

Church Crookham Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

January 2024Issue 48

Hello from your councillors



Nick Baskett

Dear Residents,

Happy New Year, and welcome to our first newsletter of 2024, and the first time I have written this lead. My experience as a councillor dates back to October 2022, and I am a member of the parish council's Finance and Policy Committee. 2023 was my first full year on the council. As I reflect on the events, I realise how much was accomplished, and how community members played a crucial role.

For example, we have:

- Completed the long-awaited running track.
- Developed a beautiful 'sensory garden'.
- Refitted and repainted the basketball court, which is more popular than ever.
- Finally seen the ESSO pipeline finished, and roads made good.
- Issued grants to local services and charities, and supported various festivals and local events advocated for by the community.

We have been fortunate to be able to utilise local craftsmen and work with our community schools on projects. I have not been disappointed in the results, as it seems that a tradesperson who lives or is known in the area throws themselves into the work with exceptional care and attention. Next year there are new projects, and we shall continue to represent Church Crookham and make our voice heard regarding the proposed expansion plans by Farnborough Airport. Keeping the areas clean and litter-free remains a priority. We've previously coordinated teams of volunteers to clean up area, and we will do so again, but we encourage people to dispose of waste responsibly.

We are also aware of speeding vehicles, delivery vans parked on blind corners, and other dangerous practices. Several cats have been hit by cars, and there is concern that more serious accidents may occur. You are urged to pay attention to your speed while driving through the community.

Finally, remember the parish council is here for you! Our meetings are open to the public, and you are encouraged to attend, or raise your issues with us.

Regards, Nick

Parish Council Meeting Dates

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

January 2024:

22nd - Planning committee meeting at 7.30pm followed by Full Council meeting from 7.45pm

February 2024:

12th - Planning committee meeting at 7.30pm

26th - Planning committee meeting at 7.30pm followed by Full Council meeting from 7.45pm

March 2024:

11th - Planning Committee meeting at 7.30pm

26th - Planning Committee meeting at 7.30pm followed by Full Council meeting from 7.45pm

In this issue

Page 2

- Community Transport in Church Crookham
- Chesilton Woods Consultation
- Flooding

Page 3

- Litter Picking in Church Crookham
- Farnborough Airport Expansion Plans—An Update
- Weekend Hall Hire Availability
- Keeping in Touch

Page 4

- Parish Council Support of Local Events
- Santa's visit to Church Crookham
- Speeding
- Dates for your Diary



Please recycle this newsletter



Fleet Connect Community Transport Service

In partnership with Hampshire County Council and other parish councils, we continue to make a grant available to Rushmoor Voluntary Service annually to help keep the Fleet Connect mini bus on the road.



The mini bus operates a local door-to-door bus service using buses which have been specially adapted with handrails, low steps and wheelchair lifts. These are ideal for anyone who finds it difficult to use the ordinary bus service. The service is available to anyone who has a mobility or sensory impairment which means that they are unable to, or experience difficulty or discomfort in, using bus services. It is not necessary to be registered as disabled. You might, for instance, have difficulty walking to the bus stop either temporarily or due to a longer-term issue. Wheelchairs and scooters can be accommodated too.

The service is currently running Monday to Friday, 9am – 3pm and Saturday 9am – 2.15pm and can collect you from home and take you to Fleet high street or to Morrisons. On certain days, trips are offered to The Meadows/Camberley & Farnborough Kingsmead/Town Centre. The team of Fleet Link drivers are very experienced, very professional and very friendly. They are happy to assist you to the bus and back to your door, if needed. It is necessary to register before using either service. Complete the registration form at www.rvs.org.uk/transport/rushmoor-connect-and-fleet-connect/ and return it. Once you have been notified that you have been registered, you are welcome to call the booking number to make a booking.

You can book for both services up to 6 days in advance. Bookings line is open Monday – Friday 9.30am-12.30pm and you can reach them on Telephone: **01252 398451**. Please note that there is a charge for using this service.

Chesilton Woods - What do you want to see?

Work commenced in the woodland before Christmas and continues in the new year to breathe new life into the woodland known locally as Chesilton Woods (located off Portland Drive). The woodland works include creating a safe perimeter adjacent to properties that back onto the woods, as well as removing invasive species such as holly and rhododendron. The invasive species have over time begun to dominate the woodland floor making it hard for natural regeneration of native species and blocking light to the woodland floor. By opening up the woodland it is hoped that existing trees will flourish whilst creating opportunities for new trees to grow and thrive as well as promoting better access for woodland walks and reducing littering and fly tipping within.

Parish councillors and staff carried out a litter pick prior to the works and found a significant amount of rubbish mostly plastic that as we all know damages our environment.

We would like to hear from you about what you would like to see for this lovely green oasis within Church Crookham so please take a look following completion of works (and when safe to do so) and let us have your feedback and suggestions by email to :

clerk@churchcrookham.org.uk **Label your email subject CHESILTON SUGGESTION**

For example would you welcome den building activities? Planting of new trees?

Flooding - Be prepared!

