

Issue 3

September 2011



NEWSLETTER

Hart Local Development Framework – Public Consultation

Hart District Council is consulting on their Local Development Framework (LDF). The consultation began on 29th July and goes on to the 7th October.

The core strategy proposes that 1040 houses are built in Fleet, Church Crookham and Elvetham Heath. This would include the following:

- 250 extra houses at the Edenbrook development on Hitches Lane
- 450 houses on Grove Farm
- 100 houses in Fleet Town Centre

- 100 extra houses on QEB site

The main documents are:

- Core Strategy preferred approach and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal report
- A vision for Fleet Town Centre
- Revised statement of Community Involvement

All these documents and response forms are available on the Hart District Council website: www.hart.gov.uk/index/top-planning/planning-policy/planning-policy-ldf-consultation-summer-2011.htm

The Parish Council urges residents to respond to this consultation as it will have an impact on everyone living and working in Church Crookham.

There will be a public exhibition in the Hart Shopping Centre on Saturday 10th September from 10am to 5 pm.

Responses can be made via the response forms on the Hart District Website, by writing to: LDF Consultation, Planning Policy, Hart District Council Civic Offices, Harlington Way Freeport (AT148) Fleet GU51 4AE or by emailing to: planningpolicy@hart.gov.uk

Words from our Chairman

We have all heard about 'The Big Society'. But what does it mean to us in Church Crookham? If you look on the Cabinet Office website (<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/building-big-society>) you will see the Government states that:

'We want to give citizens, communities and local government the power and information they need to come together, solve the problems they face and build the Britain they want. We want society – the families, networks, neighbourhoods and communities that form the fabric of so much of our everyday lives – to be bigger and stronger than ever before. Only when people and communities are given more power and take more responsibility can we achieve fairness and opportunity for all.'

You will have your own views on what the best balance between the welfare state and communities taking the initiative to shape and improve their own environment. However, whatever your views 'The Big Society' is here and does provide us with a challenge and poten-

tial opportunity for communities to take a bigger role in influencing and improving their own local environments.

What can be done? There is a range of things that can be done. This includes people getting together to guide, maintain and improve their own local facilities and amenities, organising and running local events, or even helping to determine local policies and strategies for future local development.

The Parish Council is in a position where it can help facilitate these sorts of initiatives, although its resources are limited and real differences can only be made when initiatives are underpinned by substantial and proactive community support.



The Parish Council is sponsoring a number of initiatives in Church Crookham, but they will only be a success with your help:

Parish Plan Committee – the role of this is for the community to set out a strategy and plan for Church Crookham. This will guide what the Parish Council implements, and will put the Parish in a stronger position to influence District and County decisions that directly affect us in Church Crookham.

Friends of Azalea Gardens – the park near Azalea Gardens is a lovely open space, but effort and guidance is needed to help keep it as a valuable and enjoyable asset.

Olympic / Jubilee event.

The Parish Council can help facilitate local improvements, but it is the energy and commitment of the community that is needed to make big improvements. If any of this 'whets your appetite' please volunteer and get involved. If you want more information about any of these initiatives, becoming a Parish Councillor, or you want to suggest initiatives you would like us to take forward please contact our Parish Clerk. Between us we can make a difference. *Clr Nick Harris*

Join...My Journey

I'm Mel Williams and I am the newest member of Church Crookham Parish Council. I joined in July 2011 because as a community we need to ensure that we can enjoy our environment and facilities now and in the future. Being a councillor has proved enlightening and a rewarding process, it has shown me how the development of an area is formed and how we as a community have a say!! I approached the council with some apprehension as I didn't know any members but I needn't have worried as I was welcomed with open arms and the help and support has been invaluable.

The Parish Council is here to serve everyone and is "everyone's council" We still have two vacancies for councillors. If you are considering becoming a councillor and would like to discuss my experience as a councillor please call 01252 409187 and I will be most happy to help. *Clr Mel Williams*

Dates for your Diary Useful Numbers Councillor Vacancies

26th September Planning and Full Council
 3rd October QEB Committee
 10th October Planning and Finance Committee
 24th October Planning and Full Council
 7th October End of LDF consultation
 7th November QEB Committee
 28th November Planning and Full Council
 5th December QEB Committee
 12th December Planning and Sports and Recreation Committee
 All meetings will start at 19.30 in the Willis Hall

Birth/Death/marriage Reg	0845 6035637
Citizens Advice Bureau	01252 617922
Church Crookham Parish Council Office	01252 626793
Fleet Link Bus Service	0845 6024135
Frimley Park Hospital	01276 604604
Hampshire County Council	01962 841841
Hart District Council	01252 622122
Hart Leisure Centre	01252 629974
Hart Shopping Centre	01252 811834
Hart Voluntary Action	01252 815652
Fleet Library	0845 6035631
Local MP—James Arbuthnot	01252 627473
Memorial Hall—bookings	07784830989
Police	0845 454545
The Point Youth Club	01252 812308

Could you make a difference to Church Crookham? The Parish Council is working hard to make improvements to the local community. There are currently two vacancies for Church Crookham Parish Councillors, one to represent the Gally Hill ward and one to represent the Queen Elizabeth ward. We are looking for people who feel a sense of belonging to Church Crookham, who want to help make it a better place to live.

