

Church Crookham Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

Special Edition in association with
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February 2023Issue 43

Hello from the councillors



Happy New Year to all our residents and welcome to the first parish council newsletter of 2023.

I've been a parish councillor since 2020 and represent the Gally Hill Ward. I am the Chairman of the planning committee and thought I would share what the planning committee is responsible for.

Church Crookham Parish Council (CCPC) is what's called a 'statutory consultee' in relation to planning applications. In practical terms this means that whilst we don't have the final say on planning matters, which may vary from a small extension to plans for a block of flats, our views are taken account of by Hart's planning department along with a number of other statutory consultees and of course you the public. The Parish Council's planning committee meets twice monthly on the 2nd and 4th Monday evenings commencing at 7.30pm and are open to the public.

Bruce Bulgin

We do have members of the public attending from time to time and often they will be supporting or opposing an application and they have the opportunity to present their views. As a parish council we also recommend that if you wish your views to be considered by those making the final decision then please ensure that you submit any comments to the Hart District Council's online planning portal <https://www.hart.gov.uk/planning-applications>.

The parish council planning committee is comprised of a chair, a number of other parish councillors and a non-voting representative of Hart whose ward is in Church Crookham. All of the information in relation to an application is available on Hart's planning portal which is carefully reviewed by all on the committee to assist in agreeing the comment to be submitted.

At the outset I think it's important to make the point that the planning committee isn't there to block applications and in most cases is supportive. Many applications relate to extensions often to make space for growing families. It's clear that families are spending more time at home and this includes many family members working from home. Apart from the basics which include environmental surveys and flood assessments the sort of things we look for include:

- Privacy:** Will the proposals submitted overlook a neighbour's property?
 - Scale:** Is the application the right size in relation to the plot and does this include provision for parking? For example, converting a two bedroom bungalow with limited parking to a five bedroom house might raise concerns that on-road parking will become a feature of the location.
 - Does it fit in:** Will the new property or extension fit in with the street scene and is there any impact on the building line? In other words, will the works extend in front of the other properties in the road and look out of keeping.
- As a committee we also review the outcomes of applications, following determination by Hart District Council, and in more than 90% of cases Hart's decision is consistent with the consultee comments that CCPC submitted. It's clear to me that planning plays an important role in shaping our community and those involved in planning at CCPC aim to be diligent and fair minded in their decision making.
- Regards, **Bruce**

Key Dates	In this issue
Parish Council Meeting Dates Meetings take place at the Church Crookham Community Centre: February 2023: 13th - Planning Committee at 7.30pm 27th - Planning Committee at 7.30pm, followed by Full Council Meeting from 7.45pm March 2023: 13th - Planning Committee at 7.30pm 27th - Planning Committee at 7.30pm, followed by Full Council Meeting from 7.45pm	Page 2 ♦ Community News - Sunshines Preschool ♦ Supporting Fleet Phoenix ♦ Fleet Link Community Transport Page 3 ♦ New Defibrillator in Church Crookham ♦ Christmas Event ♦ Commemorative Trees and Wildflowers ♦ Sensory Garden Update ♦ Peter Driver Sports Ground ♦ Athletics Track Page 4 ♦ News from Fleet & Crookham Athletics Club

Community Corner - Crookham Sunshines Preschool



Crookham Sunshines Preschool is a popular, established preschool in the heart of Church Crookham. Open every day during term-time the preschool is a charity and therefore a committee led organisation, run for the benefit of the children in our community, alongside Court Moor Community Playgroup in Fleet. Children get an excellent early years education from friendly and experienced staff in the purpose built playroom and the enclosed all weather garden, enabling children to broaden their knowledge and experiences in a safe, stimulating environment. Families can access 15 to 30 hours of government funded child care for children from two years old, depending on availability. Natural resources and sensory materials are at the heart of the provision.



Parents and carers can register their interest at the preschool by emailing info@courtmoorplaygroup.co.uk

The committee are solely run by volunteers, who meet one evening per month. If you are interested in joining the committee to support the running or the fundraising at both preschools, please do get in touch. You do not have to have a child attending the preschool to join the team.

Contact: chairman@courtmoorplaygroup.co.uk for further information.

Supporting Fleet Phoenix

During the year the parish council receive a number of grant applications from great local charities, who work hard to improve lives and facilities for those that live within our community.

Fleet Phoenix is one of those local charities. The impact of their work for the young people and their families is impressive. They currently help over 200 young people in our community and are filling the huge gap left after council budget cuts to youth services. They coordinate music projects, youth clubs and mentoring projects as well as community outreach programmes in the rural and urban Hart district.

The parish council agreed to budget regular support for this vital charity to ensure that they can continue to grow their provision for young people. This support equates to £1 per household, just 2p per week. We look forward to building on this support with them and seeing them help even more young people and their families.

