

Church Crookham Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

Hello from your local councillors



Alan Jones

Dear Residents,

Good day to you all. I have been a parish councillor in Church Crookham since 2019. In the past I have worked in many areas of council work, and as a school governor/committee chair.

I would like to bring to your notice a request. We co-sponsor the Community Speed Watch covering Church Crookham and Crookham Village. Last year, we had lots of volunteers, many of whom gave just one hour of their time a month. Unfortunately, this year the numbers have dropped, and we are looking for new volunteers. If you feel strongly about road safety and want to get involved and can spare an hour a month, please contact the Parish Council via the website contact form and we will put you in touch with the right people.

Parish councillors and staff have been busy already this year, with two well-attended litter picks at Peter Driver Sports Ground and the woodland area off Chesilton Crescent (a big thank you to all who came out to help, even rain couldn't keep people away), a thorough review of our grounds maintenance needs, investigations into flooding issues at Peter Driver, keeping abreast of local planning issues (we welcome Rushmoor Borough Council asking further questions of Farnborough Airport about their planning application, which will delay determination by a number of months), and formulating a response to Hampshire County Council's Future Services Consultation. Should you wish to add your own thoughts to this hugely important consultation- which will likely impact all of us in years to come - please see www.hants.gov.uk or speak to your county councillor or any of your parish or district councillors. The deadline for responses is March 31st.

Finally, we have our Annual Parish Meeting 29th April at 7pm. All welcome. Kind regards Alan

In this issue

Page 2

- Supporting Fleet Phoenix
- Community action in Church Crookham

Page 3

- Annual Parish Meeting 2024
- Thermal Imaging in your home
- Sportsfest 2024
- Cost of living support

Page 4

- Peter Driver drainage works
- Chesilton woodland update
- Speed watch in Church Crookham
- Dates for your Diary

Council Meeting Dates

All meetings are held at the Church Crookham Community Centre. All residents are welcome.

25th March - Planning Committee meeting at 7.30pm, followed by Full Council meeting at 7.45pm

8th April - Planning Committee meeting at 7.30pm

15th April - Finance and Policy Committee meeting at 7.30pm

22nd April - Planning Committee meeting at 7.30pm, followed by Full Council meeting at 7.45pm

29th April - Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm - join us to find out what we have been doing for the last year and our plans in Church Crookham for the next 12 months.



Please recycle this newsletter



Supporting Fleet Phoenix



This year the parish council is supporting, by providing some funding, the good work of Fleet Phoenix. So, it was a huge delight to receive an invitation as one of their supporters to see their good work in action.

Councillor Nick Baskett and the Clerk, Claire Inglis, attended a homemade afternoon tea laid on by the young people who are supported by the charity. It was a great opportunity to meet fellow supporters but more importantly to meet the young people themselves. A wonderful spread was provided with some very naughty and tasty treats, all lovingly prepared by the young people.



Fleet Phoenix also showcased a short film made by the youngsters. This helped to explain some of the issues that they face and to see them begin to overcome with the support of Fleet Phoenix.

Cllr Nick Baskett commented "I consider attending events like this, the best part of the role since it directly connects decisions we make as a council, to the outcomes we have helped manifest..... I hadn't expected quite the level of emotional engagement from everyone there.....the real stars were the kids who had made a movie about what it was like for some teenagers that might have trouble at home, or just haven't connected with society, or are feeling left out, or just feel awkward in the company of others.....Imagine a close knit group of young teens, putting on this tea party while having fun, teasing and joking with each other.....If there was any doubt that these kids had been transformed by their experiences at Fleet Phoenix.....I reflected on the council meeting we had, where we voted to award a grant to the organisation. At the time of the vote, I admit, it felt rewarding to give some money to an organisation that I imagined was doing something good. But seeing with my own eyes, the difference it had made in some young people's lives was profound."



Afternoon tea was made and served by the young people benefitting from this wonderful local charity

Spring cleaning across Church Crookham

A BIG thank you to all our residents that came along to help with the community clear up events at the Peter Driver Sports Ground on Friday 16th February and at the woodland area on Chesilton Crescent on Friday 1st March. They worked hard to pick up a huge amount of rubbish at both locations which now look much tidier.

Our next community action event will be held at Crookham Park on **Monday 8th April, from 9.30 to 11am**, meeting at the community centre. Tea and cakes will be served at the community centre afterwards and there will be sweetie treats for all children that come along to help with the litter-picking. Follow us on Facebook ('Church Crookham Parish Council') for information regarding all of our events and projects.

We always have litter-pickers at our HQ looking for good homes, so if you can commit to regular small litter-picks in Church Crookham, you are very welcome to pop by to adopt one!



