

Ashburton Councillor's Report

ROADS

As you can see the signs are up and the 20mph zones are in force. There are national set guidelines that we must follow concerning signs and the brief to contractors was to utilise existing poles whenever possible. We have raised the issue of extra street furniture with the cabinet member responsible for transport and he is very happy to investigate any issues and we are happy to organise a walk around with ASPRA and officers to look at specific spots where residents think things could be done differently.

All costs regarding 20mph comes from a TFL budget to implement the Mayors Transport Strategy.

Lots of work is being done to make sure there is as little disruption as possible when work in central Croydon really kicks in. Measures such as prescribed routes, lorries taking out material after they have made a delivery and waiting areas in non-residential areas so lorries are not stacked up. We have started working with RAs in Addiscombe and Shirley and the first meeting has been held.

The lights at the Lower Addiscombe Road junction with Shirley Road have been raised with us and officers have been asked to look at the right turn filter light.

New pay and display machines are being installed to accept the new £1 coin and cards.

BLACKHORSE LANE

We are working with TFL who have major issues with the bridge over the tram which is in such a poor state it can't take the weight of cars. We are working to their timescale and when that work starts we will also strengthen the bridge that goes over the footpath to make it future proof and get in space for cycling.

BUSINESS FORUM

We had the first drop in session to gauge interest and we will be moving forward with this and are looking at dates for a walk around the Lower Addiscombe Road with officers and the cabinet member. Business owners like the idea of having one loud voice and are very concerned about business rate rises and the closure of Blackhorse Lane Bridge. We have raised the bridge at every opportunity and Cllr Mark Watson has written to the minister pointing out the massive hit a rise in business rates will have on our great high street.

OLD ASHBURTON LIBRARY

As you can see we are acting on our manifesto promise and work is well underway and we are looking at a summer launch. Cllr Henson was on the interview panel that chose our major partner and they will also be engaging with local groups and RAs. FOAP were also part of the panel so the views of residents are being considered at all stages. Ashburton Park is also one of the parks that will be part of our masterplan and more. Planning permission has been granted for the extension and to widen the gates on the Lower Addiscombe Road so lorries entering the park do not have to use small residential roads.

WARD BUDGETS

At the council tax meeting Cllr Hall said the ward budgets would continue with extra funding for councillors. In the past we have funded projects in conjunction with ASPRA such as Christmas lights and the notice board. So please get your ideas too us for this year's ward budget and a report will be published so you can see how each councillor spent their ward budget.

STREET CLEANING

It was recently announced we are investing over £1m on new vehicles including compacting vans to collect fly tips so they have to go back to base less often than the caged vans. Also the street hovers will be coming on line making streetcleaning quicker and more effective. The council have also reached 175 prosecutions for environmental crimes and are also crushing vehicles used to fly tip.

CABINET MEMBERS

If an ASPRA meeting wishes to concentrate on a specific topic at future meetings we will be very happy to try and get the relevant cabinet member along, diary permitting. They are all very happy to come to RA meetings and we have done similar for other groups in Ashburton.