

Community Centre

The project to use Section 106 money from Zebon Copse developers to refurbish and improve the Community Centre prior to handover to Crookham Village Parish Council has had yet another setback. Initial tenders returned in early August were all above the available budget. As a result, a somewhat scaled-down alternative plan has been prepared, which is expected to go to tender again shortly. The start of work will therefore be yet further delayed. In the meantime, the Community Centre will remain open for business until the refurbishment date approaches. For seasonal or other booking, contact Hart District Council via the Harlington Centre desk or 01252-774138. Should work not start until Easter, there will be a significant risk that it will not be complete until towards the end of the Summer school holidays. As a result, it is possible that the ZCRA fete will have to be postponed to a later date than usual. Further details will be publicised when available.

Law and Order

The Community Centre has been the focus of some bad examples of juvenile behaviour over the last few months. Windows have been broken, drainpipes wrenched off the walls and broken, and gangs of kids on the roof. That the Community Centre has been less occupied than usual due to uncertainties about the refurbishment programme has added to the problem, although hooliganism has also been a problem during evenings when the hall is occupied. Elsewhere on the estate, youngsters have been seen firing air guns across public paths into the woods, the newly-installed gate to the Silvester Way badger area has been torn off its hinges and a paling removed, safety fences around ditches have been broken, and boards have been broken on the boardwalk through the Copse. The lack of road sense of youngsters on bikes and skate boards is also fairly alarming at times - it's only a matter of time before someone gets run over on a blind corner. Not to mention riding on pavements or in the dark without lights. Unsupervised youngsters seemingly think they can do whatever they like and be out late in the evening. This is a parental control issue. Do you know what your children are getting up to when they are out and about between school and bedtime? Do you know who they are consorting with? In particular, for younger kids, do you know if they are being led astray by older children? The community has to meet the cost of repairing the results of vandalism. It would be a great shame if estate children acquired a police record as a result. Please encourage them to enjoy activities with friends that do not challenge law and order. And, if a youngster falls off the roof or gets run over, they and their parents will quickly learn that the going can be very hard if you damage yourself for life - particularly if it is your fault. **Please exhort your children to have greater respect for the law, people and property and help stop this antisocial behaviour.**

Fly Tipping

It is not only children who lack respect for their neighbourhood. Several instances of fly tipping have been noted around the estate. For example: gravel and other waste near the pathway into the woods from Londlandes; black plastic dustbin sacks alongside the path under the pylons; packs of papers of undelivered freesheets; and garden waste dumped over back fences. Not to mention all the sweet wrappers and drinks containers. Please dispose of all your waste in the proper way: compost it yourself; put acceptable things in your dustbin/recycling bin; pay for HDC garden waste collection; or take it to the tip yourself. **Don't fly tip!**

Over 55 ?

The HDC Partnerships Team is recruiting for their Over 55's Forum which will be up and running soon. If you are interested in joining, please contact Sam Hexter-Andrews, HDC Community & Partnerships Officer, on 01252 774264.

Spring Bulbs

The ZCRA committee and helpers have once again planted additional spring-flowering daffodil bulbs around the estate. Keep an eye open in the Spring for gaps in coverage on public open space near where you live and volunteer to plant bulbs in the gaps in September/October next year. ZCRA will supply the bulbs - it is volunteer planters who know where to plant them that are required. If you might be interested for 2009, please contact ZCRA during the spring flowering season.

Fleet & Church Crookham in Bloom

The annual F&CCinBloom competition produced worthy winners on Zebon Copse. Andrew Collis of Nether Vellmead was Highly Commended for Traditional Summer Bedding; Commended for Display of Containers; Highly Commended for Best Individual Container; and won the Chairman's Cup for the small garden that incorporated unusual plant varieties. Kathy Roades won the Best All-Year-Round Garden in the novices class. Daphne Drive was runner up in the Neighbourhood class. Well done to all the winners. Why not enter YOUR garden next year or get together with neighbours to put in a group entry? Details from ZCRA.