Were you and your property at risk following the recent local heavy rainfall events? Hart District Council have a webpage dedicated to advice relating to flooding issues so please take a moment to understand who to contact if your property was vulnerable during recent events.

www.hart.gov.uk/environment/flooding-and-drainage-advice

Advice includes maps to see whether your property is considered to be at risk and how to protect your property if identified as being at risk. It lists where to purchase sandbags in advance of heavy rainfall events and other agency contact details if for example you are aware of sewer flooding, highway flooding.



Litter Picking in Church Crookham

Last year saw many of you 'adopting' litter-pickers from us and committing to regular litter picking in Church Crookham. A huge thank you to all of our residents that help to keep our community spaces clean and tidy.

This year, we have a number of litter-picking events scheduled at various locations in Church Crookham. Come and join us at the following times (where litter pickers and bags will be provided):

- Friday 16th February 2024 - Peter Driver Sports Ground at 9.30am
- Friday 26th April 2024 - We invite your suggestion where to target
- Friday 14th June 2024 - We invite your suggestion where to target
- Friday 16th August 2024 - We invite your suggestion where to target

What areas do you think could benefit from a litter-pick? Let us know by emailing events@churchcrookham.org.uk or calling us on **01252 626793**.

Litter-pickers are still available and looking for good homes, so if you would like one, please give us a call to arrange to pick one up from our office at the community centre on Boyce Road, GU52 8AQ.



Farnborough Airport—An update

In response to the planning permission sought by Farnborough Airport (FAL) to increase movements at the airport, Rushmoor Borough Council received 2,163 objections of the 2,669 comments submitted by the deadline in December. Opposition to the proposals was consistently around 80% during the consultation period.

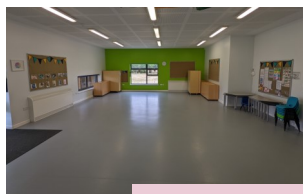
The parish council submitted an objection on a number of grounds, namely:

- That evidence provided by FAL does not support an increase of overall movements (ATMs).
- We oppose the more than doubling of weekend movements and the increase in movements of heavier aircraft.
- We call upon Rushmoor Borough Council to, without delay, impose a new condition on the Airport Operator such that, before any increase in ATMs, suitable monitoring of air quality should be improved for a minimum period of 10 years.
- All ATM's at Farnborough should count towards the planning permission totals.

The parish council will keep residents informed of any future developments.

Weekend Hall Hire Availability

Some regular availability has become free on Saturday mornings in the Acorn Hall at the Church Crookham Community Centre. The hall is



Acorn Hall

10 x 7.3m and has some outside space. If you are a group or club looking for regular weekend hall hire then contact Rebecca at: events@churchcrookham.org.uk or call 01252 626793.

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.

Supporting local events at Christmas

The parish council was pleased to be able to support the Fleet Festivities event in November and the Christmas Day Lunch at the Harlington, by awarding grants towards the funding of these events. The Fleet Festivities is the largest annual celebration in the area and draws thousands of people from across the district. It was fantastic to see so many people attend and the local schools from Church Crookham on the stage in Gurkha Square, singing festive songs. Our grant covered some of the costs involved in ensuring that first aid and security were in place on the day.



Fleet Town Council organised a free Christmas Day lunch at the Harlington for those people in Fleet and Church Crookham who would otherwise be spending it alone. It was another successful day with around 60 people participating on the day.

Photo Credit: Photos courtesy of Aldershot, Fleet and Farnham Camera Club (AFFCC)

The popular Fleet Festivities

Santa's visit to Church Crookham



A huge thank you to everyone that came to our Christmas event on 2nd December at the Church Crookham Community Centre. Santa enjoyed meeting over 200 children that came to see him in his grotto with his elves and musical train. We even had a visit from the Grinch this time too! A big thank you too to all the stall holders at the festive market and the volunteers that helped make the afternoon a fantastic community event. Santa will be visiting on **Saturday 30th November** this year, so watch this space for details.



Speeding concerns

We have been contacted by some residents who are concerned about speeding vehicles in Church Crookham. We ask all drivers to take care and keep to the speed limits (remember most residential roads are 30mph maximum but please drive according to the road conditions/layout). We also request that drivers park safely and sensibly with regard to other residents who need to use the pavements.

In partnership with Crookham Village Parish Council and Hampshire Police we do coordinate the Speedwatch facility throughout the parish. If you would like to get involved in volunteering with Speedwatch please contact our Clerk at clerk@churchcrookham.org.uk or call 01252 626793.

Dates for your diary 2024

- **16th Feb** - Community Litter Pick at Peter Driver Sports Ground at 9.30am
- **26th April** - Community Litter Pick
- **29th April** - Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting - All welcome (time to be confirmed)
- **18th May** - Church Crookham Sports Fest - an afternoon of family fun sports and more!
- **14th June** - Community Litter Pick
- **16th August** - Community Litter Pick
- **30th Nov** - Santa Visit and Christmas Market at the Church Crookham Community Centre

Church Crookham Parish Council

The Church Crookham Community Centre, Boyce Road, Church Crookham, GU52 8AQ

Office Telephone: 01252 626793 Website: www.churchcrookham.org.uk



CHURCH CROOKHAM
PARISH COUNCIL