

Crookham Village Parish Council

Parish News



Parish Council
Issue 14 November 2013

More New Housing in the Parish ?

Hart Council's Local Development Plan failed preliminary inspection in July this year primarily due to inadequate cooperation with adjacent local authorities when determining proposed housing numbers. HDC still believes that its arguments to limit housing development in Hart due to its position adjacent to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA - an area of ground-nesting birds protected under EU legislation) are sound and are enhancing their arguments in support. The Inspector also criticised Hart for not having an up-to-date assessment of market housing needs required to justify the numbers of new houses required during the plan period.. This is now being produced and will be discussed with adjoining districts to see how needs can best be met across the wider region. Hart does have some interim planning policies in place for use by their planning department, but these do not give a desired level of protection from development on sites not previously identified as suitable for development. Instead, greatest weight will be given to more general policies in the government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which is heavily biased in favour of approving 'sustainable' development.

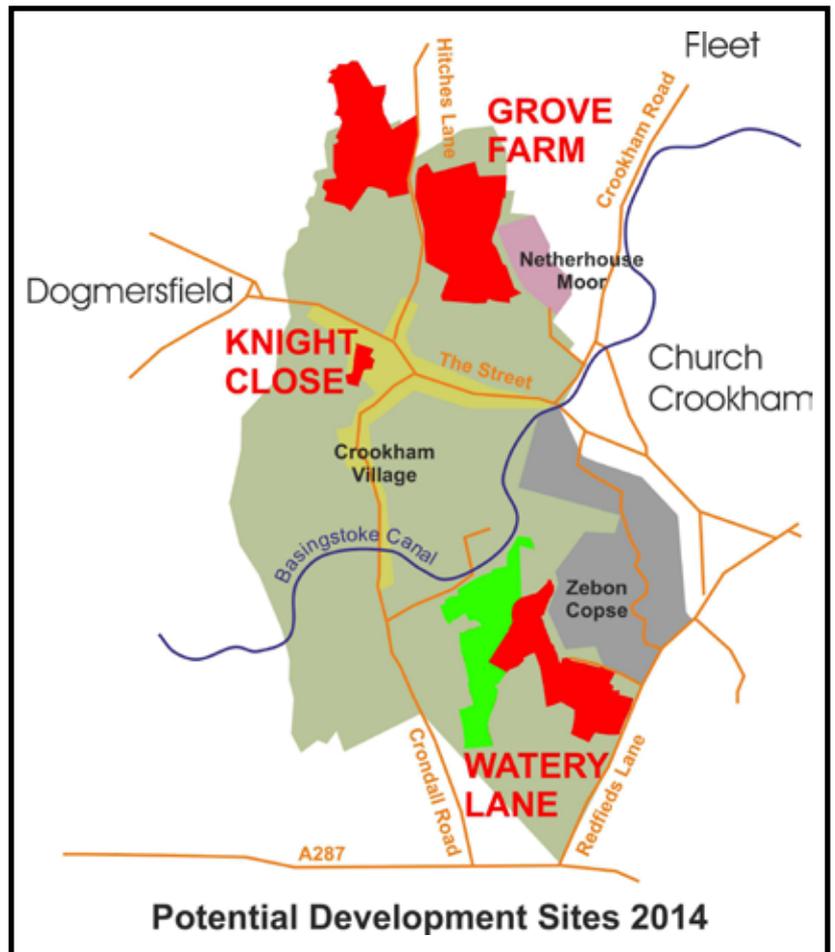
Grove Farm: An ecological survey is being carried out on the Grove Farm site between Netherhouse Moor and Hitches Lane, which was previously removed from the draft Local Plan after the FACE-IT campaign. It now seems likely that the potential developer (Berkeley Homes) is preparing to submit a planning application some time in 2014.

Watery Lane: A pre-application submission by developer Martin Grant for around 340 dwellings on this site adjacent to Watery Lane and behind St Nicholas School was submitted to Hart in November 2013. It seems likely that a formal planning application will be submitted in the near future. Readers may wish to know that a group of adjacent residents are forming a group to resist this development, possibly within FACE-IT. ZWAG (Zebon Watery Lane Action Group) can be contacted via ZWAG_enquiries@yahoo.com.

Tudgey's Nursery: Talks have been under way for some months between a potential developer and Crookham Village Association about a small housing development on the erstwhile site of Tudgey's Nursery. As a result, a pre-application submission to Hart Council in late November proposed 23 houses plus a small open space on this site off Knight Close.

The Parish Council has yet to determine whether it opposes or supports any of these potential developments, a decision which can only be taken when formal planning applications have been received. However, in the meantime, the parish council is talking to all three developers with the aim of ensuring that, if any do come forward and are approved, they will cause minimum damage to the environment, give maximum benefit to the community, and that infrastructure and traffic issues will be fully considered and mitigated to the greatest extent.

It is vital that, should planning applications be submitted for any of these sites, parishioners submit their own views to Hart council within the allocated time windows. Local democracy depends on local participation - if you want to be heard, you have to make the effort to contribute. There will also be the opportunity, at meetings in public, to offer views to the parish council before it makes its own input to Hart.