Nominated Neighbour

The North East Hampshire Police *Nominated Neighbour* scheme encourages participating residents to act as a point of contact for vulnerable people within their community. The Nominated Neighbour is chosen by the vulnerable resident and could be a relative or friend. Under the scheme, if a vulnerable or elderly person receives an unknown caller to their home, they will not answer the door but present a card at their window redirecting the visitor to phone or visit their nominated neighbour's house. The nominated neighbour will then speak to the visitor to verify the reason for their call, check their identity and confirm whether the visitor is genuine. If the visit is needed, the neighbour will return to the resident's home with the caller and supervise the visit. The neighbour will not leave until the caller has left. Sue Gibson, Hampshire Constabulary's Force Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, said: "Neighbourhood Watch fully supports this scheme as it is a way for vulnerable residents to be protected against criminals who usually target them using convincing stories and props to give the appearance of authenticity. Neighbourhood Watch can assist by knowing within their 'patch' who could be more susceptible to opportunistic criminals. By identifying vulnerable residents in the immediate neighbourhood we can ensure these residents are cared for." Neighbourhood watch groups on the estate are encouraged to offer this service to any potential participants in their immediate area. If you are interested in setting up such a facility for yourself and would like some help finding a 'neighbour', please contact ZCRA.

Christmas Bike?

With the festive season nearly upon us, Police are launching a campaign to remind residents to keep their cycles safe and secure. A large number of stolen bicycles are recovered by police but some are never reunited with their rightful owners as they cannot be identified. There are often a large number of cycles being bought as Christmas presents, particularly children's cycles. With this increase in numbers, a rise in thefts may also be seen where thieves target the nice new shiny bikes after the festive period. In the run up to Christmas, other bikes are vulnerable, perhaps taken to be spruced up and given as a gift. How well could you describe your bicycle? It only takes a few seconds to steal one, so keep a record of your cycle details, and keep it secure to deter thieves.

Try to keep YOUR bike safe:

- Marking the bike with your postcode and house number acts as a deterrent to theft and assists the police with identifying recovered property.
- Always use a bicycle stand if there is one available. Otherwise, use a static object such as a lamp post or railings (but not where there is a notice specifically forbidding it!).
- Secure your bike with a good quality cycle lock.
- Quick release accessories are vulnerable. Consider replacing the quick release lever with a security bolt or remove them when leaving the bicycle.
- Lights are made detachable so remove them before a thief does.
- Keep a note of the bicycle frame number. This will make it easier to identify should the cycle be recovered by the police.
- Store a digital photo of the bicycle in a safe place.

Don't let thieves spoil your Christmas!

Flooding

Developments upstream of Zebon Copse continue to have the potential to increase the risk of flooding on the estate should there be another major rainstorm. The three upstream development sites posing a potential threat to the estate are: Redfields Garden Centre; Blue Prior; and QEB. It seems to be accepted practice for such developments to provide on-site storm water facilities to deal with a 1 in 100 year event. As a result, if there is a repeat of the 20 July 2007 storm, it seems possible that all upstream systems could be overwhelmed at once and start discharging their overflow into the stream that runs through the estate at the very time when maximum capacity is required to deal with our own storm water. Crookham Village Parish Council has asked the local planning authority (Hart Council) several times now for an independent assessment of the risk and consequences of such an event, but so far there is no sign of one being carried out. If you have concerns in this area, please comment appropriately to Hart Council on planning applications for these sites.

Public Transport

A new *Getting About Guide for Rushmoor and Hart* has just been published. It gives lots of useful details of public transport facilities and schemes covering our local area plus details of many organisations which can help with travel or travel information. If you are a user of public transport, or would be if you knew what was on offer, then get a copy via www.hants.gov.uk/passengertransport or phone 01962-847042. Residents of Church Crookham are eligible to use *Hart Taxishares* for journeys to Alton on a Tuesday for £3 single or £5 return (Farepass = half price). Ring 0845-602-4135 to register.

Street Lights

Please report any street lighting faults to Hampshire County Council on 0800-506060.

Keep ZCRA Informed

Please advise ZCRA if you have any law and order issues or damage/maintenance problems needing attention in public areas. We'll help if we can.

