

ZCRA AGM

**8 for 8:15pm Thursday
20 February 2014**

The 2014 Annual General Meeting of Zebon Copse Residents Association will be held in Zebon Copse Centre at 8pm on Thursday 20 February 2014. All residents are cordially invited to attend and make their inputs to the role of ZCRA for the coming year.

It is hoped that Parish, District and County Councillors will attend to give an outline of their topics of interest and to field any questions.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Last minutes
3. Chairman's report
4. Approval of accounts
5. Appointment of Auditor
6. Appointment of cheque signatories
7. Election of committee
8. Purchase of Seats and Dog Bag Dispensers
9. Any other business
10. End AGM - BREAK for refreshments
11. Councillor Question Time

Estate Litter Pick

10am Sunday 23 March

ZCRA is holding another estate-wide litter pick from 1000-1200 on Sunday 23 March 2014. Picking tools, gloves and bags will be available.

There is a lot of litter around after the winter storms, so a good turnout would be very welcome. The Chairman would also like to hear in advance about any areas of the estate where you think litter is a significant problem to help focus effort on the day.

Everyone is invited., Wear sensible clothes and footwear. Meet at 10am outside the Spar Shop. Please be there on time so we can allocate teams to as much of the estate as possible.

Housing Developments

The proposals by Martin Grant Homes to build 300+ houses on the other side of Watery Lane and convert a large area of adjacent farm land into a country park have met with a mixed response from residents.

ZCRA called a public meeting about the scheme on 14 November attended by around 60 people who voiced considerable opposition.

Subsequently a group called ZWAG (Zebon Watery Action Group) was formed to organise opposition to the scheme. This group has now joined with FACE-IT to benefit from their experience with fighting the Grove Farm proposals. Their first joint public meeting was held on 11 January and again was well attended.

So far all that has been available is the initial airing of Martin Grant's outline thoughts via a pre-application exercise with Hart Council (13/02109/SITE99). We now await the submission of a formal planning application. Meanwhile, Crookham Village Parish Council, without any endorsement of or agreement to the proposals, has been talking to Martin Grant to ensure that, should the application be approved, there will be significant mitigating benefit to local leisure and other infrastructure.

When the time comes, make sure you make individual responses with arguments that address legitimate planning issues - see the Hart Council web site about responding to planning applications for guidance on what can, and can not, be taken into account by that council when determining planning applications.

In parallel, Berkeley Homes is reviving its proposals to build on Grove Farm and there is also a proposal to put 20+ houses on the village site of the old Tudgey's Nurseries off Knight Close. These are not happy times for those who value open countryside.

Flooding

The storms over Christmas and New Year caused a number of flooding problems around the estate. As with previous occasions, ZCRA would like to compile a detailed, illustrated report which can be used as evidence to authorities etc in the future.

Please would anyone affected by these floods make contact with the Chairman of ZCRA (contact details overleaf) and, if possible, provide both a written description and photographs to explain the problem.

www.zcra.org.uk

The committee is very pleased to announce that there is now a ZCRA web site containing local information, news, an estate map, and details of estate events.

The site is still being developed, but already offers quite a lot of useful information, including every ZCRA newsletter from the first in 1993. The committee would be very pleased to hear your reaction to the web site and receive any suggestions you might have for additional content.

Now we have the web site, the email address for contacting ZCRA will be changing, although the old one will continue to be monitored. chair@zcra.org.uk will take over from zcra@ntlworld.com, whilst other members of the committee and specific topics will receive their own ZCRA email addresses a bit further down the line.

And for those who monitor Twitter, [@Zebon Copse](https://twitter.com/ZebonCopse) is another way to keep up with items from ZCRA.

Zebon Copse Fete 1-5pm Sunday 29 June 2014

Note the date!

Law & Order

The New Year has also brought some attempted break-ins on the estate, including at the Spar Shop.

If you see anything suspicious, please call the police on 999 for anything urgent, or 101 to report past events or lesser problems. And please also advise ZCRA so that we can monitor and react to this sort of problem via our local contacts.

Dog Bag Dispenser

In early October, following approval by the 2013 AGM, ZCRA installed a dog-bag dispenser at the end of Londlandes. This facility has been very well received and dispenses an average of over 20 bags a day. There has been little sign that these biodegradable bags are being used inappropriately, but it is disappointing to see that some people are still leaving their dog mess behind, including one pile only a few yards from the dispenser. Do try harder, please, to keep the estate clear of dog mess and, in particular, don't just let your dog out unattended onto adjacent open space.

The downside is that bags are not cheap and at current rates the dispenser will cost over £300 a year for bags alone.

