



CHAIR'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2011

ONGOING PROJECTS

Cambridge Road Estates Play Scheme – There was a meeting of this Working Party (WP) on 13th January (Minutes will be sent under **CREPs** (Cambridge Rd Estates Play Scheme) when they are available.

As a brief summary, the Marathon Trust Grant Offer was noted along with the grant restrictions . The WP agreed plans to submit a funding proposal to Kingston Town in an attempt to secure additional funds that would allow the project to expand its remit to include the '**Fresh Air Fitness**' scheme previously discuss at the original 'Playbuilder' meetings and perhaps also include some funding for the CRE Gardening Project which, after several years of planning, is now on the verge of becoming active in partnership with Transition Town Kingston (TTK). Any updates will be given at the CREst meeting. Des and Jill agreed to work together to draft a funding bid for 'The Bill Funds' through Cllr David Ryder-Mills Chair of Kingston Town committee. This has now been done and is with Simon Oelman for 'tweaking'

Our next step will be to agree a document which will be sent to invite companies to bid in an effort to secure the contract to Manage this project. This will include costings, deadlines and ideas as to the format the Play Scheme will take. In addition we need to agree a format that will ensure that the future maintenance of the Play Areas are agreed and will be incorporated in to the costs.

CRE Gardening Group At our last meeting, Mary and I invited Hilary from TTK to attend to confirm with us the latest updates. In addition we have planned to hold an initial meeting for the 'CRE Diggers' on 5th February in Piper Hall (posters and leaflets plus a Newsletter item have been circulated). We aim to encourage as many residents as possible to get involved with project and, as such we have placed a questionnaire in each January 2011 Newsletter seeking the opinions of CRE residents.

We have also donated £100 to 'kick-start' this project which has been so long in the planning. We urge as many of you as possible to attend in Piper Hall from 10am – 12noon this Saturday

AFC Wimbledon training and match sessions / Fulham FCC Kickz. The initial response to the AFC project has been slow. However, we have included the adverts in our Newsletter, added it to our website and I am trying to send details to the local school Cluster Groups. In addition we have included in our Newsletter the schemes that Jen Emeny discussed at our last meeting. I am currently setting a date to meet with Fulham FC and AFC to draw discuss co-ordinating activities on the CRE rather than risk duplications. If you would like to be party to this please let me know.

Fit as a Fiddle This project has been very successful – so much so that those who attend at present are keen for us to find a way to extend the sessions beyond the 6 weeks that have been agreed. Doreen plans to report on this at the meeting.

Royal Wedding Street Party There was a hic-cup at the meeting called on 24th January when no CRERA appointed delegates showed up . The meeting was independently chaired by Kaie Hart (Camb Gdns Est Manager) and attended by John, Doreen and myself.

In an effort to both help our relations with CRERA and try to provide a community event , CREst agreed to try again on 31st. This turned out to be a positive meeting with DG, JH and I for CREst plus Cynthia

Brown and John Valles initially showing up as CRERA delegates. Alan Griffiths did show up an hour after the meeting started. We co-signed a basic agreement confirming that costs and workload are to be split 50/50. A copy of the current Event Planner is attached. From this you can see that the draft budget is £500 in total – £250 each. The plans include holding a kids' activity during Easter making the bunting and other decorations. We are also planning to encourage residents to prebook to try and reduce wasted food (and money!)

Community Choir. As you will have seen from the insert in the Newsletter, we have booked Queen Mary's Hall and arranged two 'taster' sessions for the choir. Interest has been shown from quite a few residents so I am hopeful that this will be a successful project.

ESTATE MATTERS

Madingley Fire update - Gas supplies to surrounding blocks – This is an ongoing problem. You will by now have seen the memo written to DesG and Simon Oelman about this and the response that was received. Since then I have been in touch with Cllr Steven Brister who plans to raise this matter with Simon. The problems are explained in my memo to SO. Hopefully I can update you all on this at the meeting

OTHER MATTERS

Newsletter - This has now been delivered to much acclaim – Jenny you did a brilliant job! All we need now is to find an alternative funding source.

We are hoping that the April issue will include a chart showing residents what activities are going on where – be that sports, childcare or health-checks. Once again, a key point made in the 'You Can' report was the need for residents to be aware of what facilities are available to them

Training etc – I have spoken with Sanja at KVA about the move towards becoming registered as a Charity. In order to get our Constitution ready for the application she has suggested that we get in touch with KVA's resident Constitution expert. I am hoping that one or two of you might be prepared to form a small sub group to work on this – please?

In addition to this, Doreen and I are booked to attend a 2 day 'Outcomes Focus' training course run by the Charities Evaluation Service (CES)

Update on the ECET/RBK accusation of harassment. As we agreed at the last meeting, I have written to Simon Oelman and Russell Styles inviting them to the 7th February meeting where Gary Walsh has offered to attend and apologise for both the fact that the allegations made on 11th October were false but also for the fact that the whole affair was treated so appallingly. Russell has tendered his apologies (for not attending, not for his actions) and I have had no word from Simon so I hope he can spare a few minutes to be present at the start of the meeting.

I am delighted to report that Martha Earley has returned from maternity leave to resume her duties with ECET. I have already written to welcome her back and look forward to working with her, Gary and the rest of the team in the future.

CRERA request for CREST accounts – This request came from Tim Bell a couple of weeks ago and followed a similar request for sight of the minutes from our meeting relating to the transfer of funds from the 'old' CRERA account. I 'cut and pasted' the relevant items from each meeting and Doreen duly emailed them across. Almost by return there was a request for sight of our accounts. We had already provided a copy of the audited accounts for last year and responded to offer the same for this year but declined to allow access to our 'day-to-day' transactions.

24/7 – Surrey Sports Centre – I have had a number of conversations and email exchanges with Alex from 24/7. They are still encountering problems getting this project off the ground. I will update you further on Monday.

