

Flood Report

Following the further flooding of parts of the estate on 20 July, ZCRA compiled another photographic report which was submitted to the relevant authorities soon afterwards.

A site meeting has been held with Thames Water about overflow from the Brandon Road balancing pond and remedial measures suggested. If their engineers agree, modifications should be made to the bund to reduce the risk of overflows towards houses.

Flooding from flows down Ewshot Lane have been discussed with a Highways representative and HDC is also aware of the extent of the problem, which originates within the QEB site. Hopefully remedial action can be taken to address this ongoing problem for residents in some higher-number properties along Nether Vell Mead.

The more hard evidence we can present, the more chance there will be of getting remedial action. If there are any more flooding events, it will be very helpful if affected residents could take digital photographs and pass them to ZCRA for inclusion in further detailed reports.

Aircraft Noise

ZCRA has just become aware that a significant number of residents, especially those living towards the Redfields end of the estate, have complained to TAG about aircraft noise over the summer. Some have complained about particular aircraft overflights, but others have made more general complaints about increased disturbance.

Farnborough is trialling a scheme, optimistically called the *Quiet Flying Programme*, which attempts to constrain flights to a narrower range of ground tracks. This is intended to reduce the number of households affected, but it appears to have greatly increased the disturbance to those living under the tighter track area.

Air traffic in and out of Farnborough is approaching the maximum capacity allowed under the current planning approval. TAG's application to increase traffic above these limits is currently under consideration by the government after a public appeal hearing. The projected decision date of 31 October has fallen by the wayside now the Secretary of State will make the decision instead of the planning inspector.

What do you think about aircraft noise over the estate? Should ZCRA campaign for reduction of overflights or are you content to live with the effects of the airfield? Please let ZCRA know. TAG's complaints line is 01252-526001 should you need it.

Hart Call & Go

The rules for using Hart Call & Go on-demand buses have been relaxed to encourage wider use of this service. Their regular route structure from our area is now: Camberley on Monday and Tuesday; Basingstoke on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Ring 0845-602-4135 for further information or bookings.

Trading Standards

The Trading Standards Office warns of the following scam: A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 661911 (a premium rate number). DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize.

If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 0207-2396655 or ICSTIS (the premium rate service regulator) at <http://www.icstis.org.uk/>.

Community Centre

Negotiations between Crookham Village Parish Council and Hart District Council for handing over the Velmead sports pitches, play areas and community centre to the Parish have reached a critical stage, with the first part of the transfer due on 1 April 2008 leading to a complete handover by 1 April 2011.

Part of the plan is for a significant upgrade to the Community Centre to improve its facilities for local groups as well as to enhance financial viability in the longer term. It is also hoped to update the smaller children's play area at the same time.

For the handover to be viable, a new management structure will be required which will need to start getting involved from next April. The Parish Council wishes to recruit people from the local community as volunteers to manage the facility supported by a small number of paid employees and the Parish Council.

This is a chance for you to put something back into the community. If you have management skills and would like to contribute, please ask for further information either from ZCRA or from the Parish Council. Hart Council is determined to shed responsibility for Velmead. If there are insufficient suitable volunteers for management by the community, the future of the facilities will be placed in considerable doubt.

Please help !

First Aid Training

It's been a while since ZCRA recruited enough volunteers to run a First Aid course in the Community Centre. Even if you have been on one before, you should know that CPR recommendations have changed recently and that it is always a good idea to have a refresher at least every couple of years.

If you might be interested in a course that lasts about four hours, please contact David Jackson with your target age group for casualties (adults or children/babies). Deadline for expressing an interest is 5 December with a possible course over a weekend in January/February. Costs to be confirmed when demand has been established, but probably £20-30 a head.

Married in 1947 ?

Are you celebrating your Diamond Wedding Anniversary this year? If so, you are in good company – as Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh also celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in 2007.

To mark this happy occasion the Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, Mrs Mary Fagan, together with the Dean and Chapter of Winchester Cathedral will be hosting a Service of Celebration in Winchester Cathedral on Sunday 18 November 2007 at 3.30pm.

The Lord Lieutenant will be pleased to send an invitation to this special service to all couples who were married in 1947 and who live in Hampshire. After the service the Leader of Hampshire County Council, Councillor Ken Thornber CBE and the Chairman of Hampshire County Council, Councillor Patricia Devereux, will be hosting an anniversary tea for the Diamond Wedding couples.

If you qualify, call 01962 826068 for details.

Young Parents' Group

Christ Church YPG, which is under the umbrella of the Mothers' Union, meets at 9:30am on Wednesdays at 8 Leger Close (off Brandon Road). Do come along with your pre-school children for discussion and to meet new friends. For further details, call Janet on 614587.

Swing Bridge

You may have noticed that the Swing Bridge has a new non-slip surface, which was installed by a contractor for the Basingstoke Canal Authority using a £2000 grant from Crookham Village Parish Council. Initial teething problems are due to be remedied shortly and the remainder of the maintenance, including a repaint of the whole bridge, has been promised for the near future with funding from BCA resources.