To apply please send the Clerk a brief précis of your experience, reasons for wanting to be considered and any special areas of interests you may have. You must be at least 18 years of age on the day you put yourself forward, a British citizen, a qualifying citizen of a Commonwealth country, a citizen of the Irish Republic, or a citizen of another member state of the European Union and live or work in or near Church Crookham.

If you would like to know more about the role before submitting your details please contact the Clerk on 626793 or the Chairman on 680805.

Applications will be considered by the Parish Council and both vacancies will be filled by co-option.

Grow with Hart

Are you struggling with your garden? If you have spare space in your garden to grow vegetables, but are unable to do the work yourself then 'Grow with Hart' may have the answer. This exciting Big Lottery funded 'Local Food' project is able to find local people who can help you keep on top of your garden. In return you give them the space to grow their own vegetables. All volunteers are CRB-checked and register as volunteers with Hart Voluntary Action.



If you are the garden owner /tenant or are someone who would like to grow vegetables in a garden share, please call Guy Clayton, Project Officer on 01252 815652 or 07920 820009.

Traffic

The Parish Council does not have any direct authority over the roads in our Parish but it can highlight issues to Hampshire County Council and Hart District Council and campaign for improvements. Speeding is a constant problem on our roads and the Parish Council is currently deploying a Speed Limit Reminder in Church Crookham. This device is moved around the Parish every 4 weeks.

The Parish Council needs to know about your concerns. Please tell us about trouble spots near where you live or on your way to work/school. Either contact the Deputy Clerk: deputyclerk@churchcrookham.org.uk or attend a local Parish Council or Parish Plan meeting to air your views.

Survey Results – Redevelopment of Azalea Gardens

Many thanks to all of you who took the time to complete our short survey and give us your views about what you felt was important to consider when thinking about making improvements to Azalea Gardens. The results were as follows:

81% of you were keen for the Parish Council to upgrade and develop the equipment in the children's playground and provide benches in the children's area and outside. 60% wanted to see some shrubs and flowers planted.

73% wanted to see community events run at the park occasionally. 50% were keen to see improved access to the park, in terms of the addition of footpaths. A number of respondents were in favour of having some kind of small ten-space parking area. A few were in favour of putting in a goal post or basketball net at one end of the park and to move the

sports activities a little further away from the young children's play equipment.

Many of you wanted to make sure that the area remains a green open space – which it will – but we will do what we can to brighten the area with planting to smarten the place up a bit. Votes regarding having a full football pitch or a skateboard park were 82% and 86% against respectively! Some people would like to see a small MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) added, and less a tennis court.

Next Steps – the Parish Council is currently working with a playground equipment company to select some suitable playground equipment to bring a wider range of play activities for the under 12s. This will include a net mast climber, a climbing frame, some slides and swings, a roundabout and an activity trail. A big thank you to the parents in the User Panel who contributed

their time and energies to researching different types of equipment and giving their thoughts on which works best!

We held a consultation afternoon on Tuesday 26th July to allow local school children the chance to have a look at the first stage of design plans before they broke up for the summer holidays. The next version of the plans will be available for viewing early October on a date to be confirmed, advertised on our Website and notice Boards. This will be an early evening event.



Healthy Walks in Church Crookham Peter Driver Centre



For people who would like to walk at a gentle pace in a safe and social setting. All abilities welcome. Come and join Hart Voluntary Action! This activity is Free. This is gentle exercise for older people and those rehabilitating after an illness, who would like to begin to take gentle exercise or who feel they would like to meet people. We provide short walks for those who are less able and everyone can walk at their own pace. The walks are approximately 50 minutes long, are led by trained Volunteer Walk Leaders,

and require no specialist walking clothes. At the end of the walk there are refreshments and a chance for a chat. Please just turn up. First timers, arrive 15 minutes early to allow time to complete a simple registration form. Once that is completed you are able to turn up at any of our walks whenever you wish without having to let us know in advance. Please just come along and introduce yourself to a walk leader! Starting point: Wickham Court Sheltered Accommodation, Wickham Road, Church Crookham. GU52 6ND. Every Tuesday, meet at 11.00am. For more details telephone Karen on 01252 815652 or email admin@hartvolaction.org.

Friends of Azalea Gardens

Thank you, to those who said in their questionnaire answers that they'd like to be involved in a Friends of Azalea Gardens group. We'd like to set that going in the autumn.

Did you know that a new play area was installed in a matter of



weeks with input from a 'Friends Of' group in Fleet? Or that a 'Friends Of' group has installed an orienteering course at Oakley Park? 'Friends Of' Groups can achieve so much for their community, simply by coming together, pooling ideas and working out what needs doing. They can influence local decision-making, and be the voice for the community.

