



## **MARCH 2013 CHAIR'S REPORT**

### **1. ONE NORBITON UPDATE**

As mentioned last month, this pilot is due to be completed at the end of March. This by no means signals the end of the project - in fact we like to think it is actually the start of a new and exciting phase. However, it has meant that all of the Strategic Partners that are involved have been tasked with writing up reports to submit to the Local Government Information Unit ( LGIU) and also that Kingston University have re-doubled their efforts to evaluate the pilot process. This has meant that there have been a number of workshops, 'Governance' sessions and interviews with Heidi from Kingston Uni. It also means that RBK are hosting an afternoon Conference on 6<sup>th</sup> March at the Guildhall where all of the key players have been invited to discuss the matter.

This will be in addition to a symposium arranged by the Community Working Group [CWG] in April which we are organising to highlight the fact that we are entering a new phase of this project. We plan to invite as many key figures as possible - including members of the Norbiton Community - and are excited at the prospect of planning for the future.

Meanwhile, plans are pushing ahead for the possible introduction of Community Guardian/wardens and a Norbiton Task Force which will encourage those who are without employment to take part in projects that will benefit the community as a whole - such as repairing fences, tidying up areas and working towards creating a 'Norbiton Village' atmosphere.

A key activity this last month has been the petition to raise the platform at Norbiton Station , especially as we are informed that work will be done to lengthen the platform. You can sign up by visiting the one Norbiton website: [www.onenorbiton.org.uk](http://www.onenorbiton.org.uk)

### **2. ESTATE MATTERS**

You will be aware that there has been an on-going debate for almost a year concerning the allocation of £75,000 Environmental Improvement fund which was allocated by RBK. £25k of this is for Cambridge Gardens and £50K CRE. The consultation of Cambridge Gardens has gone ahead and funds have now been allocated to the priorities put forward by residents. However, as things stand on the CRE there has been insufficient consultations done to justify allocating funds, although Simon Oelman has budgeted for improvements to the garden areas on Madingley Green. Any remaining funds look likely to be simply absorbed in to the Housing Revenue budget - unless we can come up with a plan to do rapid consultations which would be acceptable to Simon. This is an item listed for discussion at Monday's meeting.

### **3. CRE PLAY-SCHEME**

As a follow on from last month's report [ explaining that Refugee Action Kingston [RAK]and the Kingston Environment Centre had submitted a plan to apply for funds to run the gardening project on Fordham] A meeting was arranged so that Play Scheme Working Party members could discuss this in more detail with both of the above groups. However, at the last minute this was cancelled by RAK because they have reviewed the proposed project and are no longer sure that they have the resources to support the project. I am sure that any RAK members will be made very welcome if they would like to get involved with the project.

The official launch of the Play and Recreation Scheme will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> April in Piper Hall. The plan is for there to be a treasure hunt which will encourage local youngsters to explore all of the new facilities. There will also be displays showing the 'before and after' , refreshments and hopefully a 'famous' person to 'cut the ribbon'. Any offers of help will be welcome.

#### **4. FUTURE OF CREST OFFICE FACILITIES**

As a brief update, it now seems that the expected delay transferring across to the old laundry building may not be as late as first thought. As Dor would say ..'watch this space'! It will certainly be a big help once we are able to spread out a little as we are approaching bursting point over in Graveley.

#### **5. FUN DAY 2013**

We are planning to hold a meeting to start work on the Fun Day very soon. Following the discussions that we have had since the last Fun Day we are going to proceed with the idea of alternating meetings so that we can follow the usual planning procedures with the Resident Participation Team at daytime meetings but then also hold evening meetings which will include local residents and groups who are interested in becoming more involved. This does not mean that we are doubling the meetings - in fact for most people there will only be half the number of meetings.

Meanwhile we are beginning the never ending quest for prizes for both the raffle and tombola so if you know of likely sources please let us know.

#### **6. FOOD HYGIENE TRAINING**

Amazing as it seems, we need to refresh our Food Hygiene Training certificates this Spring. Sandra has been in touch to ask if we would like to repeat our earlier plans and hold a combined training session. The more people who participate the less it will cost per head. Please let me know if you are interested. We should also review First Aid training to ensure we have sufficient cover at events.

