

Crookham Village Parish News



Parish Council

Issue 19 October 2017

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Contacting the Parish Council

Correspondence should be addressed to the clerk at:

Daegmarsfield Farm
Church Lane
Dogmersfield
Hook RG27 8SZ
01252 810568

clerk@crookhamvillage.org.uk

Email addresses of individual Councillors and Officers:

firstname.surname
@crookhamvillage.org.uk

Visit the Parish Council web site at

www.crookhamvillage.org.uk
for latest news, contacts, agendas and minutes.

More information about Zebon Community Centre is at

www.zeboncopsecentre.org.uk
01252-615003
admin@zeboncopsecentre.org.uk

Bus Services Challenged Again

Huge savings required by the government and increased costs are expected to force reductions in Hampshire County Council budgets for transport over the next two years, once again threatening funding for non-commercial bus services in our area. Although the No10 and college services are currently operating as unsubsidised commercial services and thus are not affected, both the No7 Stagecoach service and Fleet Link and other local community transport services potentially will be challenged.

Fleet Link poses a particular problem because the current contract expires on 31 March 2018 and there are very few active users in our parish. It will be very hard, therefore, to justify future contributions from the parish precept when there are only two people making regular use of the service and just three others use it occasionally.

As always with these services, the mantra is "use it or lose it". Details of available services and how to register for Fleet Link are given on the parish web site at www.crookhamvillage.org.uk.

CVPC is a member of a group called **Transport in Hart** which is assessing the future of local community transport and ways in which essential services can be maintained, improved and funded. This group is conducting a survey to assess potential demand and requirements with the aim of making best use of limited resources in the future, including potential contributions from parishes in response to needs of their parishioners as derived from this survey. You will realise, therefore, that unless there is a good response from our parish to the current questionnaire, the odds are that Fleet Link will cease to be available for our parishioners from 1 April next year and the evidence needed to fight potential withdrawal of the No7 service will also be compromised.

It's up to you — if you want local public transport to continue, you must both declare a realistic interest by completing the survey and, equally importantly, USE THE SERVICES!

Volunteers Wanted:

In future it is likely that Community Transport schemes will need to make more use of volunteers as drivers or people who take bookings. If you might be interested in helping in some way, please contact:

Chris Cornwell, Chairman, Transport in Hart:
Telephone: 01252 843251
or email: transportinhart@gmail.com.

To save typing, these links are available on the parish web site under News.

Transport In Hart Survey

Preferred: responses online at

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HartTransport2017>

Limited paper copies available at

Spar Shop Zebon Copse
and Post Office Crookham Village

Return completed copies to same places

Closing date 30 November 2017

Councillor needed for Zebon Copse Ward

The parish is scaled for 8 councillors on the Parish Council. Regrettably, only 5 put their names forward for the elections in 2016 and were duly elected unopposed. Since then vacancies in the Village and Netherhouse wards have been filled by co-option, but no-one has yet volunteered to fill the gap in Zebon ward. Workload for the reduced number of councillors has been significantly increased as a result.

Over the next few years our parish council workload will increase due to the need to deal with the impact of the 300-house Watery Lane development and associated changes to Zebon Community Centre plus similar issues raised by the recent approval of the 430-house Grove Farm development. Given existing workload, including development of the parish Neighbourhood Plan, filling the remaining post has become a matter of some urgency.

Working as a parish councillor is both interesting and rewarding but, as always, you get out what you put in and there is more to the task than just attending monthly meetings. Elections to our parish council are held every 4 years (next due in May 2020), but intermediate vacancies can be filled by co-option if (as in this case) the electorate does not demand a by-election when the vacancy is announced.

We are a very friendly apolitical council with lots to do and would welcome expressions of interest.

The council wishes to fill the remaining gap by co-opting an additional member for Zebon Ward. Full training will be available, so no previous experience required. To find out more, please attend parish council meetings and/or contact the parish clerk (*details on page 1*).

Zebon Community Centre

Zebon Community Centre, owned and managed by Crookham Village Parish Council, is a well-run and maintained community facility which is busy nearly all year round with a range of groups, classes and events taking place during the week and at weekends.

This proves a challenge for the two Centre Managers who oversee the running of the Centre and are responsible for maintaining the building and facilities. With the packed schedule of all that goes on at the Centre, there is limited opportunity for contractors to access the halls to ensure the facilities are kept in the best condition possible.

During July and August, when the Centre does quieten down for a few weeks whilst users take their summer holidays, the Managers set to work making sure their list of maintenance and improvements gets seen to. This summer was no exception and saw the halls being freshened up with a lick of paint, deep cleaning of floors and furniture and the outdated and cramped Manager's office was refurbished to make it a brighter and more welcoming space for visitors to the Centre. Lots of other smaller jobs took place too to keep the building and facilities well maintained and the Centre's handyman was kept very busy for a full day seeing to all of these.