There are 'Friends Of' Groups for several other places in Fleet and across the country. If you would like to find out more about them, and what they can accomplish, please have a look at their websites, for example, local ones are: www.oakleypark.org.uk/ or www.ancellsfarm.org.uk/. A 'Friends Of' group has been set up for Basingbourne Park this summer.

The group will be independent of the Parish Council,

but would work closely with them. 'Friends Of' Groups can apply for grants, run family events, arrange working parties, and can request funding from the Parish Council for specific projects.

We're looking for committee members: someone who would like to run the group (chair), someone who'd be interested to be the treasurer, someone to plan events, someone to do the website, and a whole host of volunteers who'd like to be involved in whatever way they can – whether practical work like gardening and planting, or 'around the table' work like fundraising, designing, lobbying, researching, or planning and arranging events.

A meeting for those interested in being part of the group is being proposed and when a venue and date are set, please come with your ideas! We'll be finding out what's involved, and what a 'Friends Of' group can achieve.

If you can't make that evening, but would be interested to be part of the Friends Group, please email the Deputy Clerk, deputyclerk@churchcrookham.org.uk with your contact details.

Support Needed

At present the Council is hard at work trying to make next year special as we have two events that should fill us with pride. The 60th anniversary of our Monarch's reign and the Olympic Games. We would like to do something that our children will remember, just as I remember attending a ceremony for the coronation as a child nearly 60 years ago. It was a day I will never forget. Such memories are so important and we must not let the opportunity pass us by or just leave us sadly being spectators of other

persons or towns efforts. You are the voice of your community. Have your say, better still have a go and get involved, even if it is just to hang a flag or plant a flower. Become a part of the community in which you live and it will reflect your efforts with pride. Let your efforts become a treasured memory for us all. *Clr Bill Sham-*

brook



The Parish Council have a long standing battle with vandalism and damage at the Peter Driver Centre. Mainly caused by climbing onto the roof of the pavilion. The Parish Council has had the Athletics Club's portacabins re-sited and redecorated. This along with the application of anti vandal paint on the edging of the roof of the pavilion will hopefully begin to alleviate the past problems.

The Centre is heavily used throughout the football season as well as the facilities being used for the Athletics club .

The smart new paintwork improves the look of the centre and the Parish Council hopes it will encourage new clubs and teams to use the local ground. If you are interested in booking any of the pitches please contact the Clerk on 01252 626793.



Our New Web Site

The Parish Council is working on a new website which is currently under construction. It will contain information on Church Crookham, useful links , updates on local issues and feedback forms for your comments as well as being updated on a regular basis as to what is happening in your area. If there is anything you wish to be mentioned or you think we should include please contact : deputyclerk@churchcrookham.org.uk . The address of the new website will be www.churchcrookham.org.uk

Celebration Time

Lets dust off our party hats, shake the table cloth, get out the champagne and join together to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee !!

There are lots of ways we can celebrate and some of the ideas include :

- A festival day with children's races, games from 1952
- Children's Street Party with an Adults 1952 themed dance in the evening
- Hula Hoop Marathon
- Fancy Dress Evening
- 1952 dance classes culminating in a final at the festival party.

The list is endless but we want to hear your ideas as this a chance for Church Crookham to fly the flag and demonstrate what community spirit is all about.

email: your ideas, thoughts and comments to mejubilee@btinternet.com

Local Area Word Search

Contact Details

Church Crookham Parish Council

The Harlington
236 Fleet Road
Fleet
Hampshire. GU51 4BY

Phone: 01252 626793

E-mail: clerk@churchcrookham.org.uk

Serving Our Community

A	C	A	D	E	T	W	A	Y	T
U	E	W	U	Q	W	T	K	A	A
T	W	E	S	E	L	D	O	W	N
O	Z	L	E	R	V	N	E	R	N
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W	L	N	E	N	S	N	B	U	E
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D	A	O	R	W	A	L	E	Y	R
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Quetta Park
Tudor Way
Tweseldown
Verne
Weldon Close
Ryelaw Road
Rounton
Oakwood
Cadet Way
Colbeck

[http://communities.hants.gov.uk/
churchcrookham-index.htm](http://communities.hants.gov.uk/churchcrookham-index.htm)

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Church Crookham Parish Council Parish Plan Committee have drawn up the following questionnaire to enable the Parish Council to see how best to communicate with you the parishioner. Please complete and return to the Clerk before the 30th September 2011. Alternatively this can be found via a link from our web site.

INFORMATION SOURCE	Internet	Local Paper	Notice	Local	Word of mouth	Other
Where do you normally find out what is occurring in Church Crookham						

INTERNET	
When using the Internet for local information which sites do you view.	

PAPER COMMUNICATION	CCPC Newsletter	The Church Parish Magazine	Local Paper Eg: Fleet News and Mail	Free Newspaper Courier/Star	Other
Which paper communication do you use for local information?					

NOTICE BOARD	Notice Board at the Verne Shops	Notice Board at Memorial Hall	Any other Notice Boards	Where would you like to see Notice Board
Which CCPC notice board do you read to keep informed?				

Do you have any suggestions for keeping Church Crookham residents better informed?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire, the results of which we will publish in the next newsletter.