Topical Quiz

1. When turning right from a main road into a side turning you should: (a) cut the corner and hope no-one is coming the other way; (b) stop to let out a vehicle waiting to turn right from the side turning; (c) Complete the turn so that you remain on your own side of the road throughout.
 2. When negotiating a blind corner you should: (a) keep carefully to your own side to give maximum space for someone coming the other way; (b) go as fast as possible; (c) cut the corner and swear at anyone coming the other way.
 3. When approaching a traffic pinch point you should: (a) accelerate to beat the car coming the other way; (b) slow down so that the other driver can see that there is room to go first; (c) wave thanks to the person who let you go first.
 4. If you have an off-street parking space you should: (a) park outside your front door regardless of the effect on passing traffic; (b) park near a blind corner because it is closer; (c) always use your own parking place.
 5. If you need to park near a bend it is best to: (a) park on the outside; (b) park on the inside; (c) park somewhere else.
 6. When driving at night you notice other cars with defective lights. Your reaction is to: (a) take no notice; (b) put your headlights on full beam; (c) check your own lights next time you have an opportunity.
 7. When walking your dog through the woods without a poo bag you should: (a) ignore the problem; (b) kick some leaves over it; (c) go home, fetch a bag, and clear it up.
 8. When out and about you see some antisocial behaviour and: (a) turn away in case you get involved; (b) tell ZCRA; (c) dial 101 and make the police aware of the problem.
 9. When letting off fireworks at home you: (a) have a lovely time whatever the hour; (b) keep within the 11pm cutoff; (c) warn all your neighbours in advance.
 10. To deal with excess garden waste you should: (a) dump it in the woods; (b) compost it yourself; (c) pay Hart to collect and recycle it.
 11. Your pet invertebrate eats earth worms. To find worms you should: (a) dig up public areas of the estate; (b) dig in your own garden; (c) buy special food from a pet shop.
 12. You child fancies a tree house. You should: (a) build one in the woods, cutting down trees as required; (b) take wood from fences round the copse and build one at home; (c) decide that your own trees are not mature enough for such a structure and drop the idea.
 13. The roadside ground the other side of your fence is very unkempt. You should: (a) assume it is not your problem; (b) check your deeds in case it is part of your property; (c) keep it tidy and with a clear pavement.
 14. It's bin day: (a) my bin has no house number on it; (b) I leave my bin out for days afterwards; (c) I put my bin away the same day.
- Answers: 1(a) 0, (b) 2, (c) 2. 2(a) 3, (b) 0, (c) -3. 3(a) 0, (b) 3, (c) 2; 4(a) 0, (b) 0, (c) 3; 5(a) 0, (b) 1, (c) 3; 6(a) 0, (b) -3, (c) 3; 7(a) -3, (b) 0, (c) 3; 8(a) 0, (b) 2, (c) 3; 9(a) 0, (b) 3, (c) 3; 10(a) -3, (b) 3, (c) 3; 11(a) -3, (b) 3, (c) 3; 12(a) -3, (b) -3, (c) 0; 13(a) 0, (b) 3, (c) 3; 14(a) 0, (b)-2; (c) 3.

Score 30 or more = good neighbour; 20 or less = could do better.

ZCRA Street Reps

ZCRA has been very grateful for help given by volunteer street representatives who help with collection of subs and delivery of newsletters. We currently have a number of vacancies: Camus Close; Levignen Close; Wooland Court; Annettes Croft; Frenchmans Creek (upstairs); Jessett Drive (half the road); and Mellersh Close. We are very happy to split areas between several people if that helps keep individual workload down. Please offer to help if you can spare a small amount of time a few times a year for deliveries and collections.

ZCRA Committee

Chairman/Fete/Newsletter: David Jackson 615052

Treasurer/Membership: Val Hall 613970

Secretary: Anne Foulsham 629934

Chris Hall Rajan (Spar shop)

Kathy Roades Rachel Kitchen

ZCRA email: zcra@ntlworld.com

Keep an eye on the ZCRA noticeboard outside the Spar shop for any late news.