



CHURCH CROOKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Office Tel: 01252 626793

Newsletter

March 2021 Issue 34



Richard Martin

A Message from the Chair... Dear Residents, the Parish Council are very pleased to provide this first newsletter of 2021.

We are busy working on a range of projects - from improving the Azalea play park to creating a public sensory garden on Crookham Park. I also extend a warm welcome to our new Parish Councillors, Bruce Bulgin and John Ford. Both have lived in the area for many years and are looking forward to their new roles. We always want to hear what is important to our residents and what facilities you would like to see in the area. Our Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 19th April so why not join the meeting via Zoom and share your ideas then. Everyone is welcome.

It has been great to see how busy the vaccination centre at the Memorial Hall has been and our thanks go to the team at the Church Crookham Pharmacy and all the volunteers involved in providing this vital resource for our community. We have now heard from our Prime Minister that the nationwide restrictions will begin to be lifted from 8th March, with a re-opening of schools. Our outdoor sports facilities - the tennis courts, MUGA pitch and skate park on Crookham Park, along with the five-a-side pitch at the Peter Driver sports ground - will hopefully be reopened by 29th March.

Finally, I would like to remind you that elections will be taking place on Thursday 6th May for councillors representing our area at Hart District Council, Hampshire County Council and for the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner. If you have not already registered to vote, and are eligible to do so, I would encourage you to register at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote before 19th April. Regards, *Richard*

Azalea Play Park Improvements

Do your children play at the Azalea play park?



If so, we need your feedback in order to help guide the council in making final decisions as to what improvements to implement in the park.

For all information relating to this project and to leave your comments visit:

www.churchcrookham.org.uk/council/projects

You can also email us at
deputyclerk@churchcrookham.org.uk

Crookham War Memorial

Last October the Crookham War Memorial turned 100 years old.

Due to the pandemic, we were unable to hold a public service or an event to mark this. So, we have made a short film that captures the story of the war memorial. Members of our community talk about what the memorial means to them and the people of Crookham. You can view the film by using the link on our website at:



www.churchcrookham.org.uk

A huge thank you to Captive8 Media Video Production and all those who participated in the making of this film.

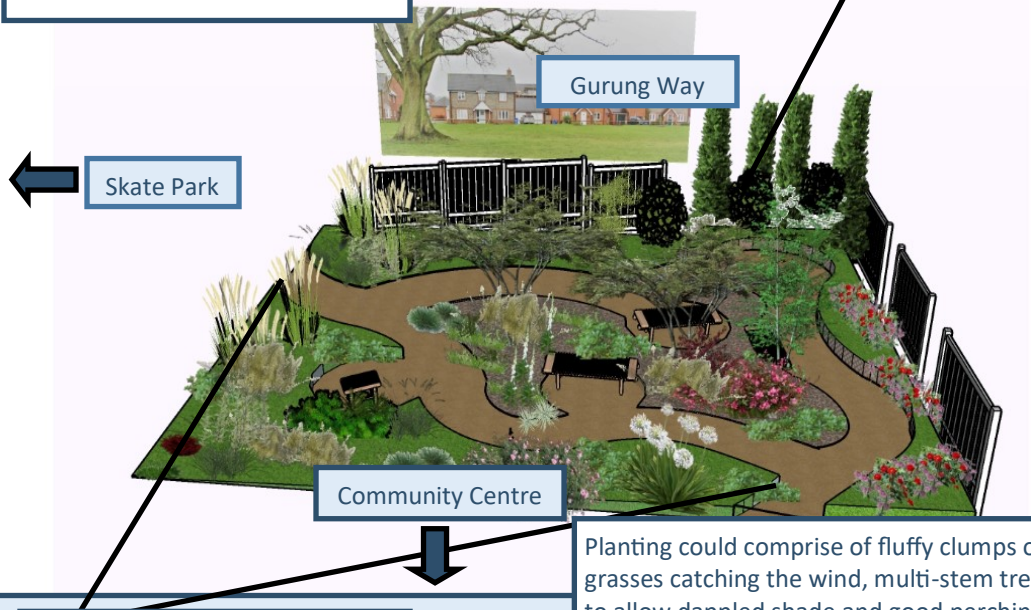
The Church Crookham Sensory Garden is coming very soon!

We have been working to deliver a beautiful sensory garden for you to enjoy. This will be situated adjacent to the community centre on Crookham Park (opposite Gurung Way) and will be a garden for everyone in the Church Crookham community to visit. Some residents have come forward to help with the planning and share their expertise and ideas and we have incorporated as much of that as possible into this initial design - so a big thank you to all those who have been involved thus far!

The fully accessible garden is designed to bring people together to connect with nature. The path winds its ways through the space, allowing different areas to be viewed and enjoyed from benches throughout. The garden creates a feeling of soft enclosure, not complete secluded privacy, making the viewer's eye drawn towards nature and their surroundings.

There could be spring scented shrubs, tactile feeling grasses and plants that make sounds in the wind - clumping bamboo, nigella seed-heads, etc.

