



NOVEMBER 2011 CHAIR'S REPORT

1. ONE NORBITON WORKING TOGETHER PROJECT

This has proved to be quite a rocky road for us. As we have talked about during our meetings we have often felt frustrated by what we perceived to be a failure to listen to our point of view and a reluctance to give us any credit for knowing our own mind. One clear example was the Terms of Reference (ToR) Doreen and I had attended a meeting where a draft ToR was written only to find the the version circulated had no relation to what was agreed.

Therefore I am pleased, to report that the Community Working Group (CWG) met last Wednesday, 26th October where a revised 'Terms of Reference' (ToR) agreed was more in keeping with what we felt were the aims of the project. CREst are grateful to Hilary Garner for his leadership with this plus Neville Rainford and Tony Willis [a new recruit to the ECET team] who were willing to listen to what the CWG wanted. We were also greatly encouraged by the presentation given by Dr Mike D'Souza which encouraged us all to consider a positive way forward when consulting Norbiton residents. (Hearing Voices - attached) From here on in Norbiton residents and community members have assumed charge of the project with the help & support of Neville, Tony and Hilary

Once the ToR had been agreed { copy attached for information} we then planned a meeting for 16th November [6.30pm Piper Hall] where we hope to implement the actions agreed in the ToR. As you can see, there will be a rotating Chair and Note/minute taker. For the next meeting I will act as Chair and Rashid has volunteered to take meeting notes. Since the meeting on 26th I have been in touch with both Tony and Rashid. As a result Tony and I met on 2nd November to discuss how to structure the agenda for the first meeting so that all CWG members feel involved and a clear action plan is at least drafted out. Rashid and I plan to meet as soon as possible.

In addition to this, at our September meeting Martha informed us about the Cabinet Office's initiative which allocates grants to groups such as this via the 'Community First' Foundation.[almost £17000 in our case.] In order to access these funds a Norbiton resident needed to register for the funding stream. As there were only 2/3 Norbiton residents at that meeting I offered to take on the task of registering on behalf of the 'Norbiton' project and the CWG agreed this. This took quite some time to come on -line but I finally managed to do so. Part of this process asked that 'Norbiton First' - as they have asked us to be called - create an email account with which to register. Clearly, I had no wish to mix this with our CREst group so I created a unique 'Norbiton First' hotmail account as suggested in the Guidance Notes we received. These can be found at

CommunityFirst@cdf.org.uk

I am hopeful that after the 16th November the CWG will have agreed a positive way forward with an action plan at least partly in place.

2. CHARITABLE STATUS

I am delighted to report that CREst have now become a **registered Charity!** Thanks go to all of you for your input and support and KVA who helped to make it happen. Ironically, we received this news within minutes of managing to log on to the 'Community First' site. We simply have to sign

another 'Trustees Declaration' on 7th. I wonder if it may be worth us considering the idea of asking someone from KVA to talk to us about what becoming a charity means in terms of benefits and responsibilities?

3. ESTATE MATTERS

Community Group members have become increasingly concerned over the last couple of months about the number of reports we have received from residents who are worried about the group of young men and women who have taken to gathering in and around the Brinkley/Croxton/Foxton area. Caretakers report that a number of knives have been found - including one more this morning. In addition there are reports of drug taking and dealing plus noise nuisance often until very late at night and excess rubbish including beer cans and discarded pizza boxes

In response to this, CREst have been in contact with several RBK agencies and police contacts to try and agree a means of dealing with this problem - either by providing alternative activities or increased surveillance. Certainly it has been a long time since we have received so many direct complaints from residents. I have just exchanged emails with Sue McAuley and it seems that the best way forward is to arrange a meeting between residents and the Safer Neighbourhood Team. I hope that we will be in a position to report more fully on this at the meeting.

4. CRE PLAY-SCHEME

This is an ongoing project which is due to meet on the afternoon of our CREst meeting so we will be able to update you briefly at the meeting.

5. ACTIVITIES

a) **The Fun Day 2012 will be on 8th September.**

b) **Coach trips** Doreen is planning a free coach trip for CRE OAPs in November/ December. We have some funding allocated which allows us to plan a day out that is selected by them as a favourite plus a lunch whilst out.

c) **Euphonix Choir** This has now become a regular event and has started to attract increasing numbers of residents 28 to date! We are very lucky that they have agreed to perform a rehearsed programme at the Mince Pie Munch/Tree lighting on 15th December from 4pm, Piper Hall

d) **Family Learning Event** - This was an event planned by Veronica Storey on behalf of RBK Family Learning which CREst were pleased to support. It allowed us to work together with a variety of groups who all had similar aims to our own - working to improve the wellbeing of local families. In addition, we were able to take advantage of the huge turnout to canvass opinion on other projects which affect residents such as the Play Scheme and One Norbiton. We look forward to repeating the exercise in the future and have already discussed a few possible projects such as free music workshops, family dancing sessions and a drama group.

e) **Social events** - Once again we have a calendar of events organised leading in to the New Year. We have just held the annual 'Half Terms Horrors' where we entertained over 40 children plus several babies and accompanying parents. I think the term 'organised chaos' is apt here.

In December we have the annual Christmas Gala booked for 11th at Kingsmeadow and the Mince Pie Munch and Tree lighting on 15th in Piper Hall. Our newly enlarged choir have been busy practising a programme of festive songs and carols. One slight problem we have is that the contact for booking the tree has changed and the new contact is proving to be rather elusive.

f) **Future plans** - Once again we have plans to work in partnership with other agencies in order to provide a series of activities in the New Year. These will possibly include a Young Persons 'Cook and Eat' course, Music and Dance workshops as mentioned above as these may prove to be an alternative way to encourage social inclusion and family activities. There is also a project being discussed to offer cycle classes following the success of the Cycle Maintenance sessions at the Fun Day. Also high on our agenda is the hope that we can help to play a positive part in the CRE Action Partnership plans to encourage employment and training .

6. ACCOUNTS

Once again we have encountered problems with the bank changing our address - we have persuaded them to change the name from Georgie to Doreen but they clearly lost interest for the next part! At the meeting we need to agree and minute a revision of account signatories now that Georgie is no longer an officer.

Meanwhile, Doreen has just taken delivery of 6 backdated bank statements so I am hoping to update the accounts in time for the meeting, if possible. We are still searching for a Treasurer.