Pilcot Road Footway

In June, after years of lobbying by the CVPC, Hampshire County Council gave the go ahead for a narrow footway along Pilcot Road from Knight Close to the parish boundary, despite considerable opposition from Dogmersfield Parish Council. Initially the work was planned for October this year, but this has now been delayed in view of the number of other road works in the area. Work is now expected to start in early 2014 and will take approximately 12 weeks. During this period there will be traffic restrictions and possibly temporary closure of Pilcot Road to through traffic, to allow safe working space for the contractors.

Crondall Road Traffic Calming

Three traffic calming schemes were well presented at the public consultation held in September at the WI hut in the Village and subsequently via the web. There was a good turnout by residents and the consultation period closed on the 9th October. Based on the results of the consultation, CVPC together with representatives of the Crondall Road Action Group (CRAG) recently met with Hampshire County Council and agreed a final draft scheme to be taken forward by HCC highways engineers. Funding is already in place and it is hoped that preparations can now proceed at a reasonable pace.

Speed Watch

Speedwatch continues to be a success thanks to Brian Whyatt and his team using the CVPC Speed Indicator Device (SID) to detect vehicles exceeding the local speed limit and then passing details to the local police. So much so that the Parishes of Long Sutton and South Warnborough are gearing up to start their own schemes on the back of CVPC's results. The initial three sites in Crookham Village have produced good feedback to the police, who are now looking to offer us more locations. Team members are trained by the police to operate the equipment to approved standards and to follow strict Health and Safety guidelines during their activities.

MORE VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED. Please contact the clerk.

CVPC also uses its SID to warn motorists of excessive speed and to collect traffic statistics on main roads through the parish.



Malthouse Bridge Repairs

The brickwork abutment of Malthouse Bridge at and below water level on the opposite side to the towpath has seriously deteriorated, requiring urgent remedial work. The canal has been dammed either side of the bridge to allow the water level to be lowered to allow work on restoring this listed structure, which dates back to the late 1700s. At present it is not intended to close the road over the bridge, but temporary closures may be required to complete the work safely. Latest news is that the damage is worse than had been anticipated. As a result, it is likely that repairs will be made in sections to preserve the structural integrity of the bridge and may not be completed until January.



Lengthsman Scheme

CVPC is currently looking into participating in the Parish Lengthsman scheme operated by Hampshire County Council.

Under this scheme, CVPC would have access to funds which could be spent on odd jobs associated with the highways and environs in the Parish. An example would be to cut back encroaching vegetation on highways land to improve sight lines, although we still could not deal with vegetation on private land which would remain the responsibility of HCC. Fleet Parish Council have been running a successful pilot scheme for some time and, if we decide to join the scheme, CVPC would likely join with other local councils in forming a Lengthsman Group with Fleet Parish acting as a lead council.



Footpath News



Before

Footpath 1 (next to Old Forge, The Street):

The Community Payback Team has once again been engaged to work for CVPC on the section of Footpath 1 beside Old Forge from The Street. Previously these teams of people working off their community sentences have refurbished the footpath surface, dug out the ditch and shored up the sides with wooden shuttering.

This time they cleared the ditch once again and cut back overhanging vegetation.



After



Before

Footpath 5 (near Riverside Cottage):

The section of footpath 5 running parallel to the canal from Riverside Cottage becomes a quagmire in wet weather and is very difficult to negotiate. After extended negotiations with the two landowners involved, work has finally been completed by Hampshire Rangers with funding from CVPC to add a soak-away under the path that drains into the adjacent ditch. The new hoggin surface, whilst very yellow and sandy-looking at the moment, will gradually naturalise into a much-less intrusive all-weather surface.



Gravel-filled soakaway before covering

Leaf Blowing:

CVPC will again employ a contractor to blow leaves from main paths through Zebon Copse woodland and along the towpath from Malthouse Bridge to Chequers Wharf. This helps to reduce the build-up of leaf mould, which makes these paths muddy and slippery in wet weather. This work will take place once the majority of leaves have fallen.

Support for the Old or Infirm

Communicare Voluntary Transport Support

Those who lack their own transport, or who have other issues in getting around, may like to investigate the services offered by Communicare Voluntary Transport Support. This voluntary organisation offers such help as Hospital, GP and other health transport and certain other transport-related help. There are two local groups: Fleet & District (01252 613121) and Crondall & Ewshot (01252 851385). Anyone who would like help OR to offer help is welcome to make contact. See www.goodneighbours.org.uk for more detail.

Meals on Wheels Food and Friendship Service

From 11 November 2013, afternoon tea can now be delivered to Meals on Wheels customers..

The Food and Friendship service is free of charge and is available to Meals on Wheels customers who would like a regular visit from a friendly volunteer for at least half an hour, now running between the hours of 11.30am – 4pm

The service is run by Age Concern Hampshire, funded by Hampshire County Council and the District Councils. The service runs in all districts across Hampshire except the New Forest.

