

CHURCH CROOKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Report 2013/14

Parish Councillors for the Year ending 31st March 2014

Pat Lowe	Parish Council Chairman
Jenny Radley	Parish Council Vice-Chairman and Chairman of Highways Committee
Nick Harris	Chair of Policy and Finance Committee
Michael Burford	Chairman of Planning Committee
Helen Butler	Chairman of Sports and Recreation Committee
Gill Scott	Chairman of Community Centre Committee / Crookham Park Committee
Gill Chatfield	
Richard Jackson	

Councillor Andrea Ong resigned her position in September 2013 and Councillor Bill Shambrook resigned in March 2014. Councillors Gill Chatfield and Richard Jackson joined the Council in September 2013.

Councillor Pat Lowe was appointed as Chairman of the Parish Council in September 2013 following the resignation of Andrea Ong.

Jayne Hawkins is the Parish Clerk.

Sally du Gay is the Deputy Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

Sam Knowles is the sports officer.

Claire Inglis has recently joined as the Sports and Recreation admin assistant.

Meetings

Between 1st April 2013 and 31st March 2014, we held the following public meetings:

Meeting	Number
Parish Council	11
Sports and Recreation	5
Planning	21
Policy and Finance	4
Highways	4
Community Centre/Crookham Park	4

During the year, the Parish Council has....

- The Parish Council has representatives on the following committees - Memorial Trust Committee, the Alms House Committee, the Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Committee, the Fleet Link Committee, the Schools joint consultative committee.
- Created, printed and distributed three Parish Council Newsletters.
- Awarded grants to the following organisations:



Applicant	Amount Paid	Comment
Hart CAB	£3,000.00	Contribution to support the work of the CAB
Basingstoke Canal	£6,750.00	Contribution towards the maintenance costs of the canal
Fleet Link	£4,761.83	Contribution towards the local bus service
British Legion	£100.00	Contribution to the poppy appeal
Friends of Azalea Park	£2,000.00	Contribution towards plants and materials for new flower beds in the park.
Fleet and Ewshot Hockey Club	£300.00	Contribution towards Youth Kit and Coaching
Fleet & District Festival	£500.00	Contribution towards running the Fleet and District Christmas Festival.
Fleet and Church Crookham in Bloom	£260.50	Contribution towards postage costs and a new trophy.
	£17,672.33	

- Funded a dog warden to patrol the Peter Driver playing fields and Azalea Gardens.
- Funded the CCTV camera at Crookham Crossroads.
- Funded litter collection at Peter Driver Playing fields, Azalea Gardens and Chesilton Woods.
- Contributed to a number of public consultations e.g. Calthorpe Park School extension, Homelessness, Traffic calming Tweseldown Road, the Community Infrastructure Levy, the mobile library service.
- Managed the football pitches and five a side pitch at Peter Driver.
- Maintained land at Peter Driver, Azalea Gardens, Chesilton Woods and Sian Close.
- Supported a 'Community Plan' committee.
- Funded a speed limit reminder that is moved around the Parish every 4 weeks.
- Consulted parishioners on the community centre and some highway traffic calming schemes via a public exhibition and the Parish newsletter.
- Continued to negotiate with Taylor Wimpey on the housing and SANG land development at Crookham Park. The Parish Council will be responsible for 7.6 hectares of formal open space and 17.18 hectares of informal open space, a community centre, an athletics track, a five a side football court and two tennis courts, 1 large play area, 4 medium play areas and 20 small play areas, a community orchard, art work and allotments. The Parish Council has continued to meet regularly with the developer to discuss the details of the facilities to be provided on the new estate.

