



## NOVEMBER 2011 REPORT

### 1. ONE NORBITON WORKING TOGETHER PROJECT

As far as CREst are concerned, this has proved to be quite a rocky road for us. We have often felt frustrated by what we perceived to be a failure to listen to our point of view. Therefore I am pleased, to report that the Community Working Group (CWG) met on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> 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. From here on in Norbiton residents and community members have assumed overall responsibility for 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> I have been in touch with both Tony and Rashid. As a result Tony and I met on 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 met last week.

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](mailto:CommunityFirst@cdf.org.uk)

I am hopeful that after the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 who were kind enough to send congratulations - 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.

Our key aim for taking this step is to reinforce our main reason for existing - to improve the health and well being of residents. This means that we are now 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 - although with the enthusiasm this news has generated this list is growing by the day!

### 3. CRE PLAY-SCHEME

This is an ongoing project . Sheila Griffin is the delegate from the Play Scheme who is delegated to report to you.

### 4 ACTIVITIES

a) **Fun Day** Not much to be said here that you will not already know - it rained .. quite a lot and for a long time. Giant slides turned in to waterfalls, burger buns had to be cut under a plastic bag to give them a fighting chance of joining the burger without dissolving. By 2.40pm a great number of stalls had , quite understandably packed up and left. The mud was being used by cyclists as a skid pan and the microwave, spud oven and electric frying pan were bordering on dangerous so I spoke to all of CREst members and it was unanimously agreed that the 'Health & Safety' situation left us no choice but to shut down. The plus side was the youths riding their bikes who proceeded to help us load and transfer the chairs to Piper Hall and then return to help with the rest of the clear up.

The accounts show that the figures are not as bad as we would have expected. We are confident that we have the funds for 2012 and have worked hard to research a date which the residents prefer and does not clash with Olympics, Kingston Carnival etc. ... **8<sup>th</sup> September 2012 : Noon-4pm**

b) **Coach trips** As you may have read in our latest Newsletter, we are planning a free coach trip for CRE OAPs on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. We have some funding allocated which allows us to plan a day out to Garson's Farm plus a something to eat and drink whilst there.

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> at Kingsmeadow and the Mince Pie Munch and Tree lighting on 15<sup>th</sup> in Piper Hall. Our newly enlarged choir have been busy practising a programme of festive songs and carols. We are once again seeking prizes and donations for our Gala Raffle so if you should know of any unwanted gifts or prizes please let either Doreen or myself know. We are keen to raise as much as possible at the Gala so that we can contribute the takings towards the budget of the 2012 Fun Day.

Speaking of funding, our Newsletter seems to be going from strength to strength with more and more people asking to be included in the circulation list from outside the estates. We are currently

writing to a number of prospective funders to try and have the funds in place for next year as soon as possible.

I was also astonished to check our website reports and discovered that it had more than 1500 hits last month. Either we have a very diligent stalker or word is spreading!

- 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 .

At our latest CREst meeting we met once again with Jim Reynolds from Kingston University. He has some students studying for a Masters Degree who are willing to come and work with young people in and around the CRE. The idea will be to encourage them to discuss life experiences and use the material to work with them to write a few sketches which can then hopefully be rehearsed and presented at the Youth Arts Festival in the Rose Theatre next year.

## **5. 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 Community Partnership members 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 also have exchanged emails with Susan McAuley and it was agreed that the best way forward is to arrange a meeting between residents and the Safer Neighbourhood Team. I believe that Susan will also be present. We have therefore spoken and/or written to the residents involved informing them about the meeting. The Safer Neighbourhood team are equally keen to get together as they believe that this residents may have valuable information which could help them. I hope that we will be in a position to report more fully on this at the meeting.