The maintenance extends to outside too and once the children were back at school the young children's play area was refurbished with a bright new safety surface to replace the old one which had served its time and was beginning to break up in places. Other improvements to the outside play facilities include the addition of a sports

wall which, thanks to Lottery grant funding, has been installed to give children a dedicated place for football and basketball/netball target practice.

Now the Centre is busy again as regular classes have returned for their Autumn term and the Managers are looking ahead to Christmas events and handling enquiries for events taking place in 2018. Two new regular users were welcomed to the Centre in September. Firstly, a Wednesday evening Pilates class run by Louise of Get Fit and Tone and also Cris Pearce of Cris Pearce Tuition who now operates his after-school tutoring business in English, Maths and Spanish in the cosy meeting room. Further details on these and all the classes and activities can be viewed online on the user page at www.zeboncopsecentre.org.uk.

If you would like more information about hiring the facilities, a booking enquiry form can be completed via the website's contact page or you can discuss your requirements personally with the Managers on 01252 615003. They are delighted to talk to businesses and community groups looking for a permanent venue and can offer attractive introductory support for new local commercial ventures as they get off the ground. There are also great hire rates available for private individuals looking for one-off bookings for children's parties, anniversary celebrations, family gatherings etc. Please do get in touch if you would like to make use of this great community facility.

Parish Emergency Response

The Parish maintains a Resilience Plan (see Key Document page of the CVPC web site) laying out planned responses to major local emergencies such as floods, deep snow or storm damage. A key element of the plan is for parishioners with relevant skills and/or equipment to volunteer to be on a callout list.

If you are willing and able to participate, please contact Cllr Peter Kenaghan via the clerk or direct to his parish email at peter.kenaghan@crookhamvillage.org.uk.

Planning and New Housing

Hart Local Plan

The emerging Hart Local Plan, which will determine strategy for new housing in Hart from now until 2032, is approaching its final public consultation (Reg 19) which, together with comments received, will be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination and, hopefully, confirmation in 2018. Meanwhile, Hart remains very vulnerable to opportunistic applications for extra development without the protection that a current Local Plan would bring.

Muddying the waters is a government consultation on “simplification” of the way in which required numbers of houses is calculated. Current indications suggest that Hart will submit a plan with its current numbers because, although the new calculation system would reduce their housing numbers, it is far from certain that this new scheme will be adopted as proposed and further changes could add yet more delay to the Hart Plan.

Watery Lane

Martin Grant submitted their Reserved Matters application 17/00264/REM in February seeking approval of their plans for the internal aspects of the Watery Lane site granted at appeal for 300 houses between Watery Lane and St Nicholas School plus public open space down to the canal, extra sports facilities and modifications to Zebon Community Centre to cater for the increased population. The Parish Council and others raised detailed objections to aspects of their proposals as a result of which the plans were modified in July. Consideration of further objections are still in hand with the developer. As a result, it is still not clear when work will start on the site, or when the new roundabout to replace the Redfields Lane/A287 junction will be built.

Grove Farm

Hart failed to determine Berkeley Homes’ application 16/01651/OUT to build 430 homes on Grove Farm (off Hitches Lane just south of the old Leisure Centre). As a

result the developer appealed and, following public examination in July, the planning inspector allowed the appeal on 6 October. A Reserved Matters application will follow to finalise internal site details. After strong parish input, the site will include a community facility, details of which have yet to be negotiated.

Cross Farm

Application 16/03400/OUT for a major Care Village on Cross Farm (immediately behind The Street on the south side of Crookham Village) was also not determined by Hart within the time allowed and went to appeal as a result. However, this appeal was withdrawn on 15 September, so the immediate threat to the setting of that side of the Village Conservation Area has receded. However, it remains to be seen whether the 100 houses behind Village Cars (in the last draft of the Hart Local Plan), will be retained in the next version — something to look out for in the upcoming Hart Plan consultation!

On-Street Parking

The parish council is concerned at the increase of obstruction to pedestrians and traffic caused by on-street parking. This problem is exacerbated by people increasing living accommodation whilst reducing on-site parking via both Permitted Development and planning applications. Unfortunately, current planning rules do not take residual on-site parking into account except in a minority of cases where there are restrictive planning conditions. As a result CVPC is seeking, through the National Association of Local Councils, changes to government planning rules to allow parking to be counted as a Material Planning Consideration for both planning applications and for Permitted Development Rights. The first step in what will inevitably be a very slow process will start through the Hampshire Association of Local Councils at their AGM in early November. Meanwhile, we appeal to motorists to be more considerate when parking on the roadside in the parish and not to block pavements.

