

Crookham Village Parish Council

Parish News



Issue 11 August 2011

Parish Councillors

The remaining members of Crookham Village Parish Council were very sorry to hear of the recent resignation of Cllr Brian Whyatt and are most grateful for his excellent work on the council.

Consequently, there are now two vacant seats on the council - one each for the Village and Zebon wards.

All seats on the council are up for re-election in May 2012, but CVPC would like to fill the two immediate vacancies by co-option to restore full councillor numbers as soon as possible. There is therefore an ideal opportunity for potential candidates to dip their toes in the water for a few months before deciding if they wish to seek a full 4-year term via the elections next year.

Please contact the Clerk or any councillor to find out more about serving on the Parish Council.

Allotments

CVPC was recently asked about provision of allotments. Bids for allotments locally are currently being handled by Hart District Council. Contact Hart Grounds Maintenance Team on 01252-774106 or email grounds.maintenance@hart.gov.uk if you wish to put your name on the list or to enquire about allotments.

The best chance of getting new allotments is during negotiations for new developments. This has already happened for the Edenbrook development on Hitches Lane and will be pursued by the Parish Council for any future large-scale local developments.

Cron dall Road Traffic Calming

The enhanced traffic calming along Cron dall Road has not produced the required effect and CVPC has therefore negotiated with HCC for a further scheme based on that proposed by Doug McCallum, which is currently being worked on by Hampshire traffic engineers. In parallel, efforts continue to secure the required funding. More news when available.

Meanwhile, the Parish Council will continue to object to housing developments that would impact on traffic flows through the Village until acceptable schemes have been identified and funded for affected through routes.

Pilcot Road Footway

Hampshire traffic engineers are also working on detail of a footway along that part of Pilcot Road that lies within our parish. A detailed survey concluded that it would not be practical to install a footway across the bridge near the Queens Head. Nevertheless, CVPC has decided that a footway for most of the way would be preferable to none at all and is strongly pressing for the scheme to go ahead. Once again, more news when available.

Trading Standards and Police Warnings

From time to time CVPC receives warnings from Trading Standards and the Police. These are now being posted on the parish council web site. Parishioners are advised to check from time to time to keep up to date.

PUBLIC MEETING

8pm Monday 12 September 2011

Zebon Copse Centre

to seek parishioners' views on proposals for future development affecting our parish in Hart Council's consultation documents on the Local Development Framework (LDF)

see overleaf

Contacting the Parish Council

Correspondence should be addressed to the clerk at:

Daegmarsfield Farm . Church Lane . Dogmersfield . Hook RG27 8SZ
01252 810568 clerk@crookhamvillage-pc.org.uk

Contacting individual Councillors and Officers

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

Visit the web site at www.crookhamvillage-pc.org.uk for latest news, contacts, minutes etc.

Future Housing Developments Consultation on the Local Development Framework (LDF)

The next step after the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), which was the subject of a very well-attended public meeting in the WI hall in June 2009 at which the SHLAA proposals were unanimously rejected, is the first public draft of the Local Development Framework for Hart (the successor to the Local Plan) covering the period up to 2028. See www.hart.gov.uk for full details.

Hart Council has decided that their preferred approach is broadly to add extra housing round the periphery of Fleet plus smaller development in or adjacent to existing settlements elsewhere in the District. This strategic approach is now the subject of public consultation with a response date by 9 October 2011.

A public meeting will be held in Zebon Copse Centre at 8pm on Monday 12 September 2011 with the twin objectives of informing those who attend of the current Hart proposals and to get feedback to the Parish Council on parishioners' responses.

The debate will fall into a number of sections, including:

- **Are there other more-viable strategic approaches?**
- **What are the implications of the current proposals on Crookham Village?**
- **What mitigation should we seek if current proposals go ahead?**

Simply saying 'not in my back yard' will not suffice. Logical argument and alternative viable proposals are the only way that proposals for significant changes will be taken seriously. Please come to the meeting with positive suggestions rather than negative rejections.

It will also be very important that individual parishioners send in their own views of the proposals to Hart before 7 October and please send a copy to the Parish Council so we can take full account of your considered responses.

