



**2008/9 ANNUAL REPORT
&
ACCOUNTS**

**Cambridge Road Estates Community Group
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OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

The last 12 months have been our busiest yet! The April 1st New Year also happened to be the date that the 3 year Community Action Partnership (CAP) PILOT project came to an end. From then on our Community Group effectively took over not only the office space previously occupied by CAP but also the planning, funding and organisation of events on the Cambridge Road Estates (CRE)

As you will see from list of events we have held,, we have provided a full year of events and activities including innovative ideas which we plan to repeat in the future such as the well received CRE Christmas Tree and the 'Music on the Green' Event.

I would like to take this opportunity to stress that, although we have achieved recognition on the CRE though our efforts to unite the community through social events, we have also been working tirelessly to improve living standards. To this end representatives from our group have, including Councilors Griffin and Shelton have reported the following to CRE Estate Management:

- As a result of 4 estate inspections we have successfully lobbied regarding the vital provision of lighting in the alleyway between Eureka Road and Willingham Way – an important requirement since the alley next to Ely Court has been shut since building work started
- Lack of adequate lighting in stairwells has also been reported
- Faulty drains
- Inconsiderate parking
- Lift breakdowns
- Poor glazing repairs
- Provision of play areas
- Flower bed maintenance – specifically roses

We have welcomed to our Committee Meeting a representative from the company responsible for researching the reaction of CRE residents to the new Housing Contact Centre, received regular reports from the Police Safety Panels and attended all four Housing Consultative Committee (HCC) meetings where we took part in discussions including repairs, rent subsidy, anti-social behaviour and the future of the Kingston Housing Stock

In the past twelve months we have embarked on a 'door-knocking' campaign in a bid to both recruit new members and seek to understand the problems facing residents. We also have 3 members on the newly formed 'Future of Housing' group whose purpose is to investigate the many possibilities open to the future Management of RBK Housing Stock

In a further bid to communicate we have held 10 'Open Surgeries' at the Community Advice Shop where CRE residents have been invited to discuss local problems with Councillors' Penny Shelton & Sheila Griffin and /or the local 'Safer Neighbourhood' police. These sessions resulted in action being taken on the following:

*Racial Harassment * Housing repairs * Noise Nuisance * Drugs

On the fund raising front we arranged with a local Superstore to receive their returned goods which we check for safety and then sell on at rock bottom prices to CRE residents, These 'Garage Sales' are now being held regularly outside the Burritt Rd Garages with all proceeds going towards the funding of our Annual Fun Day (12th September)

Our serious fund raising activities have allowed us to sponsor events that are not purely social but nevertheless of benefit to our community .For example, we have just funded a 6 week English course for young people with Refugee Action Aimed at 11-16 year olds, this course also provided the participants with a chance to meet and make friends with other young people in a similar situation.

We were also pleased to donate £100 to Fun in Sheltered Housing (FISH) for much needed garden furniture.

During 2009 we applied for, and were granted funding from Kingston Voluntary Association (KVA) to pay for 4 issues of our quarterly Newsletter, distributed by volunteers to every household on both Estates and also to key local officials.

In 2009 we have just applied to the Thames Community Foundation 'Grassroots Fund seeking the funds required to not only continue producing a Newsletter but also to increase the number of pages so that we are able to provide more information that we feel will be of use to all CRE residents. Indeed we are actively seeking residents wishing to submit either small snippets of information or articles that may be of interest.

We have been lucky enough to have the services of Laura Borland – an expert in 'Team Building' who has met with our Group on a number of occasions in a bid to make us more effective at what we do. To date we have held two 'Team Building'

exercises along with many one -to-one session which we hope will inspire us in our bid to recruit at least one person per Block or Road willing to act as a liaison representative