Parish Council—Annual Parish Meeting 2024



2023 APM

Our residents are warmly invited to the **Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 29th April from 7pm** at the Church Crookham Community Centre. Join us for refreshments and find out what your local parish council has been working on and our plans in Church Crookham for the next 12 months.

You will hear from your parish councillors and other key local representatives. We hope to see you there.

Thermal Imaging of your property

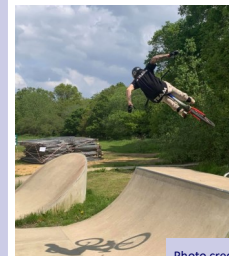
The parish council is working with Hart District Council to utilise thermal imaging cameras. Residents that may have concerns about heat loss from their property through holes and gaps can ask to be involved. It has the potential to identify insulation and heating defects amongst other issues. Some residents have already signed up to have their property thermally assessed so please contact the parish council by email, deputyclerk@churchcrookham.org.uk, if you wish to be considered.



Council representatives will then attend your property at a pre-arranged time to carry out the imaging and issue you with the results and a leaflet to explain what your next steps could be if there are problems identified. The period of time to get involved is limited as, hopefully, we will all be looking to turn our heating off soon, as Spring approaches, so get in touch now if you believe that there may be issues with your property or that it could benefit from improved insulation but you don't know where the cold spots are!

Sportsfest 2024

Join us on **Saturday 18th May from 12pm to 4pm** for an afternoon of family sporting fun on Crookham Park. We are opening our tennis, basketball, skate park and athletics track facilities and the experts will be on hand offering free demos and coaching. There will also be a summer craft market, food vans, ice cream, inflatables, children's craft activities and more!



If you would like to volunteer as a marshal on the day, please get in touch with us at: events@churchcrookham.org.uk or call 01252 686793

Photo credit: B Radio, Serving Hampshire & Surrey on 106.5fm and DAB & Smart Speaker

Keep in Touch

Follow us on Facebook at:



Church Crookham Parish Council
Church Crookham Community Centre

And keep up to date with our news, community projects and local events.

Cost of Living Advice and Support

For the latest money saving schemes and help and support available in the area, visit Hart District Council's Cost of Living Support Hub at: www.hart.gov.uk/cost-living-support-hub

Peter Driver Drainage Works

You will know from previous issues that there has been an issue with drainage at the Peter Driver Sports Ground site since the beginning of last year. Having explored all potential causes, the parish council decided to appoint the civil engineering contractor TJ Hunt. Based on the available evidence this required co-operation from our new neighbour Quantum Business Park due to the sophistication of their drainage system, and their assistance was gratefully received. T J Hunt commenced work on site on Monday 26th February following a period of sustained rainfall. This created its own set of challenges which have been overcome and as of 29th February TJ Hunt is in a position to permanently resolve the problem that has been unearthed. There appears to be a historical gap in culverted pipework of approx. 2m and once this has been rectified the problems caused by this long, wet winter should hopefully be avoided in the future.



Woodland on Chesilton Crescent

Thank you to all our residents that took the time to respond to our newsletter article in January. It is so lovely to have feedback of this nature, as it reassures the parish council that these little gems in our midst are loved by our residents also. We have learnt so much because of this feedback including that a notable Hampshire plant is growing within this habitat. Armed with this knowledge the parish council will seek to protect this species and its habitat as well as work on implementing some of the suggestions put forward. These have included ensuring safer paths within, encouraging wildlife with the introduction of bird, bat and owl boxes, potential for a seat and to ensure that rubbish can be safely disposed within the setting. All of these suggestions will be investigated to best protect the natural environment and to be a good fit with this little green oasis. Join our Facebook page (Church Crookham Parish Council) to find out what is happening as well as information on our website - www.churchcrookham.org.uk



A further thank you to those that joined us on 1st March for a litter pick within the woods which allowed for the final works to be completed.

Speed Watch in Church Crookham

Our local Speed Watch group are looking for some new volunteers to join their ranks. Could you spare an hour a month to observe the speed of vehicles travelling through the key routes in Church Crookham? Training is available and equipment is provided. With more volunteers available we can ensure that there are enough volunteers to man each planned session and share the load.



Speeding traffic is one of the main concerns raised by residents so do you want to be a force for good and help raise awareness of this problem by joining SPEEDWATCH.

Please contact the parish council via our website contact form at www.churchcrookham.org.uk/contact/ and we will put you in touch with the right people. Thank you for your support.

Event dates for your diary

- 8th April - Litter Pick on Crookham Park
- 26th April - Litter Pick at Azalea Park
- 29th April - Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting - All welcome, do join us!
- 18th May - Church Crookham Sports Fest - an afternoon of family fun, sports and more!
- 14th June - Litter Pick—Location TBC
- 16th August - Litter Pick—Location TBC
- 30th Nov - Santa visit and Christmas Market at the Church Crookham Community Centre

