



CHAIR'S REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2011

ONGOING PROJECTS

CREST application to become a registered Charity – The Charity Commission have responded asking that we make certain changes which I have done and the revised document is attached. We now need to call another EGM to ratify the changes. The calling notice for this is also attached.

Cambridge Road Estates Play Scheme - This project has been somewhat in abeyance for the last month or so. We held the resident consultation in July and Simon attended the Fun Day to seek resident opinion. In addition to this, Dor and I met with Des and Simon in an effort to iron out some procedural matters – details of this meeting will be reported verbally.

We are hoping that very soon we shall be able to agree both Terms of Reference and a Code of Conduct and then simply get our collective heads down and move forward with this project.

Gardening Group - Notes from the previous meeting have been circulated earlier this week. I have not received any notes from the meeting that Mary attended so I am unsure how that was reported.

Drama Group - Following our last meeting, Sheila has been delegated to liaise with Jim – we have an item on the agenda for any feedback she may have

One Norbiton/ Norbiton First Community Consultation - Martha telephone me following my email to her earlier this week . The results from the survey as they stand are being presented in a report to the Strategic Committee on Monday. I did ask if we could have sight of the report beforehand but apparently this is not the correct protocol, which is fine. During our conversation I once again voiced my concerns that the survey results are too limited and too few, with very few residents from other parts of Norbiton being consulted. I fear another 'box ticking' exercise and explained my worry that once the 'priorities' are signed off by the Strategic Committee they will be focussed on and other key concerns simply ignored. In fairness Martha acknowledged my concerns and stated that this would not happen. I once again asked if we could prolong the survey so that we could make efforts to involve more residents but the £31k cost of this is prohibitive.

Martha submitted a report for our meeting which you all received with my original response to Martha – I will bring a couple of copies with me on Monday. I guess until then it is simply a case of 'watch this space'!

Fun Day - 20th August

There is not really much more I can say about this that I did not say in my later after the event.[Attached] It rained a lot but we all lived to tell the tale. We will have an opportunity to debrief at the meeting and start looking to next year's event. Thanks once again to you all for your help.

Resident Parking Permits

As promised, Steven Brister kindly pursued this and RBK has identified the residents who paid for replacement permits and written to them offering a refund.

Accounts

I have finally managed to complete the accounts up to the end of August. These are being sent to members with the meeting paperwork. The format is temporary until I have a chance to create a more detailed format – I have the SAGE software but have not actually loaded it yet!

There are two sheets. One is a simple cheque book reconciliation showing what has been received and spent and the other has been allocated in to budget codes such as Children's Activities, Newsletter, Admin etc. The budget code for each is shown. This shows income and expenditure for each code.

Fire Fund accounts

The trustees of this account feel that now is the right time to close the account and dispose of any remaining assets. They have given quite a bit of thought about the best way to spend the remaining funds and have come up with the idea of writing to every Madingley resident putting forward suggestions and asking them to vote for their choice. A draft of this letter is attached ready for discussion on Monday.

Autumn/Winter events

As you can see from the various items on the agenda, we have quite a few events scheduled for the coming months – some arranged by us and others where we hope to be working in partnership with others. One of the key areas which seems to keep cropping up is activities for children and families – part of the meeting on Monday will be set aside to discuss ways that we can contribute to encouraging both exercise and learning amount families with children on the estate. If you have any ideas about how this can be done please let us know on Monday.

- 15th October – Piper Hall – Family Learning Event Noon onwards
- 25th October – QMH – Hallow'een Horrors 2-4pm
- 11th December – Kingsmeadow – Gala . 4 – 7pm
- 15th December – Piper Hall – Mince Pie Munch & Tree lighting 3pm – 6pm

Regular events include:

- Choir – Wednesday pm in QMH
- Mental Health Drop in – Tuesday am in Piper Hall
- Gardening – Tuesday pm by Fordham Block
- Enjoy a Ball after school event – TBA
- Drama Group – TBA

CREST FUN DAY 2011

Dear friends

I am writing to thank you all for your help and support leading up to and during yesterday's event.

I would be stupid to try and pretend that the event was a huge success – I think the local ducks had more 'fun' than we did – and as we all know they don't carry cash so they did not even contribute financially!

Apart from the fact that virtually no-one was around once the rain was falling so heavily, I did speak with the CREst committee, the Fun Fair supplier and key stall holders before I took the decision to cut the event short. We could no longer safely use the cooking equipment as it was wet, the fair rides were not safe to use and most stalls quite rightly chose to pack up and go. Therefore we fulfilled our legal obligations by drawing the raffle and then closed the event.

We have yet to count the takings – they are drying out as we speak! Therefore I do not really have any idea how we stand financially. As most of you will know, this year we were not given any financial support or sponsorship from RBK contractors, although a couple of kind employees did offer their services to make sure we were supplied with electricity and water.

I have spent a lot of time since yesterday thinking this through and believe that we can draw some positives from yesterday. For a start we once again demonstrated that the Community Group work as a true team. In the kind of situation we found ourselves in yesterday it would not be unusual for some people to 'abandon ship' once the going got hard. That clearly did not happen – not only were we not 'abandoned' members actually came back to help out! In that I include our ever increasing band of supporters – and it became obvious to us yesterday afternoon that this is growing year on year as people understand what we are about. In addition we were helped by CRE residents – many of them teenagers – who could see what we were up against and offered their help. I did thank them personally but will ensure their parents know that they did them credit. Thanks also to John Squire and Alan Griffiths from CRERA who assisted us at the end of the event – it was appreciated.

Of course there is always the odd one or two who like to take advantage of such a situation but who cares? Adversity brought out the best in all but the most hard hearted of residents and I thank you all for going that extra mile.

I would like to finish by saying 'I look forward to seeing you next year' but I guess that may be pushing my luck when your socks are still drying!

Kindest regards,

Jill