

# Crookham Village Parish Council Parish News



Issue 15 November 2014

## Crookham Village Neighbourhood Plan

Crookham Village Parish Council is currently working on preparing a Neighbourhood Plan which will provide a unique opportunity for our community to be closely involved with future development within the Parish. In response to the potential for unwanted development, we believe it is vital that we make use of all channels open to us to maximise our influence over outcomes. Once ratified, the Neighbourhood Plan will become a lawful document shaped by local people and will form part of the Local Development Plan produced by the local authority. Prior to achieving statutory status, the plan will be subject to a public referendum which must return a greater than 50% 'yes' vote for the plan to be adopted.

Supported by an external consultant and Hart DC, three CVPC Councillors will be producing the plan with guidance and help from the rest of the Parish Council. We are engaging with local community groups such as 'FACE-IT' and representatives from Zebon Copse and the Village who have now become members of the NP steering group with specific tasks looking at the local economy, the local environment, community issues and infrastructure.

As Neighbourhood Plans must comply with overall government guidelines, it is not possible simply to prevent housing on a large scale, but having a plan in place will allow us to specify the kind of development needed within a defined areas of our neighbourhood. We can also determine the areas that should be protected such as green spaces or historic sites, and identify the style and type of development which can take place such as housing, retail, employment, community facilities, or mixed. Neighbourhood Plans can also identify ways to improve our public spaces and pedestrian links.

Community engagement is vital to our plan's development and your views were sought at a community drop-in session at the Zebon Copse Centre on July 13th. The session provided opportunities to gather feedback from both adults and children; a logo competition for the younger ones and a chance for people to get involved if they want to be part of shaping our future here in the Parish. Feedback from the session clearly showed how concerned we all are about traffic and transport through the area, poor provision of both primary, secondary and sixth form schools to satisfy the needs of an expanding population and the threat to our dearly loved wildlife and wilderness areas. Other concerns focussed on the need for more non-car travel options in future developments, better healthcare provision and leisure and recreation provision which provides for both the young and the older residents.



The NP Steering Group are now taking your ideas forward to formulate our draft plan and will be holding regular drop in sessions as the plan progresses and sending regular updates. The CVPC website will post the dates and venues of forthcoming meetings of the steering group and future consultations.

Cllrs Richard Eastment, Judy Johnson and Wendy Makepeace-Browne look forward to working with the whole community and hearing your views. Use the contact details below or email [neighbourhoodplan@crookhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodplan@crookhamvillage.org.uk).

## Contacting the Parish Council

Correspondence should be addressed to the clerk at:

Daegmarsfield Farm Church Lane Dogmersfield Hook RG27 8SZ Tel: 01252 810568 [clerk@crookhamvillage-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@crookhamvillage-pc.org.uk)

### Contacting individual Parish Councillors and Officers

All email addresses have the format: *firstname.surname@crookhamvillage-pc.org.uk*

Visit the Parish Council web site at [www.crookhamvillage-pc.org.uk](http://www.crookhamvillage-pc.org.uk) for latest news, contacts and minutes.

More information about Zebon Copse Centre is at [www.zeboncopsecentre.org.uk](http://www.zeboncopsecentre.org.uk) or phone 01252-615003

## Neighbourhood Plan Logo Competition

We were overwhelmed at the standard of entries to our recent Neighbourhood Plan children's logo competition. The drawings entered were all brilliant and in the end it proved impossible to choose just one so we didn't ... we chose several! Thanks and congratulations to: Connie age 5, Harri age 8, George age 9 and Lottie age 9. Your drawings will form our CVPC Neighbourhood Plan logo and will also be included in the document in relevant sections for a bit of fun.