- Appointed two councillors to sit on the QEB transport steering group to help ensure that the 3 million transport mitigation fund is spent on Highways schemes that will benefit the local community.
- Formally raised a number of issues with Hart District Council and Hampshire County Council regarding the structure and running of the QEB steering group.
- Continued to update and maintain the parish website.
- Continued to oppose the planning application for an additional 100 houses at Crookham Park.
- Installed a new Street Snooker board at Peter Driver playing fields and held an open day with coaching from the Olympic team GB handball captain Bobby White.
- Purchased snow plough and grit spreader attachments for the compact utility vehicle to clear the car park at Peter Driver sports ground.
- Worked with Taylor Wimpey to agree the facilities and layout of the allotments at Crookham Park.
- Supported the Fleet and Church Crookham Society with their Community Action day in June 2013. The event attracted 40 volunteers who removed 13 sacks of litter, erected 12 bird boxes, removed brambles near the play area, painted 50 ft of fence and varnished the Parish notice board at the Memorial Hall.
- Installed three new benches and a new waste bin at Azalea Park.
- Installed a new tarmac path from the main gate to the playground gate at Azalea Park.
- The War Memorial on Gally Hill Road had a new inscription added to those lost in the Second World War and all conflicts since; the Memorial was also cleaned in time for the annual memorial service on the 10th November 2013.
- The Parish Council has negotiated with the contractor building the new nursing home on Bourley Road to widen the entrance to the Peter Driver sports ground car park and to install a double width height barrier so that two cars may pass going in and coming out of the sports ground to try and reduce congestion.

On-going and outstanding projects:

- Community Centre, Crookham Park. Planning permission for two designs has now been granted. The Parish Council are now preparing a tender for the parish design. A final decision on whether to build the community centre with a £1.1million contribution or whether to ask Taylor Wimpey to build for their £850K budget should be made in June this year once responses to the tender have been evaluated.
- Open spaces at Crookham Park, the Parish Council will continue to work with the local athletics club to agree the requirements for the athletics area.
- To progress designs and planning permission for a small low level skate park at Crookham Park
- Highways projects – progress is being made on the installation of new refuge points and Parish Gateways on Aldershot Road and Beacon Hill.

- Gurkha Statue, Crookham Park. The Parish Council plan to commission a Gurkha Statue to be installed at Crookham Park later in 2014.
- Storage at Peter Driver - storage for footballers to use and for equipment needed to maintain the five a side.

5 Sports and Recreation committee meetings - Chairman Helen Butler

The Committee discusses issues relating to the play area at Azalea Gardens and Crookham Park, the grass football pitches at Peter Driver and the 3G football pitch at Peter Driver and the Peter Driver changing rooms, the allotments and opens spaces at Crookham Park. The Committee now meets once a quarter.

On-going projects include:

- Discussion with Taylor Wimpey regarding the handover of the playgrounds at Crookham Park.
- Commenting on the open spaces planning application at Crookham Park to ensure the new facilities are as good as possible.
- Taking on the management of the allotments once they are handed over and allocating plots to residents on the allotment waiting list.

21 planning committee meetings - Chairman Michael Burford

67 planning applications were considered during the year and 8 objections were lodged by the Parish Council.

Objections:

- 13/00795 Objection Redevelopment (to include any associated demolition and site clearance) of site to deliver 100 new residential units at Crookham Park.
- 13/01011/COU Objection to change of use of land at Walker Close.
- 13/01159/HOU Objection to a new detached 2 storey dwelling in Gally Hill Road.
- 13/01214 Objection to an application for approval of reserved matters for formal and informal open spaces at Crookham Park
- 13/01536/HOU Objection to a front and rear extension at Aldershot Road.
- 13/02256/MAJOR Objection to erection of 49 new dwellings Ewshot Lane.
- 13/02506/HOU Objection to erection of a side extension in Aldershot Road.
- 13/02720/HOU Objection to erection of ground floor side and rear extension in New Road.

4 Highways Committee Meetings Chairman Jenny Radley

- Identification of potential and on-going highways projects within the Parish
- Prioritisation of those highways projects
- Progression of Highways schemes within the Parish to introduce new gateways and pedestrian refuges on Aldershot Road and Beacon Hill.