Visit: www.fleetphoenix.co.uk for more information on their work and for other ways that they can be supported.



Community Transport

Despite Hampshire County Council (HCC) having to make £800k of savings from its passenger transport budgets, the Fleet Link service levels will remain in place. Patronage levels since the pandemic have continued to grow, so this service continues to provide easy access to public and/or affordable transport for those that need it.

Following HCC's recent consultation, passengers indicated that they were prepared to pay more for individual journeys rather than lose this service. CCPC worked with the co-founders of this vital service, Fleet Town Council and HCC to ensure that the rate of the fare increase is a phased one to soften the impact in a climate of rising costs.

Also look out in the near future for an upgraded mini-bus making for a much more comfortable journey.

To register to use the Fleet Link Service please visit:

www.rvs.org.uk/transport/rushmoordial-a-rideandfleetlink

or call 01252 398451



New Defibrillator available in Church Crookham

An additional defibrillator has been installed funded by CCPC, and is now available for use in emergencies at the Northfield Road parade of shops. Our thanks to all involved in making this happen!



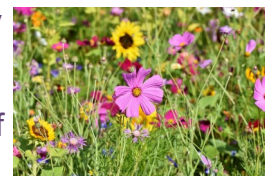
Christmas Event

A big thank you to all the residents that came to visit Santa and browse our festive Christmas market back in December. Santa and his elves were kept very busy by the 200 children that visited him and his magical, musical train on the day. Each child was given a chocolate treat and our market had lots of Christmas goodies and gifts. Don't miss Santa and his elves next year! He will be at the Church Crookham Community Centre on the **3rd December 2023**, so keep your eyes peeled for more info nearer the time.



Commemorative Trees and Wildflowers

The parish council has agreed to plant two commemorative trees in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip. These will be planted within Crookham Park and will create a line of trees from the community centre building down Boyce Road in keeping with the large oaks that feature here. Plans are also in progress to repeat and expand the trial of the wildflower planting that was started last year.



Sensory Garden

Thank you to everyone who put forward their feedback after viewing the mood board display in the community centre lobby. Suggestions to change the benches to include back and arm rests will be taken on board. We are now seeking quotations for the ground works and hope to start this work in the Spring.

If you would like to be involved in planting the garden, as part of a community led project, please do get in touch with us by emailing: events@churchcrookham.org.uk



Initial Design of the Sensory Garden

Water Issue at Peter Driver Sports Ground

Work continues at the Peter Driver sports grounds to resolve the water problem that is affecting the field and carpark areas. Thank you to the many organisations that have supported the parish council office staff in taking this issue seriously including the pipeline team, South East Water and Southern Trent Water operatives, MOD estates managers and management company of the adjacent Quantum Business Park.

Athletics Track

All major infrastructure works to the grass athletics track on Crookham Park have been completed which means that the facility will open this year and hopefully as soon as Spring is here. With access to the public to use the facility closer than ever, discussions have also recommenced with the Fleet and Crookham Athletic Club. They are seeking residents views on a 'Home' building design to be situated adjacent to the track, for which they aim to seek planning permission.

See overleaf for more news from the club themselves.

Athletics in Church Crookham



We are Fleet & Crookham Athletic Club and we have been invited by the parish council to move our training and HQ from the Peter Driver Sports Ground to the new grass track area on Crookham Park. The track is owned by Church Crookham parish Council and has been provided for the athletic activities of all residents. Once the track is fit for use it will be maintained by the parish council.

A club move to Crookham Park means that we will seek to:

- Provide a new club pavilion and kit storage building
- Transfer our training sessions to the new location

We have made every effort to source a building design that will be non-intrusive and that will visually blend into the surroundings and produce minimum impact on the environment. Our artists impressions of what this building may look like are provided below.



Side view (tennis courts to the left)



Front view

Our club has been active in Fleet and Church Crookham for over 60 years and organises the Fleet Half Marathon and 10K road races. We are a charity ***with the objective of promoting community participation in healthy recreation, in particular by the provision of facilities and coaching for athletics.***

As well as catering for adults, the club has a strong junior section. By moving, the club will bring running and athletics expertise to Crookham Park.

We plan to submit our application for planning permission later this year and once approved we would be delighted for you to come and meet us, ask questions about training and athletics and to join in. If you are new to running or athletics it's very important to receive training to avoid injury and to make the most of having a local running track.

You can find out when the club meets and its activities by visiting our website:

www.fleetandcrookhamac.club

We have set up a dedicated page on our website www.fleetandcrookhamac.club/newhome which includes FAQs and is where we intend to report development and progress and provide a contact link for comments.

