Welcome and Introductions

Key asks from Introductions to be shared with the notes/minutes

* Croydon Loves You Grant Information – <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/community-and-safety/advice-and-funding-community-groups/funding-opportunities/funding-resources/croydon-loves-you-2025-grant-programme>

* Croydon Microenterprise Project –

Croydon Alms-houses <https://www.croydonalmshouses.org.uk/index.html>

Please contact Mclaine, email: mclaineadler@croydonalmshouses.org.uk

**Reverend John Adams of Emmanuel Church:**

Emmanuel Church follows a long tradition of community work with families, children and young people, please check out their website for all the information available.

The information below is not fully inclusive of their offers but that what was important to be mentioned on the day.

Please drop in, get involved and share the word:

Emmanuel Church commitment to supporting young people

* The Church employ a families, youth and children’s worker
* There are a number of groups and activities wide ranging for all to be involved with

Renew Café- Every Friday Outreach, come and give it a try

* Initially set up to invite people to come and work when energy bills began to sky rocket
* “It’s okay not to be okay” is the guiding principle and invitation to the community
* 10am till 4pm
* Craft Café with Mum’s learning the English language
* Tea’s, coffee’s provided
* Lunch is provided, homemade soup

Family Clubs and activities:

* Youth Club – For children 5yr’s to 9yr’s
* Parent & Toddler mornings on a Wednesday
* Bumps and Babes on a Thursday afternoon
* Saturdad’s, once a month.

**Carol, Co-Chair of the LCP:**

Croydon’s interfaith network brings together leaders from Croydon’s faith sector.

Croydon’s churches and faith groups are working as hard as ever to continue to support families and individuals to flourish in the community. Behind the walls of the church and mosque buildings there is an abundance of community activity and an invitation to connect.

**Community Plans for the Central West Local Community Partnership:**

<https://cvalive.org.uk/empowering-the-community/networks/local-community-partnerships/croydon-central-west-local-c/>

**Sarah Burns, Director of Communities Croydon Voluntary Action**

“Please join us for the following events and activities”

* THE PARTNERSHIP – Building Council, Health and VCS relations in Croydon NEXT MEETING 14TH APRIL 10AM at Croydon Town Hall
* Croydon Carnival – Celebrating Croydon’s community, culture, food, entertainment and more EARLY JULY 2025 WATCH THIS SPACE

Food Bank and Soup Kitchen Network

* To find local foodbanks and soup kitchens please use - <https://croydon.simplyconnect.uk/>
* Often those struggling the most to make ends meet are those with no recourse to public funds. This is a vital issue highlighted in recent conversation with Emmanuel Church and partners. **FYI**The Council also have a designated team supporting these folks.- <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/adult-health-and-social-care/immigration-and-asylum-support>

**James Kelleher - Ourspace**

Ourspace is dedicated to improve mental wellbeing through tackling isolation and lonliness.

Ourspace began small with a big building and now myriad groups enter and move on as part of their own journey to connect and progress with their own ambitions.

Ourspace offers partnership working with anybody as long as it benefits the local community.

Although Ourspace may look closed, it’s nearly always open:

* Open 6 nights a week for self defence classes and more- come get involved
* Open 5 mornings a week for social activities, coffee mornings, mental health groups, tai chi and more- come get involved

The best way to get involved is to come along on a Friday morning between 10 and 12 and speak with Sahra, who runs a coffee morning called All Walks of Life.

You can find Sahra back at Ourspace on 4th Aril 2025.

**Community News in 2025:**

* Crime Prevention Day on 11th October 2025, facilitated by Waddon Croydon Neighbourhood Watch

* Wellbeing walks are taking place in the Community. Walk leaders needed! Please contact Creative Health

* VAWG  (Violence Against Women and Girls) action group is being led by Chloe Smith from Croydon Voluntary Action, following an event on 8th March 2025 which was a community event centring the voices and stories of those affected by VAWG and Domestic Violence. Please join this action group if you’re able to share your time chloe.smith@cvalive.org.uk

* Skebable is a once a month celebration of Croydon’s creative talent, the recent event at the Front Room on St Georges Walk was a huge success. The next event is coming up soon! <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/skibabble-and-friends-in-the-frontroom-tickets-1283918818749?aff=oddtdtcreator>

**Please note that our next meeting with be on:**

**Thursday 12th June**

**6pm till 8pm**

**Venue TBC**

We look forward to seeing you there, have a great week.

With regards

Your Co-Chairs Carol and James W

&

Sarah, Andrew and James M