8th February. Points of note:

- PHRA ward listed about halfway down in table of Croydon wards recorded crimes by volume
- Fraud is mainly internet related and dealt with by a specialist team
- Violence – much consists of domestic abuse and is handled by a specialist team
- Sexual offences peak in summer time but no rapes recorded
- Speeding – SNT suggested selecting two 20mph roads (not located in Pollards Hill ward) for monitoring by MPS trained residents to capture volume of offences committed

Street Safety Walk

A street walk was organised by our local ward councillors and held on the 16th March. Its aim was to focus on the safety aspects of inadequate street lighting and the subsequent threat posed to women and girls. Apart from mainly women attendees, also participating was the principal Croydon Street Lighting officer, the Croydon Street lighting contractor, Skanska, and members of the local SNT team plus the attendance of the specialist dedicated Violence against women and girls (VAWG) officer.

Interestingly, as an experiment one of the streetlights was reduced to half power but its brightness was considered acceptable by most of the group.

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) unit

Many of us, whilst familiar with the SNT role, will be unaware of the VAWG role. The SN BCU area covers Bromley, Croydon, and Sutton boroughs and consisting of a dedicated Violence against women and girls (VAWG) unit with a dedicated engagement officer. Their role is to work with local partners, key community stakeholders and the local community to prevent violence against women and girls. They run various initiatives such as Walk and Talks (a walk around with local officers about where you do not feel safe) and have set up new ways of reporting where you do not feel safe through Streetsafe (an anonymous non-crime reporting tool: www.met.police.uk/notices/street-safe/street-safe/).

Contact details: VAWG mailbox: SNMailbox-VAWG@met.police.uk

By Patrick Conway – PHRA SNT Liaison Representative



Pollards Hill Residents' Association Membership Form

Your annual subscription is now due. Your membership runs from April to March. We are now collecting membership fees for 2023-24. If you are not already a member, you would be very welcome to join us. The subscription this year will be £5 per household.

Please make your subscription payment online to:
Pollards Hill Residents Association
Lloyds Bank plc
Sort code 30- 96- 07
Account 0032 1617

Your reference: **This is important so we know who has paid**

Name of householder, House number and abbreviation of street name.

For example: SMITH70PHS.

Please use these abbreviations: PHS (Pollards hill South); PHN(North); PHE (East); PWR (Pollards Wood Road); PC (Pollards Crescent); ER (Ena Road); BA (Beatrice Ave); BR (Beech Road); FG (Forest Gardens); TT (Tall Trees); HD (Highdaun); CC (Cranbourne); HD (Hill Drive); LR (London Road).

Please complete this form below and bring it to the AGM or if you are unable to attend the AGM hand it to your street representative when they call.

Name:

Address:

Telephone /mobile number:

Email:

(Email is important as it is our first means of contact with members)