See the opposite page for Hart Council's justification for the Grove Farm proposal, which covers only the Northern part of the SHLAA site and does not include the original SHLAA proposal for a Country Park buffer between the housing and Crookham Village.



This map is based on Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. ©Crown copyright. CVPC PSMA licence number 100047236.

Locally Listed Buildings

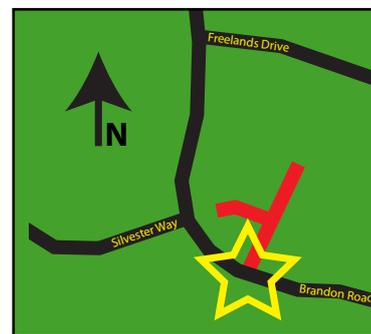
Hart Council is reviewing the list of Locally Listed Buildings and has asked CVPC to submit a list of those buildings in the parish which deserve particular care over either their setting or structure and which are not already listed as Grade II or above. Buildings on the Local List are not subject to statutory controls, but "policies within the Local Plan seek to protect and conserve such buildings wherever possible." CVPC will welcome suggestions for local listing from parishioners. See www.hart.gov.uk for details of the Listed Building Register.

Brandon Road Speeds

The Parish Council owns a Speed Indicator Device (SID) which records time and speed of vehicles and is deployed from time to time at various locations around the Parish.

Following concerns expressed by residents, the SID was recently placed for two weeks on Brandon Road examining traffic entering the estate from Gally Hill Road in the vicinity of the exit from 1-9 Brandon Road. This concealed exit is just round the corner after the junction with Silvester Way and residents report a number of near misses as vehicles approach at excessive speed from the Gally Hill Road direction. Notwithstanding the 30mph limit, due caution suggests that a lower speed is more in keeping with the layout of the road and the possibility of vehicles exiting from the concealed exit on the left.

The SID record shows that a small number of vehicles were speeding at up to 38mph during the day and that many were driving very close to 30mph. Please SLOW DOWN as you approach this difficult exit.



Parish Noticeboards

The Parish Council has four noticeboards on Zebon Copse Estate and one each in Crookham Village and Netherhouse Moor. These boards are primarily for the display of Parish notices, minutes etc and publicity for local community events. They are not really there to provide free advertising space for anyone to use without restriction, especially when unofficial notices obscure or otherwise detract from the core displays, or when casual users remove core notices. Be advised that the Parish Council reserves the right to remove and dispose of any notice found on its noticeboards and that unofficial items will be removed first, especially if they cover others. If the current selfish behaviour continues, the Council will consider whether covered noticeboards will better ensure that key notices remain visible, in which case no private notices could be displayed. Please be considerate and do not cover up Parish or community notices, or deface or remove legitimate notices already in place.



Strategic Location 3: West Fleet (east of Hitches Lane)

Analysis

A7.71 This strategic location could conceivably form an urban extension to the west of Fleet. The strategic location currently comprises two distinct areas of agricultural land and woodland. It is of a large-scale and could supply a significant proportion of the residual quantity of housing needed in Hart in the plan period.

A7.72 The strategic location would also appear to be able to provide, in conjunction with residential development, significant areas of open space, hence the high scoring for potential for recreation.

A7.73 The south-east corner of the strategic location is located within part of the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area. The strategic location is also closely related to the Crookham Village and Dogmersfield Conservation Areas. There are two listed buildings within the strategic location, at Grove Farm farmstead, and a number of listed and locally listed buildings in Crookham Village.

A7.74 These historic assets are concentrated in the south of the strategic location. If development were to occur in this part of the strategic location, then there would be greater capacity for impacting this historic context than if development was located only in the area north of Netherhouse Copse. The assessment scoring reflects this, with the caveat that the impact would clearly be less if concentrated in the north of the strategic location.

A7.75 This location is within 5km of the SPA, and there is one designated ecological site in the strategic location, a SINC - Netherhouse Copse which is located centrally within the strategic location. There is also a small remnant of ancient woodland in the north-west corner of the site adjacent to Hitches Lane. The south east of the strategic location is closely related to the Basingstoke Canal Site of Special Scientific Interest.

