



CHAIR'S REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2011

CREST application to become a registered Charity

All the necessary procedures have been followed to hold an EGM on Monday and formally adopt the revised Constitution as discussed at our last meeting. Once this is done we need to sign the amended Constitution and find a way to scan it so that we can send it off to the Charities Commission asap.

Cambridge Road Estates Play Scheme

I am pleased to report that we have just had a Play Scheme Working Party which is a positive step forward after something of a lull. Unfortunately Simon from Quadron (Project Manager) has been unwell so a number of previously agreed actions have been a little delayed. Also, the process of seeking Construction Contract tenders has proved to be more trixxy than was first thought.

However, the meeting was a positive one where both the 'Terms of Reference' and a 'Code of Conduct' were agreed. We also formally agreed that Hilary Garner be Vice Chair of the group and have replanted meetings until the end of the year. As a Community Group, our main focus now needs to be spreading the word to as many residents as possible and encouraging them to take an interest.

Gardening Group - Notes from the previous meeting have been circulated earlier this week.

Drama Group/choir - 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. We have received an update from Marilyn about the choir and the report is very encouraging with over 20 members and 4 new men joining. The choir have agreed to sing at the Mince Pie Munch in December.

Funding for Music and Dance activities

Following on from the discussions at our last meeting, Nathan Issom from YMCA has been in touch regarding the possibility of putting on dance classes in Piper/QMH and we have also heard from Kim Perkins (Community Musician) who is attending our meeting on Monday to discuss the funding she has for music workshops and courses.

Norbiton First Project.

Doreen and I attended the Community Working Group (CWG) meeting held on 27th September in QMH. The main aim of this meeting was to draft a Terms of Reference for the group. Hilary Garner took on the task of guiding us through a discussion to reveal what the residents CWG members considered to be the key aims and objectives of the CWG and agree a loose framework on which to build. The flip chart notes that resulted from this are attached. We also discussed a possible Neighbourhood Grant of £16,955 over the next 4 years that will be delivered through the Community Development Foundation.(I have attached a copy of the letter from the Cabinet Office outlining this. Martha also reported that the police may be allocating £8,000 to the project but have specified that it should be spent on reducing domestic violence and 'anti-social' behaviour – no biggie then! This is an ongoing discussion.

Several days after the meeting Tony Willis (a new recruit to the ECET team) circulated a 'draft suggested Terms of Reference' to CWG members (although due to an admin glitch only Doreen from our group received the initial mailing – there had to be a second circulation as a number of us failed to receive the original) I have attached the document drafted by the ECET team for your comment. In the interests of fairness I will refrain from any comment until we meet on Monday evening.

There is a Conference scheduled for 11th October in QMH from 1.30pm onwards – you will have already been sent details about this but I have included them again. I feel that it is in all of our interests to inform as many Norbiton residents as possible about this project as it is going to affect all of them in the long term.

Fun Day 2011

Committee members will receive with this report a complete breakdown of Fun Day accounts. There was a debrief meeting held on 29th September where the draft Fun Day accounts were shown to the Fun Day Working Party. Our next decision needs to be when we hold the 2012 Fun Day – quite a tricky call as we need to try and avoid the Olympics, AFC Wimbledon matches and any other key events such as Kingston Carnival. All opinions are welcome.

Madingley Fire update

The letter circulated at our last meeting has been sent from the Fire Fund Account Trustees to all Madingley residents seeking their views on how the surplus funds should be spent. There is a box in Tadlow for residents to leave their completed forms. These will ultimately be passed to the Trustees for action.

The site manager in charge of the Madingley repairs has told me that he hopes the job to be completed by the end of this month – with residents of the top 4 floors possibly moving back in the first week of November. However, several of the people who have already moved back have expressed concerns about the gas supply as there seems to be no decision made about if the residents will return to their old system or be told to have gas meters fitted as those of us in the surrounding blocks had to do last year. I think they are becoming more anxious now that the weather is getting colder.

Community Wellbeing Group

Doreen and I attended this meeting on 21st September where we met with Sylvie Ford (the lady who Commissions Mental Health services) for half an hour and then continued the meeting with the rest of the group after she had to leave.

As promised at the last CREst meeting, we raised the issue of Joan and Brendan's quest to open a drop-in café in Piper Hall to replace the resource that was closed down at the Roselands clinic. We explained what they were trying to do and also that CREst have donated £100 to get them started and expressed a wish for the Community Wellbeing Group (CWBG) to include them in some way – at the very least to offer the support that is needed for them to get properly up and running. The response was disappointing – the CWBG did not feel that the project or the people running it fit the criteria to be incorporated as members as there were concerns expressed that extra members would dilute the amount of funds allocated to original core group members. In the mean time, Mary has been in touch with Jill Darling who has responded with advice on possible ways forwards. This is another matter that we need to discuss at our next meeting.

Family Learning event – 15th October.

Plans are now almost complete for this event which is being co-ordinated by Veronica Storey and her team. I have offered to open and close Piper Hall as Jason is unavailable and we have arranged with Des for the CPZ to be suspended for that day to allow participants to load and unload vehicles.

CREst are in charge of the refreshments on that day plus we would welcome some help with spreading the word about the Play Scheme. A full page advert has been sent round in our latest Newsletter so let's hope for a good turnout. There are a number of attractions such as the Carnival Band, Bouncy Castle, arts and crafts and a fancy dress competition so spread the word to local families, please.