Upper Norwood District Plotholders’ Society Ltd

Historical notes from the minutes of Croydon Allotments Committee

* January 1909 – deputation to Council to provide allotments in Upper Norwood. Crown Hill site mentioned.
* December 1917 – notes from conference say several allotment societies ‘recently formed’. Although UNDPS is not mentioned by name, this is a good indication of its start.
* Schedule of Allotments and Societies at 14 January 1918 lists UNDPS with sites at Hermitage Road (6 acres), Chevening Road (1 acre), Grecian Crescent, Preston Road and Orleans Road (last three are small bits). The Secretary is noted as Mr P Hewitt of 1 Rockmount Road, Upper Norwood.
* July 1918 – lands entered into for allotments under the Cultivation of Lands Order lists UNDPS with a total of over 18 acres and 238 plotholders.
* November 1919 – decision to purchase Hermitage Road site.
* 14 April 1921 – Society registers as an Industrial & Provident Society. Roll number 8738R. (Needed to be able to take lease on land).
* March 1922 – Society applies to lease site.
* March 1922 – Council leases Hermitage Road and Chevening Road sites from Ecclesiastical Commissioners for 14 years from 25 November 1921 at £30 pa.
* May 1922 -Society’s lease agreed for 6 acre Chevening Road site. FIRST CROYDON SOCIETY TO DO THIS.
* June 1922 – Society asks to take over management of Hermitage Road site currently Direct Let.
* March 1928 – Society requests new land to accommodate those to be displaced from Hermitage Road.
* April 1934 – leases on Davidson Road and Crown Hill grounds to be terminated.
* December 1938 – potential sites at Convent Wood/Hermitage Road requested by Society as allotments. Council decides Biggin Wood sufficient for current demand.
* February 1939 – note that Ecclesiastical Commissioners served notice to quit on Chevening Road and Orleans Road sites.
* March 1939 – Society notified of termination of lease on Chevening Road site. Twenty four tenants transfer to new Biggin Wood site.
* May 1939 – Biggin Wood site purchase completed.
* First lease on Biggin Wood site – 5 years from 25 December 1939 at £30pa rent