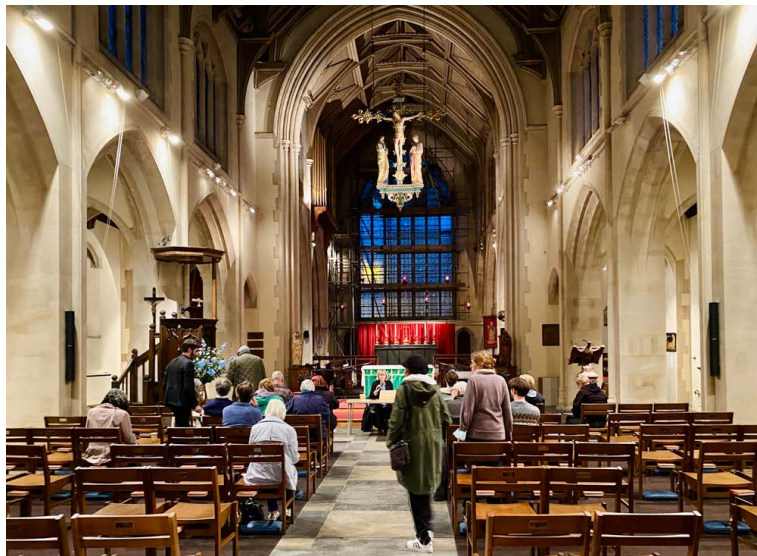




Minutes of Thornton Heath Community Action Team's Public Meeting on Tuesday 27 September 2022

at St Alban the Martyr



Apologies and Health & Safety announcement

Andrea, Chair of Thornton Heath Community Action Team (THCAT), welcomed everyone, introduced herself and explained how THCAT is a volunteer organisation in existence for over 7 years, holding public meetings approximately every 6 weeks in different Thornton Heath locations.

Andrea thanked Father Sean Gilbert for hosting this meeting in the main church and asked him to give the safety information for the venue.

1. Information on the Foodcycle meals at St Albans & Food Bank

Father Sean Gilbert advised that the main church is open every day, except Mondays, with tea and coffee being served. Anyone is welcome to come and use the space for shelter or prayer.

The new [Foodcycle provides free meals for anyone every Saturday at 12.30pm](#) in the hall next to the church. It includes a hot three course meal using food that would otherwise go to waste. They currently have about 30 people who attend, and this is

serviced by a group of 10 volunteers lead by a group leader who checks the suitability of volunteers before they are accepted. More volunteers would be gratefully accepted.

The food is donated by City Harvest and consists of food with short sell by dates. The volunteers also talk to and give support to the people visiting the Foodcycle.

020 7729 2775 | thorntonheath@foodcycle.org.uk
www.foodcycle.org.uk/location/foodcycle-thornton-heath



St Alban's Foodbank Referral Form	
Client details (please print clearly)	
First name:	Family name:
Address including postcode:	
Contact phone number:	
Description of family:	
Ages of adults:	Ages of children:
Does the client / a family member have a dietary needs? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
If yes, please give details:	
Your details:	
Full Name:	
Direct tel. no.:	Email address:
Name of organization:	
By signing below, you are confirming that, in your professional opinion, the client (and their family) would benefit from receiving emergency food support.	
Signature:	Date:

Personal data is processed in accordance with St. Alban's PCC's Data Privacy Policy.

St Alban's Foodbank, run by Rose and Mark, takes place **every Wednesday between 11am-1pm in the crypt** (down the steps at the front of the church) and consists of non-perishable foods such as tins, pasta, rice etc. The food is sorted into plastic bags for one person or a family.

People should be referred to the food bank via a referral form available via the email address: fbalbanse25@gmail.com

Father Sean asked for donations from local people and businesses and confirmed they had been talking to Tesco and Sainsbury about donations, but they were not on board yet.

Mohammed, one of the THCAT Committee Members, said he was happy to talk to local businesses about donating to the foodbank.

2. Croydon Citizens UK: Civil society alliance working together for justice and the common good in Croydon

Jack Swan of Croydon Citizens UK explained that their organisation existed to promote the common good of society, and to help to bring different organisations together to play their part in public life.

They have been involved in getting the living wage introduced to the country as part of one of their campaigns.

In Thornton Heath they have a network of 13 churches, several mosques and schools, and arranged a hustings with the Mayoral candidates, so people could tell them what they were looking for them to implement as Mayor.

