



## **AUGUST 2011 REPORT**

### **1. Norbiton First Project**

Crest have tried our best to play an active part in this ongoing project which we have as a key item on our agenda for 8<sup>th</sup> August meeting. Martha Earley has kindly agreed to attend this so we will have an opportunity to discuss this in greater detail.

The Community Group are fully supportive of this initiative and fully support the key aims. However we are also committed to ensuring that as many residents within the Norbiton area as possible are given the opportunity to have their say and list their top priorities for a better future. To encourage this we have featured this project in our quarterly Newsletter, included it on our website and also arranged for the RBK/ECET team to be present at our Fun Day on 20<sup>th</sup> August. In addition to this we have issued a press release urging residents to attend the Fun Day and give their opinion and arranged for a couple of slots to be available on the Radio Jackie stand where residents can be reminded to have their say.

### **2. Charitable status**

CREst are actively working towards becoming a Registered Charity. Thanks to help from KVA we have agreed a revised Constitution, submitted our application to the Charity Commission and are now going through the 'tinkering' process that requires us to address some governance issues. These are relatively simple and we hope to resolve them at our meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> August.

Our key aim for taking this step is to reinforce our main reason for existing – to improve the health and well being of residents. If we are fortunate enough to become a registered charity we will be in a far better position to apply for the funding needed to initiate projects that will ultimately benefit CRE residents such as future Newsletter funding, improved services for our older residents and projects to improve the quality of leisure time for youngsters

### **3. CRE Playscheme**

Work on this project has started in earnest. Following an evaluation process attended by 3 Working Party members, Quadron have been appointed as Project Managers. Since then, Simon from Quadron has joined the 'Core Group' of members.

According to the project plan his next tasks include drafting a tender document seeking applications from companies wishing to bid for the design and construction of the project. In addition to this he will be working with the Working Party to create a 'Corporate Image'

and agree the updated 'Terms of Reference' that is needed to revise the version created before funds were awarded and make it current. Hilary Garner from KVA and I worked together to create the latest draft which will be presented to the meeting due to be held at the end of this week. ( NB: This was later cancelled)

As a Community Group, CRESt are keen to ensure that this important project has clear administrative, governance and 'Code of Conduct' guidelines in place – inclusive of financial reporting. We are very conscious of the fact that we are responsible for a great deal of money and wish to implement as many protocols and safeguards as possible to protect not only the residents but also those on the Working Party, whilst taking care that we do not 'throw the baby out with the bathwater'.

We are fortunate in having an experienced Chair with Helen Terry. However, given her 'day job' obligations, she informed us at the June meeting that she would be unable to attend meetings during the summer season given her increased workload during the school holidays. However, this was discussed at that meeting where it was unanimously agreed that I would become stand-in Chair until she is able to resume her duties in September. Hurry home Helen!

### **Fun Day 2011**

This year's Fun Day is being held on 20<sup>th</sup> August on Madingley Green. Plans are well in hand and we are currently working on 'spreading the word' to as many people as possible. We are grateful to RBK for their assistance with the distribution of leaflets and, although we have all the main bases covered, we would still welcome offers of assistance which would allow us to give volunteers a break so that they can enjoy the event too.

Press releases are being sent out weekly and we are still working on seeking donations to add to the Raffle/tombola stalls. Raffle tickets are ready to be collected as we speak so if there are any volunteers who are willing to sell them in advance please get in touch. Given the current economic climate and previous experience we have offered cash as the first 3 prizes. £100, £50, and £25. There are also a number of other vouchers and prizes to be won. These include vouchers for residents to attend a taster session of the choir or other CRESt supported services.

### **SUMMER EVENTS**

**Enjoy a Ball** - This is an activity for pre teens which we have arranged for Tuesday afternoons throughout the summer holidays. After a slow start we are now attracting almost 20 children – with every chance that this will rise as word spreads. As an added bonus, Raj, the event organiser, has agreed to attend the Fun Day and hold a session free of charge.

**Coach Trips** – So far this summer we have arranged 2 coach trips that have filled three buses. The first was in June to Brighton and the second is planned for 7<sup>th</sup> August to Littlehampton – a date rapidly re-arranged once we discovered that the original date coincided with the trial Olympic Cycle race.

**Euphonix Choir** - This has now become a regular event and has started to attract increasing numbers of residents. They are taking a break for the Summer but are currently looking at the possibility of holding workshops that could result in a musical performance at the end of the holidays ( I give full credit to Des for this idea!)

**Kingston University Drama Group** Crest met with James at our 11<sup>th</sup> July meeting where it was agreed that we pursue this as an additional activity available to residents in September.

**Gardening Group** - This continues to meet on Tuesday afternoons from 2pm and on the second Saturday of the month from 2pm onwards. The community allotment is based opposite Fordham [ behind the Bull and Bush]

**Newsletter** – We are fortunate to have recruited Jenny Pitt as the Newsletter editor who replaced Denise – something we did not believe was possible. However thanks to KVC Jenny was pointed in our direction and we welcomed her with open arms! She has revamped our Newsletter and made it a publication that residents and others involved with the CRE want to read. In addition she has set up a CREst ` Facebook` page and assist with updating our website. If any service providers would like to have an item featured in this quarterly publication please feel free to get in touch. Alternatively you could follow Housing's example and have an item inserted in the Newsletter – so long as the outcome will be of benefit to residents it will not cost you anything.

## **ESTATE MATTERS**

CREst members have been contacted by residents about the following:

**Parking Permits** – Due to an administrative oversight, RBK neglected to inform residents that their permits, listed as expiring on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 had been extended to December 2011. This oversight meant that some residents had thrown away their `expired` permits believing them to be of no use. However, once they contacted the office about a replacement they were told that the old permit was still valid – they then had to pay £5 to be issued with a replacement permit. This was discussed at our last CREst meeting and Cllr Steven Brister kindly pursued the matter on our behalf. Arrangements are being made to refund those affected.

**Piper Hall** - CREst have made use of these facilities more and more over the last month or so. The condition of both of the halls is so bad that we complained more than once about the unhygienic conditions – when we held the Play Scheme event there in early July, we had to use toilet rolls, towels etc which I borrowed from Graveley. Rubbish is overflowing and the bins have clearly not been properly cleaned for quite some while judging by the smell. There has been no soap in the toilets and we always find it necessary to sanitize the kitchens before use. This has remained the same when we host the `Enjoy a Ball` there every week.

Quite apart from the lack of cleanliness, we are also concerned that a report from other hall users to Environmental Health could shut the halls down and result in residents losing this important facility. We have no accurate dates for how long the hall will remain. However, assuming it will remain for the next year or so CREst have offered to form a working party to clean the place and bring it up to standard – so long as we can be assured that it will not be left to fall back to its current state.

**Grass in the Madingley secure area** – There have been numerous reports from residents about the fact that the long grass is attracting biting insects that are not normally found on the CRE. This has been reported to Des who I believe is taking steps to have the grass cut when it is safe to do so.

**Lifts on the CRE** – We have noticed that there has been an increase in the number of youths hanging around the lifts on the CRE. Some are polite and inoffensive, however others do not seem to have the same community spirit. CREst have made reports to the Safer Neighbourhood Team about these incidents and given approximate descriptions, we have also urged fellow residents to either do the same or, if they do not feel comfortable speaking to the police, to let us know the details – a system which has worked well before with incidents of drug use.

**RBK Housing Survey** - Just a brief mention of the fact that this survey has been included in all Newsletters which have been had delivered to all households on the CRE and surrounding area. We have also offered RBK Housing Officers the option of using the Fun Day in the hope that this will encourage more residents to offer an opinion.