4 Community Centre Committee Meetings Chairman Gill Scott

- Development of the specification for the community centre

- Working with architects and Taylor Wimpey to develop plans for submission for planning permission.
- Identification of potential users
- Liaison with sports clubs and potential users to identify their requirements

5 Policy and Finance Committee Meetings Chairman Nick Harris

Created and reviewed many policy documents – e.g. Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, code of conduct, asset register, risk assessment, allotment allocation policy.

The committee's remit includes the consideration of budgetary control and drafting the precept. The precept in 2014/2015 will be £181,173 plus a grant of £5,280 from Hart District Council. In the previous year 2013/2014 it was £175,495 with a grant of £8,001 the increase is due to the additional houses that have been occupied on Crookham Park. The precept for a band D household remained the same at £53.80. It should be noted that in addition to any Council Tax resulting from the Parish precept there will also be Council Tax levied in respect of the District and County Councils and the Police and Fire Authorities.

The budget in 2014/2015 includes provision for maintenance of the new five a side pitch, grounds maintenance, the dog warden, litter collection and the speed limit reminder. The Parish Council will also continue to contribute towards the upkeep of the Basingstoke Canal and the Fleet Link bus service.

Summary of accounts 2013/2014

Income:	Annual Precept:	£175,495.00
	Other income:	£51,315.72
	Total income:	£226,810.72
Expenditure:	Employment costs:	£50,540.92
	Administration costs:	£19,429.16
	Peter Driver premises	£10,198.36
	Grounds Maintenance	£35,344.97
	Supplies and Services	£1,162.00
	Community Support	£17,672.33
	Project costs	£60,379.77
	Total expenditure	£194,727.51
Reserves at year end	Planned projects (earmarked reserves)	£103,150.00
	S106 (Maintenance Crookham Park)	£149,140.00
	General reserves	£67,452.54
	Total Reserves	£319,742.54

At the year end on 31st March the total income was £227K which was £23K over budget. This was mainly due to extra income from football bookings and a grant from Hart District Council for the footpath in Azalea Park. The expenditure was £195K which was £11K over budget; this was mainly due to expenditure on the tender process for the Community Centre project. If the Parish Council eventually decide to take the £1.1million from Taylor Wimpey than the money spent on the tender will be taken out of the £1.1million and added back to reserves.

The Parish Council reserves are quite large as they contain provision for Community Youth Projects, Peter Driver Sports Field improvements, Community Centre running costs, replacing playground equipment and the five a side surface. We are also holding £149K of S106 funding from Taylor Wimpey for maintenance of the SANG/Allotment car park and the Sandy Lane car park, these will be long term reserves. The general reserves at year end stand at £67,452.

Thank You

The Parish Council is most grateful to our local PCSO's Adam Merrick and Clayton French for their assistance and support. We would also like to thank our District Councillors and County Councillor for their on-going assistance and support.

We would also like to thank Andrea Ong and Bill Shambrook for their service to the Parish Council.

In addition we would like to express our gratitude to the Parish office staff, Clerk (Jayne Hawkins), Deputy Clerk (Sally du Gay), Sports office (Sam Knowles) and Admin Assistant (Claire Inglis) for their hard work and proactive support.

The Parish Council Chairman would also like to record her personal thanks to all of the Councillors.

Most of all thank you to all the members of the public that have responded to our newsletters and who have attended our Council meetings and public consultations.

Request for Help

As a community we can achieve a great deal, and the Parish Council is well positioned to facilitate local initiatives. However the success of these initiatives is dependent on the participation of our community as a whole. If you do want to make a difference in Church Crookham please:

- Let the Council know your views
- Volunteer to help take forward local initiatives.

There is currently 2 vacancies for Parish Councillors, please let the clerk know if you would be interested in joining the council or nomination forms for the coming election are available from Hart District Council.