Jack stated that one of the projects they were currently working on was 'what would people like to change in Thornton Heath over the next four years?'. Any comments greatly received.

He also confirmed that they have regular meetings with the Mayor and cabinet members to discuss issues in the borough, which included clean streets, affordable housing, living wage, and safety of young people.

They were also involved with mental health training to organisations & social care, and looking at how GP practices worked with communities in the borough.

Andrea pointed out that THCAT also involved in clean streets, safety of young people, and affordable housing.

Barbara explained how [THCAT carry out street walkabouts with councillors, NCOs and cabinet members](#) to target fly-tipping, illegal HMOs (houses in multiple occupation) and anti-social behaviour (ASB).

3. Mark Huggett from CALAT (Croydon Adult Learning and Training): What adult evening classes would you like to participate in at Strand House in Zion Road?

The advertisement features a QR code in the top left corner with the text 'SCAN ME' below it. The main headline reads 'Change your life through learning' with a sub-headline 'at Croydon Adult Learning And Training'. Below this, it says 'We've got courses for...' followed by a list of course categories: Business, Child Care, Creative Arts, Digital Skills, English and Maths, Health and Social Care, Languages, and 'And much more'. A small image shows a group of diverse people. Text below the list states 'Courses throughout the year, online and in class.' and 'Learning centres in Central Croydon, Thornton Heath and New Addington'. A purple button says 'Enrol Today!'. At the bottom, there is a CALAT logo, the website 'www.calat.ac.uk', and contact information: 'More information scan the QR or email: calat@croydon.gov.uk'. The Croydon logo is also present with the tagline 'Believing For Croydon'.

Mark Huggett from CALAT talked about training now available at Strand House which includes the following courses:

- Creative Arts
- Child Care
- Digital Skills
- Business
- English & Maths
- Health and Social Care
- Languages

People need to be 19 or over to participate, and a typical 5-week course could cost as little as £20.

He would like information on what type of courses people would like to do, and he can be contacted on: **0208 726 6000** ex **63280** or email: **mark.huggett@croydon.gov.uk**

A member of the audience asked if pottery courses were available. He advised that because all the kilns were given away these courses were no longer available, but that they might be able to access them through one of the schools.

Many of the courses are run in the morning, afternoon, or evening.

Enrolment can be done online or in person at the centre.

4. Details of Trumble Gardens Action Day on 1st October 2022



**1ST OCTOBER 2022
TRUMBLE GARDENS
ACTION DAY**

Please come and help the Friends of Trumble Gardens anytime between 10am and 3pm
Our beautiful ornamental gardens have been allowed to fall into disrepair and a Friends Group formed by local people intends to change that! The photos are from January 2018 and we need you to help us make a start in reshaping the bushes and hedges to open up the area again so to make it safer and look more attractive from Brigstock Road. We will also litter pick around the gardens and do a general tidy up. Please do join us.

We will provide equipment and gloves etc. But, please do dress appropriately and stout footwear is recommended.

Children under 16 are welcome but we ask that they are accompanied by a parent or guardian

Even if you can't join in on the activities please do visit to tell us what you want to see happen with Trumble Gardens Your opinion counts!

**Trumble Gardens
Brigstock Road
CR7 7JH**

For more information please contact Graham Mitchell on 0753057862 or via email on mitch18@outlook.com

The Friends of Trumble Gardens - formed by local people to rescue and nurture a valuable local asset

Graham advised that a [Friends of Trumble Gardens](#) had been set up, and its first action day was the 1st of October between 10am-1pm

Andrea said that at present it was not a very inviting public space.

The last time the gardens were in good condition was in January 2018, but because of cutbacks and lack of maintenance the area has declined and now needs to be improved.

Graham advised that the first task would be to cut back the hedges to the front road, and equipment would be provided by the council. Litter picking would also be carried out.

Linda reminded people that [Gardening Club at Ambassador House](#) was also taking place on that day between 1-3pm and all were welcome to help for as long or as short a time as they felt able to give. She reminded people that bulb donations were also required.

5. Ambassador House planning application

Graham advised the owner of the leasehold had submitted a planning application to convert the commercial parts of the building into flats. They currently have permitted development rights to convert the office part of the building into 66 flats but considers

that the scheme is not worthwhile without also converting the retained floors as flats at the same time, and would therefore walk away from the development.

The planning department have raised a few concerns with the application such as the flats layouts, the finish of the external of the building and the number of three bed flats.