A7.76 Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre studies highlight that four specially protected or Schedule 1 birds¹ (Fieldfare, Yellowhammer, Redwing, Brambling) have been recorded near or on the site. Pipistrelle and Brown Long-Eared bats have also been recorded in the residential areas to the south and west of the site.

A7.77 The strategic location has a mix of grades 3 and 4 agricultural land. Development could be steered towards those parts of the strategic location with lower quality land.

A7.78 The strategic location is generally outside a fluvial floodplain. However, there is a watercourse in the existing residential area to the east. The site has a low potential likelihood of surface water flooding but a high potential likelihood of groundwater flooding. If the strategic location were to come forward for development, the issue of groundwater flooding and its mitigation would be a key issue that would have to be addressed.

A7.79 The strategic location was assessed in the TA as having weak access to facilities and services. The strategic location, if developed, would likely have primary access from Hitches Lane. The TA outlines that this 'link' would not be at 80% capacity in 2026. Likewise, the TA does not highlight any future capacity issues on the main routes to the east (Gally Hill Road) and south (Crandall Road). However, the main route to the south, the A287, is highlighted in the TA as being at 80-90% capacity now and in 2026. Traffic movement to the east will also join roads that are congested. Accordingly, it is scored as having some minor negative impacts.

Landscapes Appraisal

A7.80 This location lies immediately east of Hitches Lane and the current settlement boundary some 400m to the east. The location is characterised as medium scale agricultural land adjacent to the broad flat valley/floodplain of the River Hart.

A7.81 There appear to be two distinct areas within this location. The first area lies just above the surrounding environs of Crookham Village, with Netherhouse Copse and associated east/west tree belts providing full visual separation from the northern portion. The larger northern portion then extends a further 650m to the southern boundary and playing fields of Calthorpe Park Comprehensive School. Apart from this boundary with the school grounds, all other boundaries comprise of hedgerows of varying scales, but all appear in good condition.

A7.82 Unlike Strategic Location 2 (West Fleet, west of Hitches Lane), there is some elevation to the topography so that the northern portion of this location, comprising of 2-3 arable fields, rises gently from the flat river valley to the west to form a strategic but gentle knoll, approximately 10m above the surrounding general ground levels. Designated rights of way (footpaths 503, 502 and 7b) run along the north, east and south areas of the northern portion of this strategic location. One of these links through to the established development currently forming the western edge of Fleet (footpath 7b), and another footpath connects this network to the north of Crookham Village (footpath 6).

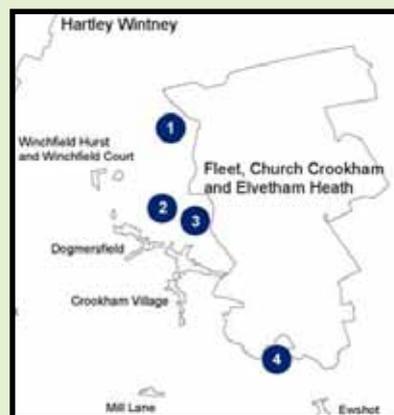
A7.83 As footpath 6 emerges from the northern settlement boundary of Crookham Village, views to this strategic location are truncated by Netherhouse Copse, which combines with high dense hedgerows east and west of the copse to form an effective screen. Due to the depth of tree cover across the full width of this broad location, effective screening may be possible during the leafless months.

A7.84 To the east of the southern area is the boundary of the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area, which abuts directly to the eastern end of the Crookham Village Conservation Area. The Basingstoke Canal Conservation Areas runs north from the Crookham Village Conservation Area encompassing Grove Farm and its associated buildings and structures.

A7.85 Whilst this is a greenfield location, it does appear that development could take place within this area and still be contained, both physically and visually, but this applies to the northern area only. This is because the settlement boundary and rear gardens of The Street, Crookham Village are all clearly visible from most vantage points in the southern area of this location. Any development here will potentially harm the setting of both the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area and the Crookham Village Conservation Area.

A7.86 Currently the hedgerows along Hitches Lane are robust, but in need of management (pruning), or run the risk of becoming too large to be managed in the shorter term as screening i.e. if too large then coppicing to ground level will be required. Hedge laying may be an option but this will significantly scale down the screening ability of the hedgerow for many years. However, if managed in a timely way and with additional native planting to deepen the hedgerows, there is potential to provide dense screening through the leafy months.

