



OCTOBER [2] 2012 CHAIR'S REPORT

1. ONE NORBITON WORKING TOGETHER PROJECT

There has been significant progress with this project over the past couple of months:-

- a) We learned today that 'One Norbiton' is now a company Limited by Guarantee [£60 - ie: a nominal penny per household]. There is an inaugural meeting planned for 13th November in Piper Hall . Doors will be open at 6pm to allow residents access to Heidi Seitzen from Kingston University who has been tasked with evaluating the pilot. The formal meeting will be held to elect Officers and Directors of the newly formed company. After a short break the newly formed company and other interested parties will meet to discuss the pre circulated agenda.

An invitation has been sent to interested parties , notice of the meeting is on the website and posters have been distributed throughout Norbiton. Everyone is welcome to attend.

- b) Mike and I plus Kamala attended a Peer Group Challenge at the Government's Local Communities office a few weeks ago. This involved the ten areas who have been participating in the 'Community Budgets' pilot who were being evaluated by two fellow participants and officers from the Community Budgets project. I will forward a copy of the report to anyone who is interested, or you can see it on the One Norbiton website : www.onenorbiton.org.uk
- c) There has been a fair amount of activity following the above meeting. We were called to a meeting with key officers from RBK who are anxious from 'quick wins' to demonstrate that the pilot has demonstrable outcomes. However, the Chairs from the priority sub groups have expressed the need to not hurry things along just for the sake of it. Watch this space!

2. ESTATE MATTERS

Residents have been expressing serious concern that the state of CRE and Cambridge Gdns has deteriorated once again to conditions which prompted the public meeting several years back. Major complaints have been made about the poor fencing, standards on balconies, poor lift maintenance , lighting and a general 'lack of care'. It has been strongly suggested that CREst organise estate inspections in the near future and then report the findings to Housing. RBK Housing Officials and Councillors are welcome to attend and we must discuss a convenient date on Monday.

3. CRE PLAY-SCHEME

Those of you walking in and around the estates will have noticed that the equipment is being installed as I write this! There is a catch up meeting on Monday so we will give you any updates at the meeting.

4. FUTURE OF CREST OFFICE FACILITIES

You are all aware of the fact that over the past two years I and several other CREst members have become increasingly involved in the One Norbiton project. As has been reported to you

during that time, CREst have stepped in to help with the increasing need for administrative support and the many other requirements of a fledgling group with virtually no funding. As a result, the Graveley office and its function have had the edges blurred a little of late -although I have always been very clear of the boundaries.

However, this has clearly raised concerns with RBK Housing who allow us use of the office and facilities. As you will know, I was elected Secretary of the One Norbiton Community Working Group [CWG] in May. As a matter of courtesy I emailed Simon Oelman a few months ago to explain that the office was also being used in part to administer the One Norbiton CWG. As a consequence Dr Mike [Chair of One Norbiton] and I met up with Simon last Monday to discuss the allocation of premises on the CRE and Cambridge Gardens. In particular, Mike was concerned that the allocation of premises seemed to lack balance considering workload and output from various groups and organizations. In addition to this, Simon was concerned that what had originally been seen as an office facility for a local group had mushroomed in to something far that attracted far more attention and activity. This inevitably had repercussions with regard to the Caretaking Team who we share the premises with, especially the increase in visitors now that our 'popularity' has increased.

Therefore, Simon has proposed that the whole operation be moved across to what used to be the laundry on Cambridge Gardens. This is currently being used by the 'Better Homes' team and needs some work but it is likely to become vacant next March. The proposal is that for a 'peppercorn' rent One Norbiton takes on these premises and sublets space to CREst. RBK will supply electricity and a phone line etc. and are also prepared to allocate a budget of approximately £5k to aid the refurbishments. Mike and I [of course!]went to look at the premises straight after the meeting and there is ample room for not just administrative offices but also a fair sized meeting room. It may take some work on our part to make it habitable but I for one can see the benefit of a community project to refurbish the premises. There is also the possibility that other groups could make a base there. This would fit very nicely with 'One Norbiton's ' aim of creating a community hub. In addition, a location that is still within CREst's domain but also not in the middle of the CRE could be a positive factor for One Norbiton.

I should stress that I made it clear to Simon and Des that this was an issue that I would need to discuss with you guys. I also mentioned that it felt vaguely as if CREst was being censored for stepping in to aid the progress of One Norbiton . However, Simon assured me that this was not the case and that both CREst and One Norbiton continued to have his support.

5. EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- a) **Half Term Horrors** - As you will have read, this event attracted 72 children plus guardians on Monday. Clearly we have been doing something right! However it has raised the issue of safety and hall capacity. Doreen has been thinking about this and plans to report at the meeting.
- b) **Gala** - We have at last booked an entertainer so it is all systems go for 9th December. Our task for this week is to seek donations for the Gala Raffle.
- c) **Tree lighting and Mince Pie Munch**. The tree has been ordered and Piper Hall booked for 19th December. On Monday we need to discuss the format of the event. Initially it was a 'thank you' to everyone who had supported us during the year. However, there seems to be a general wish for the event to be more widely advertised and residents encouraged to attend.
- d) **Cook and Eat** - Veronica reports that this has been a successful event with increasing numbers of youngsters attending. I believe that she hopes to run a second event - more on Monday.
- e) **Family Learning Fun Day** - CREst in the form of Doreen, Jenny and I helped with this event - baked spuds and hot dogs! I am sure that Veronica will give a full report but I had the impression that the event was very successful once again
- f) **2013 Planner** - I am doing my best to compile the schedule for 2013. If you have any preferred dates please say so now!
- g) **Drama Group** - Unfortunately Jim reports that this project may not now start until after Christmas due to student availability problems.

**CREst Committee & Trustees Meeting
5th November 2012 at 6.00pm in PIPER HALL**

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Welcome to new members/guests**
- 3. To receive minutes of meeting held on 8th October 2012**
- 4. Matters arising**
 - a) CRE Play Scheme SG
 - b) One Norbiton JP
 - c) Drama Group JR
 - d) Food of all Nations DRM
- 5. Discussion on Possible new premises**
- 6. NHS Consultation 'Better Services Better Value'**
- 7. Mental Health Drop in**
- 8. Estate Matters:**
 - a) Superhighways/Community Connected
 - b) Estate Inspections - walkabout
 - c) Lighting and Fencing
 - d) Consultation re: Housing Environmental funding.
- 9 Safer Neighbourhood Report**
- 10 Chair's Report**
- 11 Treasurers update**
- 12. Newsletter**
- 13 Events /Activities Updates**
 - a) Gala DG
 - b) Family Fun Day – 13th October 12 VS
 - c) Christmas Plans - Tree and Mince Pie Munch JP
 - d) Plans for 2013
- 14 Any other business**
- 15. Date and time of next meeting 3rd December 2012 6pm Piper Hall**