

Church Crookham Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

Issue 39

March 2022

Hello from the Chair



Richard Martin

Hello Residents The forthcoming local elections on 5th May marks the end of the third full term of Church Crookham Parish Council since it was formed in 2010. Many of the current councillors have expressed a desire to stand for re-election. I became a councillor in 2017, and have been Vice-Chair or Chair of CCPC since May 2018, but having moved to another part of Hart district towards the end of last year I will be standing down as a councillor at the end of the current term. Much of the council's work during my period of service has centred around the various parts of Crookham Park that the parish council will be responsible for running & maintaining. While there are still some minor works to be finished before the final handovers can be completed, I know that these community assets are already enjoyed by many residents and we will soon see the athletics area coming into use - an area where Fleet & Crookham Athletics Club have some exciting plans for their future growth. None of this would have been possible without the diligent work of the staff in our parish office, who have served this community fantastically - particularly through the added pressures of the pandemic - under the exceptional leadership of our Parish Clerk, Claire Inglis. There is still much to be done in the next council term, such as the redevelopment of facilities at the Peter Driver sports ground and the creation of a sensory garden close to the community centre. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor and being closely involved with these initiatives and others across the community, please contact Claire Inglis at the parish office who will be happy share more details with you. Regards, *Richard*

Key Dates

Please check our website for meeting times and venue details.

- **28th March 2022** - Parish Council Planning Committee Meeting followed by Full Council Meeting
- **11th April 2022** - Parish Council Planning Committee Meeting
- **25th April 2022** - Parish Council Planning Committee Meeting followed by Full Council Meeting
- **TBC 23rd May 2022** - Annual Meeting
- **TBC 25th May 2022** - Residents Parish Meeting
- **25th March to 10th April 2022** - The Great British Spring Clean
- **2nd June to 5th June 2022** - Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in Fleet

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Please recycle this newsletter



Community Action Heroes

We have had a wonderful response from residents, following our 'Adopt a Litter-picker' appeal. Lots of you have collected a litter-picker and have already started litter-picking. Every adopted litter-picker makes a difference to our planet, to wildlife and to our community so thank you!



Dominic and Isaac can't wait to get started!



Thanks Diane



Alfie has been litter-picking already. Go Alfie!



Ready to go!

We still have litter-pickers available so if you can offer one a good home and commit to regular litter-picks, please give us a call on 01252 626793 to reserve yours. You can then carry out regular litter-picks in your own time. Or, why not join in with **The Great British Spring Clean 2022**? This starts on 25th March until 10th April, now in its seventh year, and you can join the **#BigBagChallenge** and pledge to pick up as much litter as you can and become a **#LitterHero**.

Visit: www.keepbritaintidy.org to sign up



Isaac, Jaxon and Freddie are excited to be litter-picking!

Rushmoor Healthy Living

Local charity RHL runs a wide range of low cost, friendly and fun exercise sessions which are particularly suitable for older adults, those with health conditions and those returning to exercise. **This includes a Chair Pilates class on Wednesdays from 11.15am to 12.15pm at the Church Crookham Community Centre.** Come and meet the welcoming group by trying out the class with a free trial session. Chair Pilates is great if you have always wanted to try Pilates but have limited mobility or are worried about getting up and down from the floor. It can help to strengthen & lengthen your muscles, improve your posture, balance, mobility, flexibility & mental well-being; all with the use of a chair for help & support. RHL also run Zoom sessions that you can take part in from the comfort of your own home – whether you choose an early morning pre-work Pilates class, a stretch & relaxation evening class to reduce stress, or a BoxFit & Conditioning session for something a bit different, it can all help to improve physical health and wellbeing as well as provide a great way to meet new people.

For more information and to book a free trial, email classes@rhl.org.uk, call 01252 957430 or click on the timetable icon at www.rhl.org.uk



Rising Costs

Precept and increase in hire charges

At a time when the whole country is facing increased household costs the parish council have also had some tough choices to make whilst setting the annual budget. Upon drafting the budget for the upcoming year the parish council sought to negate an £8.5k deficit, the impact on the increase in costs to the parish council in managing the facilities it is responsible for.