## Netherhouse Moor Play Area on Lea Green

Over the last year, CVPC has been working hard to replace the children's play equipment on Lea Green which had to be decommissioned last winter when it became too unsafe to use. We have worked with local residents to find out what new equipment was wanted and with three well known play equipment providers to develop suitable plans for the whole area. From our discussion with residents, it was clear that our plans should be wider than simply replacing



the previous equipment designed for younger children and provide something that could be used by the whole community. As a result, we decided to provide a toddler's play area in a fenced area initially which could, over the next few years, be supplemented by equipment for older children and adults in the surrounding open area. Due to the unusually wet winter last year, the replacement of the toddler's play area took longer than anticipated but by May 2014, the ground was dry enough to start work.



Work was completed by the end of May and the new play area opened to the public despite the fact that the tarmac path to the play area had yet to be completed. The replacement of the tarmac pathway which traverses the Netherhouse Moor open area and which provides easy access to the new play area was finally completed in mid June.

**Breaking News:** CVPC has been negotiating with Hart DC, the landowner, to take responsibility for the area. We are pleased to say that the new lease has now been signed and in future CVPC will take responsibility for the maintenance of the area.



## The Local Emergency Plan – YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!

Emergencies happen! We have excellent emergency responders in our local Police and Fire and Rescue Services, but as we saw earlier this year with floods across Hampshire, there are times when there are just not enough of them.

There are a number of emergencies that we as a community need to be prepared for, including flooding and really severe weather, and Parishes are now developing their own Emergency Plans. The real aim of the plan will be to let us support the vulnerable members of our community.

**CAN YOU HELP?** Although it is really unlikely we will need to activate the plan, if we do we may need to draw on local resources. If you have any useful skills or assets it would be great to include you in the Plan. Are you:

A doctor, nurse or first aider

A 4x4 or tractor owner who could help in severe weather?

A chainsaw operative (in case roads get blocked by falling trees)

A volunteer driver who could get vulnerable people to medical support

An organiser of a voluntary organisation who could help

Equipped with any other skills that would help in an emergency?

If so, please contact Councillor Richard Eastment on 07710 501825 who will be delighted to discuss the plan with you.

## Zebon Copse Centre

Situated at the end of Danvers Drive, the Zebon Copse Centre is a vibrant, busy community centre surrounded by playing fields and two fantastic children's play areas. The centre comprises of two large halls, one of which has a stage and an AV System. These halls can be booked separately or the whole centre can be hired exclusively. There is also a smaller meeting room available to hire for up to 10 people. Facilities also include a large, well-equipped kitchen area, Wi-Fi access, stage lighting and a free car park for both sports and hall users. We also have a sports pavilion for sporting groups who use the playing fields.



The centre is used by the local community for a wide range of events from family fun days, fetes and quiz nights to wedding receptions and training courses. We are also a hugely popular birthday party venue.

We have a busy weekly timetable of activities which include Bridge clubs, adult art groups, yoga, Perform drama groups for children, Scout meetings, Baby Sensory classes, Toddler Sense classes, a mother and toddler group, Zumba classes, a Slimming World group, a youth choir, children's art and craft classes and pre-school martial art classes.

Bookings and enquiries can be made using forms on [www.zeboncopsecentre.org.uk](http://www.zeboncopsecentre.org.uk) or by calling our friendly centre managers on 01252 615003.



## Pilcot Road—Local Councillors open long awaited footway

CVPC, Hart DC and HCC Councillors with local residents attended the opening of the long awaited Pilcot Road footway in July 2014. The project was started by Crookham Village Parish Council in 2004 following a campaign by local residents to point out the dangers of walking with their children along Pilcot Hill to Dogmersfield Primary School and was supported by a 500 signature petition organised by local residents Sarah and Jerome Farrell.

This campaign was given a further boost when in 2006, local resident and former parish councillor Indra Sinka, worked with Dogmersfield Primary School to develop a school travel plan which had at its heart, the footway between the two villages. In 2009, Jenny Radley, as the HCC councillor for the area took up the challenge and thanks to her efforts coupled with an offer of funding from the Parish Council, in 2011 HCC agreed to support the scheme and the design work started in earnest. Following a consultation with local residents, work finally began on the footway in early 2014 and was completed by June. Even before the work was finally completed, we observed that countless residents were using it on a daily basis to take their children to school as well as other essential trips between the villages.