Wildlife friendly hedging for bird nesting would edge some of the garden to provide privacy and a sound barrier



Two entrances allowing access from the oak trees and also from the community centre path

Planting could comprise of fluffy clumps of grasses catching the wind, multi-stem trees to allow dappled shade and good perching places for birds. Raised beds for planting would be built into the slope of the site. The plant beds would be completely covered in plants to create habitats for insects.

Please do let us know what you think of this initial design. You can submit feedback via our website at:

www.churchcrookham.org.uk/projects

Or you can email us at: events@churchcrookham.org.uk

Annual Parish Meeting with a Difference!

Each year Parish Councils host a meeting with a difference. One where no decisions are made but provides an opportunity for residents to meet the councillors, on an informal basis, that represent their local community. This is also a time to share what events/projects have been completed and what is in the pipeline. Last year, Councils were given an option to cancel these mandatory meetings as the country had just gone into its first national lockdown and everyone was learning to adapt to new working methods.

Having adapted to the changing work and meeting environment this year Church Crookham Parish Council is better placed to deliver the essence of this annual meeting albeit via a virtual platform.

All residents are formally invited to join us via zoom on **MONDAY 19th APRIL from 7.30pm**



Meeting ID: 984 6600 9364

Passcode: 572356

There will be a Q&A session that forms part of the meeting and we ask that all questions be submitted in advance of the meeting. You can submit a question by visiting our website www.churchcrookham.org.uk and following the link to APM Meeting questions. We will endeavour to answer all the questions at the meeting if time allows but will guarantee a written response if time does not permit.

Want to find out what has been and is going on in your local community? Then join us for this evening meeting ... although we cannot guarantee the entertainment provided by Handforth Parish Council as seen in recent news!

Introducing our new Parish Councillors!

John Ford - *'I have lived in the area for over 40 years, moving to Church Crookham from Fleet a couple of years ago. I am looking forward to contributing to the Parish Council and helping to ensure the best facilities and quality of life for everyone. I have worked in customer service all my working life, have experience in running a small local business and managing teams in a corporate environment. I am involved with several local groups including Hart Male Voice Choir and Hart Players Am-Dram group. I am a firm believer in local people having as much say as possible in what happens in their area and as a resident everything the Council does directly affects me as well as the wider community. So we all have a stake in making sure we do all we can to improve things for everyone'.*



Bruce Bulgín - *'As a local resident having lived in the area for more than 35 years I believe I am well placed to make a positive contribution to the community in Church Crookham. I am a founding partner of a Fleet based financial services business and I am also Chair of Fleet Business Improvement District (BID). In my spare time I enjoy cooking and family activities and I'm learning to play bridge. I have grandchildren living on Crookham Park and attending Tweseldown Infant School'.*

The Great British Spring Clean is scheduled to take place from 28th May to 13th June this year, so why not get involved by doing a litter-pick in Church Crookham?



Head to www.keepbritaintidy.com for more information or, get involved in a community litter-pick! We will be organising a safe way for you and your family to get litter picking in Church Crookham soon. Watch this space or 'like' our Facebook page for updates.

Fleet Lions Supporting Children's Home Learning throughout Lockdown

Since the start of the first lockdown in March 2020 Lions clubs based in North East Hampshire, together with Farnham Lions, have supplied in excess of 1,000 computers to local families in Hart, Rushmoor and Waverley. Local schools are now being supported by the scheme, resulting in hundreds of families now being able to access home school learning. Larger families are often supplied with more than one unit to relieve the stress of having to share. Any help in the form of additional laptops or financial support to pay for spare batteries, power supplies, hard drives etc would be gratefully received by the team. For more info and to make a donation please visit : www.fleetlions.org.uk



The Census 2021

Households across Church Crookham will be asked to take part in the nationwide survey of housing and the population on **Sunday 21st March**. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941. Information from the census will help decide how services are planned and funded in your local area. This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, housing or new bus routes, so it is really important that we all take part.

Households will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete their questionnaire online - this is a digital-first census. Paper questionnaires will be available on request. For more information, visit:

www.ons.gov.uk

Parish Council Grant Scheme

Every year the Parish Council award grants to community groups. We have been pleased to support **'Calls and Visits'** this year with a £500 grant.

'Calls and Visits' is a new community group set up to help those isolated, due to frailty, disability or caring for another, by matching them with a volunteer for regular friendly chats. If you would like 'Calls and Visits' to help you or you would like to volunteer with them email: callsandvisits@gmail.com



To apply for a Parish Council grant, see our website at:

www.churchcrookham.org.uk

or call our Clerk on 01252 626793

New Community Signage

New signs have been installed around the parish to point residents and visitors in the direction of all of our community facilities.



Parish Council ZOOM meeting dates for your diary

- 12.04.2021- Planning Meeting
- 19.04.2021- Annual Parish Meeting
- 26.04.2021- Planning and Full Council Meeting
- 10.05.2021- Planning meeting

If you wish to attend the virtual meetings please email: clerk@churchcrookham.org.uk by 7pm on the night of the meeting requesting the meeting access codes.