You will therefore see an increase in your precept for Church Crookham when you receive your annual council tax bill. We understand that all households will be facing a cost-of-living increase but this precept increase is a modest one in the context that the parish council has managed to not increase the precept over the last decade.

The increase will raise the precept for a Band D property to £55.88 per annum. This increase of £2.08 (or just 4p per week) equates to an extra 3.86% from the previous rate of £53.80, which we firmly believe represents very good value for money for the residents of Church Crookham.

Customers that hire our facilities at the Church Crookham Community Centre have been notified of an increase of 2% in hire rates, the first increase since the centre opened in 2015.

A Greener Church Crookham

The parish council is invested in looking forward to a future greener environment in the parish. Whilst we make small strides at the moment we are investigating ways that the whole community can get involved by pulling together to make small changes.

A couple of residents voiced concerns about the paper that this newsletter is printed on so we researched this with our printers who confirmed that the paper is recyclable.

Hedges of native species have been planted at Azalea Gardens and adjacent to the community centre which will increase wildlife habitats in the future.



New hedging at Azalea Park

We also look forward to the tree planting initiative taking place in late March with the Fleet Lions where we look to increase the tree population of Church Crookham for future generations.

Also another thank you to ALL those in our community who have adopted a litter picker helping to improve the environment by reducing the litter on our streets.

Speedwatch

The Community Speedwatch scheme is co-ordinated by Hampshire Constabulary with the parish council and aims to deal with speeding vehicles. The pandemic has caused long delays to this project but we are pleased to announce that it is soon to be launched!

If you are concerned about increased speeds on our roads and prevalence of accidents then maybe you can volunteer to have a positive impact for the wider community.

There is still time to join this initiative with training provided so if you are interested, please email:

speedwatch@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Community Speedwatch is an educational scheme, not enforcement. It is considered a first tier response to speeding issues. If a problem persists it can be escalated by the Neighbourhood Policing Team. The Speedwatch team will be recording the results and adding them to a database. Vehicle checks will then be undertaken by the police and letters sent to offenders advising them of their speed and reminding them of why it is a concern.



May Elections

Are you interested in representing the community of Church Crookham?

The parish council have some exciting community projects planned - could you get involved? Elections will be held on 5th May 2022 when the parish councillors will all stand down for re-election.

BECOMING A LOCAL COUNCILLOR - As a local councillor you can become a voice for your community and make a real change. Councillors are community leaders and represent the interests of the communities that they serve with three main responsibilities:

- Decision making
- Monitoring
- Getting involved locally



If you are interested in the role of Parish Councillor, do consider standing in one of the three wards of:

Gally Hill Road Ward, Church Crookham East Ward and Queen Elizabeth Ward.

To stand for election for the parish council you must be a UK, Commonwealth or Republic of Ireland citizen or a citizen of Another Member State of the European Union. You must be at least 18 years old and an elector of the local council, or in the last 12 months occupied land or other premises in the area that the local council serves (as owner or tenant), or work in the area that the local council serves (as your principal or only place of work), or live within three miles of the local council boundary.

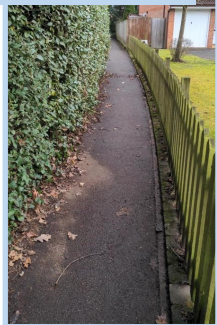
Please feel free to call our Clerk, Claire, on **01252 626793**, for an informal chat or email:

clerk@churchcrookham.org.uk You can obtain a nomination pack from the parish office. Please note that the deadline for submission is 4pm on the 5th April 2022. All residents wishing to vote at the elections should ensure they are registered to do so.

Lengthsman Scheme

Our Lengthsman Scheme has been in full force with pathways and areas being cleared recently around Church Crookham. We hope you have seen the positive impact this work has had at these locations.

Azalea Park to Wynne Gardens



Reading Rd South to Corringway

Leipzig Road



Northfield Road

New Facilities



Enjoy a rest or a picnic on the new seating



Azalea Park improvements continue, with the installation of some great new seating.

Church Crookham Parish Council

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

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CHURCH CROOKHAM
PARISH COUNCIL