It was also pointed out that no CIL contributions to local infrastructure as part of the application.

It was agreed that as this was a gateway development from the station and any improvement to the building would benefit Thornton Heath, however Andrea made the point that any development must improve the area.

Mohammed raised the issue of all the current development going on in the area without any additional infrastructure to support this increase in accommodation, and this additional 80 plus flats, would only increase the problem.

Barbara however believed any works to improve this building would be in the best interest of Thornton Heath.

6. Community Safety & Crime Reduction

Andrea advised that a scrutiny meeting at the council had taken place on Community Safety & Crime Reduction, and it was interesting to note that they were highlighting many of the issues that THCAT had been raising with the council over the last few years, such as homeless people in the borough, vulnerable people being housed without support, ASB, and fly-tipping.

Barbara advised that because of the high number of complaints in Thornton Heath the Community Trigger department was holding an emergency meeting to discuss the issues being raised this week.

The question of other boroughs moving people into Croydon was also raised.

Andrea raised the issue that the SNT ([Safer Neighbourhood Team](#)) ward panels had not been held for over 8 months.

7. Crowdfunder update on Melfort Rd banner appeal



Andrea advised that the banners along Melfort Road had been put in place four years ago as part of an initiative to improve streets in Thornton Heath. The cost of providing them included the maintenance for the first two years, but since then THCAT had been paying the yearly £1000 approximate cost, which they no longer could afford to do.

They had set up a [Go-fund-me fundraising page](#) to help cover this cost which had so far raised £475 and provided they could raise an additional £325 to get to £800 than a local donor had agreed to pay the balance of the cost to maintain the banners.

The monies needed to be paid by **October 23rd**.

8. Thornton Heath Festive Fair



Sue Ahmad advised that [Thornton Heath's first Festive Fair](#) would take place on the **12th November between 11am-4pm at the Salvation Army** in the High Street.

She advised that they currently have 16 to 18 stalls signed up present, and if anyone wanted to set up a stall the cost was £20 and they should contact Sue.

She also said they were looking for volunteers to help unload and pack cars, and to provide refreshments.

She encouraged as many people as possible to come along to support local makers and small businesses.

To get involved contact Sue via email: thorntonheathlocal@gmail.com or visit [Thornton Heath Local](#) Facebook page.

Thornton Heath Calendar Competition



Sue also mentioned that they were producing a [Thornton Heath calendar](#) and asked people to submit photos by October 22nd: thorntonheathlocal@gmail.com

People who submitted photos would be entered into a competition get a reduction on the purchase of the calendar. Everyone will be able to vote for their favourite Thornton Heath photo at the [Festive Fair](#).

9. Update on Local Community Partnership

A meeting of the Local Community Partnership had taken place on the 21st September at Grace House 80-82 Beulah Road, and Graham, Barbara, Tilly and Paul from THCAT had attended.

Graham advised that the meeting had agreed to target three areas these being:

- Violence against Young People
- Older People
- Mental Health

People were asked to volunteer to work on these groups. Graham agreed to work on the Mental Health with providing gardening opportunities, and Paul agreed to help with Older People communication.

The local Community Partnership is set up by the [Croydon Voluntary Action \(CVA\)](#) and the Local Authority to bring together voluntary organisations and statutory organisations, so they work together to provide services to their locality.

Read more [here](#).

10. Planter Project Relaunch



Graham outlined the relaunch of the [Planter Project](#) in Thornton Heath and asked people to advise of any places they could be placed. He set out a list of asks...

- Are you and a few neighbours able to adopt and maintain a planter?
- Is there a spot near you which you think might benefit having a planter to help deter fly-tipping and generally smarten up the area.
- Is there a planter near you which could do with TLC? If yes, can you adopt it or give the current guardian some help in maintaining it?
- Can you help with physical support in installing planters and removing ones which

are to be relocated.

- Can you build or repair a planter?
- Can you donate some spare plants?

11. AOB

Mohammed advised that councillors had carried out a walkabout in Winterbourne Road to look at fly-tipping.

Graham advised that the council would only remove graffiti from council properties, and private owners would have to pay for removal themselves.

Date of next public meeting

Tuesday 8th November 7-8.30pm

Venue to be confirmed.

We're looking for a Secretary.

Could this be you?



The role includes:

- monitoring our emails
- sending out the newsletter
- taking minutes at meetings

If you're interested, we'd love to hear from you!

action@thorntonheath.net



action@thorntonheath.net

www.thorntonheath.net