A7.87 More significantly perhaps, is the broad gentle knoll that occupies almost an entire field in the northern area. Any development at this higher elevation has the potential to visually impact a far wider area i.e. two-storey residential properties with pitched roofs will add 8-9m. Any potential layout would need to take full account of this and suitably address it without causing visual impact to the wider areas, either urban to the east or rural to the west.



Highway and Street Lighting Problems

Highways and street lighting in our area are managed by Hampshire County Council or their contractors.

If you see any problems with roads, signs, roadside drains, verges etc, please contact Hampshire Highways North on 0845 6035633 or email roads@hants.gov.uk.

Faulty street lights can be reported via <http://www.lightsoninhampshire.co.uk> or 0845 603 5633 in office hours or 0800 048 2437 out of hours. Please know the postcode/location and number (normally stencilled on the pole) of the affected light(s).

Zebon Copse Nature Trail by Natalie Tanzer, lead Ranger for Zebon Copse

This year is continuing to be a busy one for the Rangers who manage Zebon Copse Local Nature Reserve. Based in Yateley, we have recently been working extensively with local volunteers to build the new Zebon Copse Interpretive Nature Trail with funding from the Lottery obtained via Crookham Village Parish Council.

Along with the usual education programme for school groups, countryside events, site maintenance and path works on Yateley Common and our other sites, the Zebon Copse Nature Trail is a 12 month project that will include 8 new interpretive display boards placed around the copse, aimed at encouraging interest in the local wildlife found within the woods. Once the project is completed, pond-dipping will be offered to local schools and groups, and two new paths running through previously inaccessible areas of the copse will be open to the public.

A path was cleared through the willow carr to make space for a new boardwalk and pond, with much-appreciated help from the dedicated Friends of Zebon Copse, and Minding the Garden volunteers. Construction of the new boardwalk is now well underway, with help from the Community Payback Team (Hart). August saw the pond being dug by the very skilful Basingstoke Canal digger operators, and we have also begun to replace the old decking boards on the existing boardwalk with new, longer-lasting, grooved, non-slip decking.

We are also busy with our Countryside Events programme, with a variety of events coming up in August and more being added throughout the year. One of our most recent events was a free Adult Learning Event, where we held 4 workshops including identification skills and survey techniques in pond invertebrates, land invertebrates, butterflies and birds. Other recent events have included an annual Spring Flower Walk (Zebon Copse), Easter Trail (Yateley Common), 3 Ponds Ramble (Yateley Common) and Nightjar Walks (Yateley Common and Castle Bottom NNR).

We are constantly looking for more ways to get local residents involved, so if you have any ideas for an event, are interested in getting involved in any of our works, or have any feedback or suggestions, please get in touch on 01252 870425 or email northern.sites@hants.gov.uk.

More information can be found on our websites: www3.hants.gov.uk/countryside/yateley-country-park; www3.hants.gov.uk/countryside/zebon-copse; and www3.hants.gov.uk/countryside/castle-bottom.



New boardwalk from Pine Island



The pond taking shape

ZEBON COPSE CENTRE

operated by Crookham Village Parish Council

Zebon Copse Centre (at the far end of Danvers Drive, Zebon Copse) is available for hire and is an ideal venue for:

- **Corporate meetings**
- **Training sessions**
- **Regular bookings**
- **Special occasions – parties, including children’s parties**

This venue is conveniently situated for all your needs and benefits include:

- **Flexible layout**
- **Excellent parking area**
- **Special rates for local residents**
- **Projector and sound equipment**
- **Upgraded kitchen facilities**



For further details see www.crookhamvillage-pc.org.uk/zcc.

For availability and rates, or to arrange a viewing contact 01252-615003 or zccbookings@crookhamvillage-pc.org.uk

Meetings of the Parish Council

The Parish Council meets on the first Monday of each month (except August), alternating between the Zebon Copse Centre, Danvers Drive, Zebon Copse and the WI Hall, The Street, Crookham Village.

Meetings start at 7:45 pm and there is an opportunity for members of the public to make 3 minute representations near the beginning of meetings. See www.crookhamvillage-pc.org.uk for further details.