Westminster Constituency

You may be aware that the Boundary Commission has proposed major changes to the Westminster constituency in our area. Instead of being served by the Basingstoke MP, we would be part of a revised Aldershot constituency including Aldershot and Farnborough as well as Church Crookham and our parish. If you wish to comment on this proposal by 11 December, use their on-line survey by starting from <https://www.bce2018.org.uk/>. Entering the first part of your postcode will lead you to a boundary map, explanatory text and video and a ‘make a comment’ button.

Lengthsmen

Our Parish Lengthsmen were finally able to start work in July. They operate under parish council control on minor works adjacent to the highway and are able to respond very much more quickly than has been the case in the past where such works had to be done by HCC.

So far they have cleared vegetation at Malthouse Bridge to improve sightlines when waiting to turn left over the narrow bridge when returning from Fleet, trimmed vegetation, and cleaned roadside signs (including the 30 limit signs on Redfields Lane). They have also removed low branches obstructing the pavement on Danvers Drive near the Community Centre and dealt with dead branches from a number of trees in the parish.

If you see something adjacent to the highway that you think deserves the attention of our Lengthsmen, please advise the Parish Clerk (*contact details on page 1*).

Neighbourhood Plan

In the last newsletter in May, we said that we planned to offer a draft of our Neighbourhood Plan to parishioners in July for comment. Unfortunately, since then we have been besieged as a Parish with major planning applications and then an appeal which has rather diverted our attention from the work of preparing the plan for a further consultation. These planning applications have also caused us to re-examine the appropriateness of our policies in the light of the applications, particularly now that the Grove Farm development has been given the green light. We are now working to ensure that the policies in our plan can be used to ensure that this new development delivers the maximum infrastructure benefit and minimises impact on our conservation areas.

In this venture we have been helped by our new consultant who, as a Plan Inspector in his own right, has many years of experience examining Neighbourhood Plans and has been able to make many helpful suggestions to improve the effectiveness of our plan. In his view, our proposed policies were on the right track but could be considerably enhanced to make them more appropriate for the communities we serve as a Parish Council, particularly with regard to major new developments. He also has suggested changes to make our plan more acceptable to the Government inspectors. As a result, we have spent a great deal of time revising many of our policies to make them more appropriate for our local area and the diverse nature of the communities in our parish. We have also worked with Hampshire Wildlife Trust to enhance our natural environmental policies to protect our much valued wildlife and conservation areas.

This extra work has helped us to enhance our proposed policies such that they will deliver the vision originally set out by you in the first consultation as well as inform decisions for any future building development applications. We have also kept a close eye on the progress of the Hart Local Plan so that we can ensure that we remain aligned to their policies as where there is a conflict, the policies in the Local Plan will take precedence over anything we propose. All this work has helped us move further towards the pre-submission consultation which we had hoped we would be able to do

in July but now looks more likely to be at the end of this year or early next year.

This consultation will be the final one to be undertaken before we finalise the plan. It is defined by the Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations and requires that the draft plan proposal to be the subject of a six-week consultation before it is submitted to Hart District Council for independent examination. The requirements of Regulation 14 includes the following:

- Publicise our draft plan so that we bring it to the attention of everyone who lives, works or runs a business in our neighbourhood area. As part of this process we will provide details of where and when the draft plan can be viewed, how to make comments on the plan and the date by which comments need to be received;
- Consult any and all statutory consultation bodies whose interests may be affected by our draft plan, for us this is likely to include the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England;
- Send a copy of the proposed plan to Hart District Council.

As we recognise that many of you may not want to read through the whole document, we plan to produce a summary version setting out the main aims and main focus of our proposed policies which we plan to circulate to everyone. We also plan to make sure that a copy is on our website and hold a number of drop in sessions where you can ask the NP team questions or discuss the plan with us on a one-to-one basis. We also want to make printed copies available at convenient locations throughout the Parish for anyone who wants to read the entire document. We are sorry that this is yet a further delay but hope that you will bear with us. We all want the final plan to be the best it can possibly be and to provide us with future development where we, as a community, can have a say in what happens in our area.

Even though we are getting close to producing the final document, we are still open to offers of help and suggestions from anyone who has a particular interest in the plan production. If you would like to help us please contact Carol, our parish clerk (*see page 1*).

Defibrillators

The parish council recently installed its second defibrillator, generously donated by the Crondall Triathlon Team, in the entrance lobby of Zebon Community Centre. The first, purchased by the Parish Council, has been inside the Spar shop on Zebon Copse for some time now thanks to the kind permission of Rajan. We are currently investigating options to place a third one in the Village, which we hope will be external to make it accessible 24/7, which means that it will need a mains power source. We have a number of possible locations in mind which are currently being investigated. These defibrillators can save vital lives when a casualty has heart problems. They are automatic in operation and issue verbal instructions as to what to do next. As a result they are suitable for untrained users to operate in an emergency. If you are not familiar with this technology, there is an excellent video of a live resuscitation on Bondi Beach — search online for "[bondi defib](#)". We'll let you know when the Village defibrillator is operational.