Volunteers call on Meals on Wheels customers at home and help make mealtimes a little more enjoyable, to chat about things that interest the client, and to let them know what is going on in their local community. Volunteers can also offer ideas on healthy snacks and meals, for which full training and support is provided by Age Concern Hampshire.

If you would like to know more about Food and Friendship or know of any organisations that may be interested then please call on 01962 892455 or email food&friendship@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk.

Crookham War Memorial

In October 2013, Crookham Village Parish Council agreed to provide funds, in a joint initiative with Church Crookham Parish Council, to add an inscription to the Galley Hill War Memorial Cross in honour of the war dead of the Parish during the Second World War and other conflicts past and present.

Cllrs Simon Ambler (Chairman) and David Jackson (Vice-Chairman) represented the Parish Council at a ceremony on Remembrance Sunday to unveil the new plaque.

The occasion attracted an impressive number of local people, including many youngsters, and Gally Hill Road was closed during the ceremony. Cllr Ambler (R) laid a wreath on behalf of CVPC.

Cllrs Jackson (CVPC - L) and Jenny Radley (CCPC) unveiled the new plaque and read names of the dead in a special ceremony of rededication, which was followed by a commemorative service at nearby Christ Church.



Zebon Copse Community Centre



We were sad to see both Claire and Sarah leave the centre earlier this year. After three years of dedicated service, they will be greatly missed and our thanks for all their hard work go to both of them. However, we were lucky to be able to recruit two new managers, Tabby Powell and Rebecca Reilly, under whose enthusiastic management ZCC continues to thrive.

Rebecca (R) joined us earlier this year and brought instant value with her background in commercial management, sales and marketing. Having taken time out to bring up her family, Rebecca is enjoying the challenge of once again having to juggle a busy home life, work and her hobbies of running and cooking.

Tabby (L) started with ZCC in June (having regularly used ZCC for some 3 years with her Toddler group). Tabby brings marketing and administration skills based on her previous career as a

hotel conference and banqueting manager. She is well known in the local community for her work at ZCC, her Toddler Group, her fund-raising activities and as a lunchtime supervisor at Crookham Infant School.

On the business front, another sad loss this summer was Abercorn Playgroup, which had been a major user of ZCC since 1993. Despite this loss, we still have a large and varied group of regular users and remain a popular party venue for all age groups. In parallel, football usage goes from strength to strength. We are actively marketing our session vacancies and are excited at the prospect of some new interesting and diverse activities for you to enjoy.



Lea Green Play Area (Netherhouse Moor)

Despite the delays in taking over responsibility for the Lea Green area from Hart District Council, CVPC has decided to progress the building of a new play area on this space. The CVPC working group were given presentations by the two main potential contractors, following which the contract has now been let to one of them. There will be a new fenced toddler play area together with pieces of equipment targeted at older children and adults.

On the HDC front there is also good news as we understand that HDC should shortly be in a position to offer a long term lease on this land. We hope to start building the new play areas early in the new year so that all the new facilities are available for the spring.

In addition, CVPC has recently awarded the contract for the repair of the footpath across Lea Green which had been subject to a poor quality repair by HDC. The new path will replace the current path and will be tarmac with concrete edging to ensure that it is safe in both winter and summer alike. The path will also provide access to the new play area.

Hampshire Village of the Year

Crookham Village was entered into the Village of the Year awards run by the Hampshire Association of Local Councils and came a well-deserved 3rd in the 'Village' category.

Special congratulations are also due to all at Crookham Stores, which won a special award for best Village Amenity Shop, Post Office and Coffee Shop.



Full Complement of Councillors Now in Place

Councillor Judy Coleman was co-opted as a member for the Crookham Village ward in September 2013.

Councillor Julie Kelly was co-opted as a member for the Zebon Ward in November 2013.

Councillor Wendy Makepeace-Browne

Wendy was co-opted onto the council in May 2013 as member for the Netherhouse ward. She has lived in Netherhouse Moor for nearly 16 years and felt that it was time to do something for the community. Wendy has a strong corporate background and has, for the last 12 years, run her own personal development business. Married with 2 teenage step-sons, she has a busy life fitting everything and everyone in, but is always up for a coffee and a chat.



Your Council

Chair: Cllr Simon Ambler (Z)

Vice Chair & Chair Planning Committee: Cllr David Jackson (Z)

Chair Finance Committee: Cllr Julia Ambler (Z)

Cllr Philip Ashton (Z)

Cllr Peter Crawley (V)

Cllr Judy Johnson (V)

Cllr Julie Kelly (Z)

Cllr Wendy Makepeace-Browne (N)

Clerk : Mrs Carol Leversha

Responsible Finance Officer: Mrs Angela Sayers

(N) Netherhouse Ward, (V) Crookham Village Ward) and (Z) Zebon Ward

Please contact the council via the Clerk:

Daegmersfield Farm, Church Lane, Dogmersfield, RG27 8SZ

Tel : 01252 810568

Email : clerk@crookhamvillage-pc.org.uk