## Planning update

As anticipated, in the absence of a Hart Local Plan, developers are keen to submit major applications. The first in our Parish was 14/00504/MAJOR for Land at Watery Lane, an outline application for up to 300 residential units, retail space and a GP surgery. Applications of this size necessitate all our Councillors spending significant time going through the many relevant documents so that meaningful comments can be submitted to Hart DC, the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

CVPC held a well-attended public meeting in June where we took comments from local residents and made a resolution to object to the application. The application was subsequently debated by the Hart DC Planning Committee in September, where to ensure the views of all local residents were fairly represented in the limited time allotted, CVPC spoke to voice their concerns alongside representatives from FACE-IT. As a result of the arguments put forward by both CVPC and FACE-IT, the LPA decided to reject the application. The developer has lodged an appeal; the date isn't known at present but it is likely that this will be heard in Summer 2015. CVPC will AGAIN need to present our concerns and will be grateful, once again, for the support and expertise that local residents and groups can offer.

The other major application in our Parish is 14/01387/MAJOR for Land North of Netherhouse Copse, an area of Grove Farm adjacent to Hitches Lane just south of the Leisure Centre where the application is for 423 residential dwellings. At another public meeting in August, CVPC again resolved to object to this proposal. This application has yet to be considered by Hart, but once again we will speak at the meeting to ensure that residents' views are fully represented.

## Goodbye 'Lesleys' by Cllr Peter Crawley

We greet the news that Bill Reece is retiring on November 29 with a mixture of pleasure and dismay. Pleased that he will be able to enjoy a time to relax, but dismay that we shall lose his cheery greeting whenever we visited his shop. He certainly deserves a break after having served the Village for 50 years since he arrived in 1964. Until his recent illness he had only been away for one week during his long tenure. Every morning, he is up at 5 am to sort out the newspapers for his team of paper boys and girls to deliver, and I don't remember a single error in all that time. Making sure that his regular customers could always find their preferred magazines, cigarettes and sweets. One of those chaps who make life go more smoothly for everyone, he and his wife Christine arrived from Southampton with the idea that they would take over the shop for 3 years while they decided on their next move. They enjoyed the village so much, he says, that they never took that next step.

Bill has seen a great deal of change in his time. He started out with toys and gifts, but they went out of fashion. Supermarkets reduced the sales of confectionery, the campaign against smoking destroyed that side of his trade, and the internet decimated his newspaper customers. When he started he had 14 paper deliverers, now it is down to three. He sold over 200 children's Christmas albums; now there are none. Then his business was profitable, now he is lucky to break even. This means that nobody will buy the business, so it will close, though he has found someone to take over the paper round. He thought of moving but has decided against it; instead he intends to turn the premises into a house and put up his feet. Perhaps he will call the house 'Lesley's'. I wonder if he will be able to cease rising at 5 am?

Bill knows more about the villagers than anyone else, but our secrets are safe with him; he refused to tell me any anecdotes about his rare contretemps; he says he has enjoyed such good relations with his staff and customers that that he doesn't want to spoil that relationship. We shall all miss you and wish you the very best retirement, Bill and Christine, and we look forward to seeing you around the village for many years to come.

## Crondall Road Traffic Calming

HCC are finalising the design for further traffic calming on Crondall Road, which should also include extending the areas covered by 30mph and 40mph speed limits south of the canal. It is anticipated that work will start in the New Year. Provisional plans for a footpath from the canal car park to the Exchequer are at an advanced stage of preparation and will be available for viewing and comment.

## Housing on Tudgey's Nursery

Since the original application 14/01152/MAJOR in June, comments submitted by residents and CVPC resulted in resubmission by the developer with revisions to the original designs and layout. CVPC decided not to object to the latest plans, which have yet to be determined by Hart DC.