



JULY 2012 CHAIR'S REPORT

Goodness, it only seems like five minutes ago I was writing you my June report. It is getting that I am getting scared to go to sleep in case I wake and find it is Christmas! Time passing quickly does not reduce the amount we have all achieved recently.

1. ONE NORBITON WORKING TOGETHER [ONWT] PROJECT

As I mentioned during my last report, the Public Meeting was held on 10th June in Kingsmeadow and proved very successful. Almost 60 people attended and there were no 'hic-cups'. A copy of the notes from the meeting and an overview of the feedback from residents on their priorities was presented at the last Community Working Group [CWG] meeting and is attached to this report for your information.

Things have been moving pretty quickly since the Public meeting. The Community Engagement group met the week after the meeting and proposed three projects to the CWG.

Short: Clearing the front of Wicks' doorway

Medium: A campaign to reduce dog mess

Long: A campaign leading to the reduction of the gap at Norbiton Station and review local parking facilities. [CEG minutes]

These were put to the CWG for consideration at the 25th June meeting and it was agreed that an action plan will be drafted outlining what is needed and seeking volunteers to step forward and take on some of the tasks. The following day I received an email from the Community Development Foundation informing me that the deadline for submitting funding requests was today! (They had originally said the end of March but then wrote to say that this was being extended until the summer) I hope that this will explain some of the emails that have been circulated. I am not sure if I am writing wearing my Crest hat or my One Norbiton one but either way it would seem silly not to make every effort to access funds which can help to do some good for residents. The funding requests are of course closely linked to One Norbiton priorities but also underpin what CRESt do anyway.

2. ESTATE MATTERS

- a) **Play Scheme** - Both of the resident consultation events that we were planning when I last wrote have now been held. The Monday afternoon event in Piper Hall was particularly successful with an encouraging cross section of residents young and old coming along to share their opinions. The Saturday event in Queen Mary's Hall was not quite so well attended but nevertheless offered residents the chance to have their say. The results of these consultations are being analysed by Anne from Proludic who will come to this week's Working Party with a draft layout which incorporates the feedback. Once the layout has been agreed we can hopefully press on and get the equipment ordered ready for construction. I am hoping that the agreement should be quite straightforward as our job was to make sure that we fully reflected what the majority of residents want, rather than argue over a which the colour of swings or whatever [famous last words!]
- b) **Safer Neighbourhood update** - I was very disappointed to learn that Sgt Lisa Maslen has been moved away from Norbiton Safer Neighbourhood Team after such a short but very productive six months. It is very frustrating when we are allocated someone who clearly wants to help us make a difference and they are snatched away almost before they find their feet. However, I am sure that you will all join me in wishing Lisa well in her future position.

- c) **Drugs** - This is a problem that persists and is causing great distress to the residents of Brinkley and surrounding area. We are doing our best to encourage residents to notify the police if they have new information but this is clearly not simple for fear of reprisals.
- d) **Madingley** - Several residents in Madingley have been repeatedly in touch this week to report that the higher floors were without a water supply for the whole day last Saturday. Attempts to get the problem repaired were made hard due to the fact that there seemed to be no number available to get in touch with someone with the authority to take action. Thames Water eventually sent a local plumber but were repeatedly informing residents that they would be charged a call out fee. In addition, there was no attempt whatsoever to provide the residents affected with bottled water. Eventually a resident went to ASDA and bought some to distribute. Unfortunately the water went off yet again on Tuesday. I have written to Housing Management but despite having emailed some 5 officers not one of them has taken the time to even acknowledge my email. This is made worse when part of it included the fact that yet again Madingley residents have failed to receive their fuel allowance (paid because they still have no gas supply since the fire) The last payment was received at the start of May, I am told.
- e) **Site inspection.** Alma went on a walkabout around Cambridge Gardens with Cllr Penny Shelton last week. I have no doubt we will get a full report from one of them at the meeting.

3. TRAINING

At the last meeting we agreed that we should arrange more Governance training with Sanja as a follow on from the session held in April. It would be helpful if you could take a look in your diaries to determine a couple of convenient dates that we can approach Sanja with.

4. FINANCE AND ADMIN

About 10 days ago I attended a training session organised by KVA to create a 'Local Giving' web page. This involves CREst being registered by the London Community Foundation/LocalGiving.com . I have created a web page which lists our aims and activities and highlights current projects. It is aimed at prospective donators who want to aim their donations either locally or at groups who work in specific areas. Any donations are automatically subject to 'Gift Aid' and there is a 3% admin charge from Local Giving. This would usually cost £65 per annum subscription but KVA have an arrangement which allows us to access the site free of charge for the first year. You can view my attempt by visiting www.justgiving.com and entering the postcode KT1 3HY. I should stress that this can be edited at any time so feedback is welcome.

5. EVENTS

Zumba and Salsa - Following our discussions at the last meeting, both of these classes are now going ahead in Piper Hall on Thursday afternoons. There is some debate about what is happening in September as Piper Hall had been booked elsewhere. Jenny was investigating with Nathan

Enjoy a Ball - Raj has been booked and Piper Hall confirmed so there will be weekly Enjoy a Ball session for CRE youngsters from 5 - 9 years during the summer holidays. This is mentioned in the latest Newsletter and posters will be up very soon

Coach Trips - The trip to Brighton went very well last Sunday with the participants benefitting from sunshine that the rest of us did not experience.

Cook and Eat - Veronica Storey has been working to ensure that these sessions will go ahead. An update will be received on Monday

Garage Sales - In addition to the items in our garage, there are quite a number of toys remaining in the cupboard in Piper Hall. Although they are not strictly our responsibility it would seem a shame if Jason and Des have to throw them away because they need the space. I have asked Des to hold off until after our meeting in case we can put together a plan to hold a sale or find a willing recipient.

6. FUN DAY

Bookings for the Fun Day have been received from a number of agencies, including a few new groups anxious to get involved.

Our next task is to secure prizes for both the Raffle and the Tombola. Doreen and I are sending out the usual 'begging letters' but it would be very much appreciated if you could take any available opportunity to secure prizes for either raffle tombola please.