Events and Activities Held from April 2008 to March 2009

- Spring Fun** Family event that saw almost 50 parents and children participating in a variety of activities including an estate quiz, a competition to design the 2008 Fun Day poster - kindly judged by Simon Oelman plus a hugely successful 'Pot a Plant' session during which youngsters were helped and encouraged to create their own pot plant creations. Other popular activities included face painting, cookie decorating and an 'arts and crafts'. This event helped to build community cohesion and build interest in the Fun Day – a very important event in the Estates calendar.
- Indoor Climbing** On Tuesday May 27th we took a few young people aged between 11 and 14 yrs to Craggy Island at Guildford to experience indoor climbing, helping to build the young people's self esteem and confidence.
- Summer Coach Trip** In July two mini-buses (driven by Des Gordon and Jason Rogers) took residents to Brighton -. These outings have now become a part of the summer calendar and help to promote friendship and a greater sense of community.
- 'Music on the Green'** A social gathering to enable residents to socialize and to enjoy the 'swing' and 'Big -Band' style music of Kingston Youth Big Band. This event was organised to celebrate Cambridge Gardens 60th Anniversary. The Mayor attended and 'Silly Millie' the Clown kept local youngsters entertained. This was the first such event and it will be repeated in this year's calendar. It was especially important as it was held in Cambridge Gardens helping to break down some of the barriers between the two communities.
- Summer Play Sessions** Two weeks of free summer activity sessions for 8 – 11 year olds. These sessions were run by an instructor from Surbiton YMCA. They were aimed at encouraging the youngsters to learn about health and fitness in a fun way. They enjoyed activities including dodge ball, indoor cricket and botcha.
- Fun Day** This event is an annual event designed to bring residents together, promote community spirit and is a fun way of getting information to residents. The day includes various forms of entertainment such as Radio Jackie, a small fun fair, dancing, face painting and many other things. Some of the organisations involved in previous years have provided an information stand others such as Age Concern and Refugee Action have provided a fun activity for residents as well.
- The Fun Day is the flagship event of the year for the Cambridge Road Estates and has continued to grow in stature year on year – regardless of the weather! It gives an opportunity for residents of both estates to come out and enjoy a day of fun and friendship and is a key event for encouraging more people to become involved in the work undertaken by the Community Group. It is also an opportunity for partner organisations to interact with the community in an informal atmosphere – helping to improve their relationship with residents who often only see partner operatives when something has gone wrong in their home. It also gives RBK staff an opportunity to meet the residents.
- October Half Term Bowling** On Wednesday October 29th we took a few young people aged between 12 and 15 yrs to Charrington Bowl.
- October Half Term** Three days of free activity sessions for 8 – 11 year olds. Two of these **Activity sessions** were lead by Community Halls Manager Jason Rogers and run by a gym instructor from Surbiton YMCA. They were aimed at encouraging the youngsters to learn about health and fitness in a fun way. They enjoyed activities including dodge ball, indoor cricket and botcha. One session concentrated on arts and craft activities. These sessions help to build friendships amongst the young people on the estates and also give their parents the luxury of knowing that their children are safe and occupied in healthy pursuits, organised by trained and experienced staff.
- Blackbushe Market** Minibus outing for residents of all ages to Blackbushe Market.
- Garage Sale** Fund raising sale of 'returned' goods donated to the group from a local superstore. This is a very successful fundraising event and also benefits residents who can buy items to enhance their

homes at very affordable prices. Funds raised are allocated to the 'Fun Day' budget. More of these are planned

- Community Gala** Family Christmas event including a free buffet, a children's Gala entertainer and Raffle draw. This is another regular feature of the calendar and is enjoyed by all who attend – even the hard working volunteers. Once again it helps to build a sense of community and can help to encourage residents to find out more about the community group and its work. This year the event was attended by a record 90 people. Including our ever supportive Mayor.
- Christmas Party** Christmas event for parents and under 5 yr olds including a free buffet, craft activities and a children's entertainer. This was a partnership event working with Norbiton Children's Centre.
- Mince Pie Munch** An annually held end of year event so that the Community Group can say 'thank-you' for the support shown to them during the year. This year it included the switching on of the Christmas tree lights with carols sung by local youngsters. The tree was donated by the group to the community. Comments have been so favourable that it has been agreed that this become a regular event.
- Community Event** On 16th February half term we held a joint event with Refugee Action Kingston (RAK) which to celebrate our community. We were able to offer crèche facilities, music, dancing and food. Once again a partnership event to build on the great success of last year's Food of All Nations day which fostered new friendships between RAK's client group and other residents on the Estates.
- Newsletter** The group also produces a quarterly newsletter which is delivered to every resident on the Cambridge Road Estate and Cambridge Gardens. ~This is an essential communication tool both encouraging resident to participate in events on offer and promoting the work of the Community Group.

EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

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|----------------------------------|--|
| June 27 th | Garage Sale. 10 – Noon . Burritt Road |
| July 5 th | Away Day coach trip |
| July 18 th | Open Surgery 10- Noon. Community Advice Shop |
| August 8 th | Music on the Green 4-6pm Cambridge Gardens |
| August 22 nd | Garage Sale (as above) |
| August 29 th | AwayDay coach trip |
| September 12th | Fun Day Madingley Green |
| November 28 th | Garage Sale (as above) |
| December 6 th | Gala 4 – 7pm Kingsmeadow |

Linda Webber 15/04/09

**Cambridge Road Estates Community Group
Financial Statements for the 11 months ended 28 February 2009**

Income and Expenditure Statement for the 11 months ended 28 February 2009

	Apr 08-Feb 09		May 07- March 08	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Grants	2,450		18,000	
Donations	3,466		4,475	
Fundraising proceeds	<u>2,400</u>		<u>3,594</u>	
		8,316		26,069
Expenditure				
Administrative costs	260		325	
Miscellaneous costs	395		289	
Newsletter	1,504		0	
Professional costs	200		200	
Donations	235		0	
Event costs	<u>6,987</u>		<u>5,185</u>	
		9,581		5,999
Deficit / Excess of Income over Expenditure transferred to Reserves		<u><u>-1,265</u></u>		<u><u>20,070</u></u>

Balance Sheet

	28 February 2009		31 March 2008	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets		0		0
Current Assets				
Cash at bank & in hand	<u>21,997</u>		<u>23,262</u>	
	21,997		23,262	
Current Liabilities				
Accrued professional costs	<u>200</u>		<u>200</u>	
Net Current Assets		<u>21,797</u>		<u>23,062</u>
Net Assets		<u><u>21,797</u></u>		<u><u>23,062</u></u>
Capital and Reserves				
Reserves brought forward	23,062		2,992	
Deficit/surplus generated in year	<u>-1,265</u>		<u>20,070</u>	
Reserves		<u><u>21,797</u></u>		<u><u>23,062</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Committee on _____ and signed on their behalf by:

Chair _____