Copse Work Parties

Much effort towards the end of last year cleared a large area of the Copse near Londlandes as part of the long-term project by Hampshire Rangers to coppice a significant area of the Copse. Meanwhile, routine work parties continue at approximately monthly intervals, normally alternating between Wednesday and Sunday. The next one is at 10am on Sunday 16 February - meet at the Copse end of Londlandes wearing suitable clothing and wellies.

Further details available from 01252-870425/07590-304894.

Snow and Ice

If we do get snow and ice, then only Brandon Road and the Daphne/Browning/Danvers loop are due to be salted/gritted (at second priority), whereas Gally Hill Road and Redfields Lane are Priority One. Please don't park on these main roads at the time or the gritters won't be able to do their work properly.

Roadside grit bins around the estate have been placed where problems have been most severe in the past. They are there to allow residents to apply the salt/grit to the roadway in the event of severe frost or snow. If misused for private property, the facility will be withdrawn by HCC. So please don't take liberties.

If the bins need refilling or other attention, please inform ZCRA via gritbins@zcra.org.uk.

Wild Flower Beds

Following the success of the experimental wild flower areas planted under the pylons and alongside Daphne Drive last year, it is planned to plant further areas this Spring for which volunteers will be needed to help prepare the ground and sow the seeds. Saturday 12 April is the provisional date depending on weather and volunteers.

Potential new areas are on the open space South of Browning Road near Lynams and around the earth bank of the balancing pond on Brandon Road. Suggestions welcome for other possible sites around the estate where play or access will not be affected.

If you would like to help, please contact Janice Stenning via flowers@zcra.org.uk now to register your interest or to offer suggested sites. That way, we can let you know final details of date, time and place closer to the day.

Parish Council

Once again Crookham Village Parish Council (covers all of the estate) is one short of its full complement of councillors for Zebon Copse. Anyone interested please contact the parish clerk on 01252-810568 or clerk@crookhamvillage-pc.org.uk.

ZCRA

Membership of ZCRA is refreshed each year by the collection of subscriptions of £2/household (£1 for pensioners) so that ZCRA can maintain credibility when representing the local community and have the necessary funds to do so. Subs can be paid either at the AGM or when a collector calls at your door. Thanks are due to the valiant efforts of Kathy Roades and her team of volunteers who knock on doors to collect the modest membership fee (£2/year/household £1 for pensioners), which has not changed since ZCRA was founded in the early 1990s. Kathy will, of course, be delighted to receive further offers of help in recruiting members and delivering newsletters.

The ZCRA committee aims to:

- keep residents informed about local items of interest;
- act as a focus for ensuring that maintenance and enhancements to the estate get due attention from the powers that be;
- monitor law and order issues and seek remedial action where possible;
- offer help and advice to residents;
- organise social events and working parties in and around the estate;
- hold public meetings if anything significant arises for which a meeting is the best way to gain timely feedback from members.

Ensuring a high standard of routine maintenance around the estate is a continual challenge. Roads, pavements (particularly overhanging vegetation), open spaces, waste bins, trees, paths, lighting, flood defences and the like constantly require minor works. But if no-one reports problems, remedial action is unlikely. So, if you see anything that needs attention, please report the problem yourself and also tell ZCRA, or pass details to ZCRA for us to action.

Please do continue to support ZCRA. Your modest subscription allows us run the association, to put on social and other events each year, to publish newsletters, to maintain the web site, and to maintain items like the dog-bag dispenser.

Currently the programme for 2014 looks like this:

AGM 20 February
Litter Pick 23 March
Wild flower preparation and sowing 12 April (provisional)
Summer Fete 29 June
Children's Halloween Party TBD
Christmas Fayre

Last year we had to cancel the Halloween Party because we couldn't get enough volunteers to organise and run the event. It would be such a shame to cancel again this year when in 2012 we gave 65 children a really good time. Please contact ZCRA if you would be willing to help organise and run this event.

Suggestions for other events/activities are always welcome, especially if they come with some organising effort as well!

ZCRA Committee

We are very pleased to welcome Kirsty Arnold onto the committee. In recent years Kirsty very-successfully organised stalls for ZCRA Christmas Fayres and Fetes, but had to take a break to cover a major change of job. Welcome back!

We'd welcome one or two more members of the committee - please contact the chairman and come along to one of our meetings.

ZCRA Committee

Chairman/Fete/Newsletter: David Jackson 615052

Treasurer/Membership: Val Hall 613970

Secretary: Ian Clarke 408152

Helpers: Kathy Roades 627093

Kirsty Arnold

Mark Hensby 697065

Rajan (Spar shop) 623050

Twitter: @ZebonCopse

Keep an eye on the ZCRA noticeboard outside the Spar shop