Planning

Ease of public access to Army land off Bourley Road is severely threatened by proposals related to the development of the QEB site. Those who wish to retain easy access to the Army ranges off Bourley Road need to turn out in large numbers to demonstrate to the planning inspector the strength of opposition to the proposed huge reduction in parking spaces. The critical meeting is in Princes Hall, Aldershot on Wednesday 28 November starting at 7pm. **If you care, GO !**

As you probably will have seen, building work has started on the Blue Prior industrial site opposite the estate on Redfields Lane. Details of what is to be erected can be seen on Hart section of the UK Planning web site under 97/00700/OUT and 01/01272/REM. 07/00651/MAJOR proposed a nursing home on part of the site, but was refused by HDC and is currently subject to appeal.

Parking

ZCRA is getting an increasing number of complaints about parking around the estate.

Lines of vehicles permanently parked on our narrow, windy streets cause traffic problems, affect road safety, and can impede access for emergency vehicles. Furthermore, such parking can create considerable friction between neighbours. Parking on the pavement, which is very prevalent in some areas, causes even more aggravation for pedestrians.

If you have parking spaces allocated for your property, please use them. And if you drive a commercial vehicle, please be very considerate about where you park it, especially when it is not used very often.

BE A CONSIDERATE PARKER!

Fireworks

If you hold a fireworks party, please be safe and please be considerate towards your neighbours. Nothing should be let off after 11pm at the absolute latest. Kids can enjoy fireworks without the sound of huge explosions, so please keep the noise down.

The number to call if sensible bounds are exceeded over a weekend is Hart Environmental Health on 0845 677 0678; otherwise, during office hours on 01252-774421.

And please discourage hooliganism with fireworks at any time - call the police if necessary.

Embroidery

Embroiderers might like to know about a new group, **Hart Creative Stitchers**, which recruits members from our area and meets in Victoria Halls, Hartley Wintney at 1:30pm on the second Tuesday of every month except August. Car share may be possible from Zebon Copse. If you might be interested, call Judith Richards on 01256-381771 or Pat Roome on 01252-877965.

Law and Order

Despite a relatively quiet summer, no doubt partly due to the inclement weather, a number of significant crimes have been reported.

A laptop computer was stolen by smashing a window in a car parked in a driveway overnight. Please don't leave attractive items in view of opportunistic criminals, especially in cars, but also outside your house or in unlocked sheds etc.

Three cases of major burglaries from houses have been reported on the estate in the last couple of months, including two where car keys and the car were part of the haul - in one case whilst the occupants and their dog slept upstairs. Professional criminals are around, so take due care: for example, by double-locking front doors to make them much more secure than just using a single Yale lock.

Quite young children have been throwing dog faeces and other waste from litter bins into the Copse and adjacent properties.

Damage to drainpipes and guttering continues at fairly frequent intervals at the Community Centre, apparently caused by people climbing onto the roof.

Cars are being driven fast around the estate late at night on occasions.

If you encounter any criminal or anti-social behaviour, please REPORT it to someone. If you don't want to involve the police, at least keep ZCRA in the picture so that we can take collective action when appropriate.

A number of distraction burglaries have been also reported in the wider local area. For example: *"A well dressed male was invited into the property and shown around by the aggrieved. The male took three valuable paintings that were lying up against a wall. One of the paintings dates back to 1898 and is believed to be worth in the region of £30k+. The other two are less valuable, but would still be worth £2K+ each. The male paid the aggrieved £500 cash which he counted out in front of him. The aggrieved described the male as white, approx 6'0" tall, late 50's, well built with short dark hair with a smart dark suit and possibly a tie; and the vehicle as a new-looking, large blue 4-door car. A neighbour saw a dark blue "heavy looking" estate car approx 10 years old and "boxey" looking like an old style Volvo with a white male, 6'2" tall, well built, 35-55 years of age, short dark hair combed in a side parting and smartly dressed wearing beige or light brown trousers, a pale long-sleeved shirt and green tank top."* Be very careful before you let strangers into your house.

Report all suspicious events and try to provide an accurate description.

Copse Events

A Halloween 'Witches in the Woods' event for children, organised by the Copse Rangers, will be held at 6:30pm on 31 October. See posters around the Copse and book places at £1 a head on 01252-870425.

A Copse Working Party will be held on Wednesday 14 November meeting at 10am on the path between Londlandes and Silvester Way under the supervision of a Ranger. Volunteers very welcome. Wear suitable clothing. Tools and refreshments provided. Normal finish time is about 1pm, but earlier departure is not a problem.

Winter Event

ZCRA is discussing with Church Crookham Players the possibility of holding another in the successful series of winter play and supper evenings. Watch noticeboards for details in case there isn't another newsletter by then.

ZCRA Committee

Grateful thanks to Helen Parberry for her committee work for ZCRA and a warm welcome to Rachel Kitchen who has taken her committee place. We would still like one more committee member if we can find a volunteer.

ZCRA Committee

Chairman/Fete/Newsletter: David Jackson 615052

Treasurer/Membership: Val Hall 613970

Secretary: Anne Foulsham 629934

Chris Hall 613970 Rajan 623050

Kathy Rodes 627093 Rachel Kitchen

ZCRA email: zcra@ntlworld.com

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