#### **7. EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

- a) **Drama Group** - Jenny, Doreen and I have now met with the students who will be running the drama group. The sessions will start on Monday evening ( Jenny will come straight across from the first session. )
- b) **Learn English at Home [LEAH]** - Zoe has been in touch to try and secure the other hall to offer a crèche facility to participants.
- c) **Hall bookings** - This is a matter which has been raised recently and which we need to discuss in detail on Monday. The main problem seems to be who will open and close the halls. I am hopeful that I might have come up with a partial solution which will prevent future misunderstandings but would like us to talk about it on Monday. ( Attached is a draft Hall Booking Form )
- d) **Partnership with YMCA** - Nathan Issom has been in touch with details of a possible funding source. He has asked if we can meet to discuss this asap. If you have any ideas please let me know. I have forwarded the link to you.
- e) **Family Learning Taster Sessions\*** - Veronica has asked for a few minutes at the meeting to discuss what you think would prove to be popular taster sessions for her forthcoming activity.
- f) **Free Health Checks** - We have been asked to spread the word about this - you will already have been sent the details. On Monday we need to decide the best way to inform residents about this.
- g) **Pride of Place** - Just a quick reminder that this event will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> March. Please encourage as many residents as possible to attend as it promises to be fascinating.

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'Tasters at Piper Hall'

Date: 18-24 May 2013  
Venue: Piper Hall, Kingston  
Target Group: 50+ age group residents of surrounding estates  
Subject areas: Art, Craft, Dance, Exercise & Health (Tai Chi, Pilates, Yoga), Creative Writing (writing about your family / your past / your personal history), Adult Numeracy & Literacy

Provisionally booked:

Monday 20th May: Large and Small Halls both available from 12.30 onwards  
and/or

Wednesday 22 May: Small Hall available from 2.30.  
Large Hall available from 2.30-4.30

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**EMAIL EXCHANGE WITH HARRY HALL**

You are very welcome. I have put an item at the top of the agenda to discuss this. You are of course welcome to invite colleagues but I would very much like us to use Monday to arrange a 'summit' for the groups.

If you would like me to circulate either your email below or alternative paperwork just let me know.

Meanwhile you know where I am if you want to drop in for a chat - bring Ethan with you and make my day!!

You are a star, my friend and we are behind you all the way. [But... how do you think you would be as Santa at the Gala?]

( We could lend you the costume afterwards !)

Jill Preston – Chair

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Date: Thu, 28 Feb 2013 21:40:32 +0000  
Subject: RE: CRERA/CREST  
From: hhall79@live.Co.uk  
To: crecommittee@hotmail.co.uk

I will try to come to crest on Monday thank you  
Subject: RE: CRERA/CREST  
From: Jill Preston <crecommittee@hotmail.co.uk>  
To: harry hall <hhall79@live.co.uk>

Dear Harry

Thanks for letting me know your thoughts on the future. It is really very refreshing to consider working as part of a team in the future!

As I mentioned in an earlier email this evening, CREst have a meeting on Monday evening. With your permission ( and even your attendance if you are free) I will put this as an agenda item so that we can at last make a start on some joined up work.

If you are not free on Monday then I would be happy to suggest to CRES members that we meet with our fellow CRERA members at some mutually agreed point where we can discuss how best to move forwards. Please do not ever think of yourself as less than worthy of suggesting an opinion, the fact that you are willing to give up time for the benefit of CRE residents gives you every right to say what you think.

I wonder, however, if it might not be sensible to allow a few weeks for things to 'settle down' a bit before we meet? As you know, things have been fraught for several years but I think that, given some breathing space we can have a really useful chat.

I wish you well with what you are trying to achieve and would be happy to help you with help/advice if it is needed - not that I am any kind of expert, I have just learned when to duck away from bullets!

Take care

Jill Preston - Chair  
Cambridge Road Estates Community Group ( CRES)

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From: hhall79@live.co.uk  
To: crecommittee@hotmail.co.uk  
Subject: CRERA/CRES  
Date: Thu, 28 Feb 2013 21:19:30 +0000

Hi Jill

I am sorry I haven't been able to get to meet up with you and as it looks like I wont be able to see you for a little while I thought I would just jot down the things I have been thinking about. There are probably better, more educated and who know about council stuff better then me but while I am in the position of acting chair I will endeavor to get some stuff implemented 1st being a recruitment drive lol. The other main thing I want to do is to get CRERA/CRES working together as they should already be and once we are both sure what we each organisation should be doing (wont take long i don't think lol) i have a few ideas I would like to put to you.

1. Joint web site outlining what each group does how there formed etc
2. Joint news letter so the residents only have 1 to read instead of 2
3. I dont think theres a need for a delegate to be at each others meeting. Members of the groups to go to meeting relevant for there field of expertise or joint members i required reports/notes can be given to each group so they can help or enquirer where needed this should cut meetings for both organisations.
4. Joint poster campaign (see rough idea attachment) possible leaflet drop so everyone has contact details.
5. Another idea is a joint full survey to find out what the estate REALLY wants. I know myself I actually hate people knocking asking to do a survey so was thinking maybe to post all the surveys in an envelope. on front of the envelope inform people there's a prize draw for £200 for anyone that completed the survey (name will be entered) and then we can pick them up from outside the house 2 days later at a specific time, was thinking we could maybe use £400 pound from the one norbiton kitty to fund this exercise (if this is allowed that is)

well thats a start from me what do you think

Harry