

Parish Council NEWS



New play area at Town End

The Parish Council has contributed £10,000 towards a much needed new play area to be installed in the Town End Recreation area in the next few months (please see the artist's impression below). This additional Parish Council funding will enable a roundabout, a multi play unit for toddlers and a junior set of swings to be included as part of the project. Tandridge District Council are funding the rest.



Dear Resident

Welcome to another Parish Council Newsletter, which we hope you will find both interesting and informative. We believe that keeping residents informed of what we are doing on your behalf is an essential duty, and we always appreciate your feedback, either to our Clerk, to any of your councillors directly, or through our website, which we are about to upgrade. You can of course come

along to our Parish Council meetings to express a view or raise a concern, or listen to our discussions, which are, it has to be said, sometimes quite entertaining! We are not a stuffy lot; we just want the best for our community.

Many of us are heavily engaged in the development of our local Neighbourhood Plan, part of our CR3 project. A referendum, next year, will decide whether we have community support for a plan detailing how our community might look in ten years' time. I chair the CR3 Forum, and we are the lead Council on it. It is a wonderful example of democratic community engagement.

I have been appearing as a witness on the Parish Council's part in the Planning Inquiry regarding the land at Whyteleafe Road we have been so keen to protect. Please see the report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee on page 2 of this newsletter.

As the autumn approaches, we have, we think, made our best ever preparations for winter, working closely with our farmer colleagues and the local council officers. Perhaps the better we prepare to deal with snow and ice on our roads and pavements, the less chance we will have a harsh winter! We can only hope.

My colleagues elsewhere in the Newsletter will detail our activities and projects. We are responding to a number of issues raised with us by residents, including the make-over of the Town End Rec. Because we have managed our resources so carefully over the years, we are well placed to make a difference.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. I hope you agree that we are making Caterham on the Hill a nicer place to be.



Planning Update - Whyteleafe Road Development Proposal and St Francis' School Proposed Extension

The major planning issue which continues to affect our area is the proposal for intensive redevelopment of an area of land behind part of Whyteleafe Road and close to Annes Walk. A Public Inquiry is currently under way into the appeal by Village Developments Ltd (VD) against refusal of planning permission for new housing development at this site.

This Inquiry was scheduled across two three-day sessions in June and October. Our Chairman, Chris Botten, was the Parish Council's witness at this Inquiry. Part of his evidence at the June session - and one of the main reasons given by Tandridge District Council (TDC) for refusing VD's proposals - concerned the exploitation of part of an area of Reserve Housing Land. This means it should be safeguarded for future use if other sites are not enough to meet local housing requirements. The Parish Council is concerned that in July the District Council deleted the Local Plan Policy (Policy HO5), which it relied on in order to protect this Reserved Land. VD is also claiming that TDC's housing land monitoring programme is not robust and that the annual housing requirement is much higher than the Council's figure. If the Inquiry Inspector takes a view on this assertion, there could be an impact on development pressures across the whole of the District.

At the Inquiry, Chris Botten set out the Parish Council's view that the proposals would have an unacceptable impact on the character and appearance of the area, and that they constitute piece-meal and opportunistic development. We must hope that the Inquiry Inspector agrees and rejects VD's appeal on these grounds.

At the time of writing, the Inquiry Inspector had not published his decision on this appeal. Please get in touch with Councillor Botten or myself if you would like to be informed of the outcome of the appeal process. Our contact details are on page 4 of this Newsletter.

St Francis' School - Proposed Extension

Surrey County Council has applied to extend St Francis' RC Primary School to provide extra classrooms and parking, to alter the layout of the precinct loop road and to fell 31 trees. This is aimed at increasing the number of pupils from 310 to 420. The Parish Council has commented on several aspects of the proposals. The Parish Council's comments can be found on our website.

Hilary Turner, Chairman, Planning Committee



Allotment winners 2014

The judging of the allotments was a little later than usual this year but the judge was still very impressed with some of the allotments on show. Well done to the winners detailed below.

Heath Road

The best allotment was number 14 which the judge said was tidy, still cropping and of good quality.

2nd place went to plot 31a.

Best floral display was plot 6, which had Cosmos, Dahlias and Sweet peas.

A new category of Best Construction went to plot 50b.



Westway

Best allotment was plot 37, which was tidy, productive and had a good range.

2nd place was plot number 8

The Best Floral display went to plot 23, which had a lovely display of Dahlias.

Thank you to the judge from Knights Garden Centre and Mr Packham from Tandridge District Council for his assistance.

New....benches, bins and toilets

Portable toilets, funded by the Parish Council, were placed near Queens Park play area this summer at the request of residents. These were such a success that it is hoped Tandridge District Council may install more permanent toilets here in the future.

The Parish Council has recently paid for two new benches, one at Banstead Road (near the bus stop) and one next to the library. Thank you to Tandridge District Council for installing these free of charge. We hope local people enjoy them.

New grit bins are being placed by the Parish Council at the following locations: end of Annes Walk, Eldon Road, Addison Road and Cromwell Road. The salt from these bins is for residents to use on the roads and pavements when they are icy. Please help us by using the salt sparingly and letting us know if the bins need re-filling.

If you have any suggestions for other areas in need of benches, bins, or anything else please contact the Parish Clerk on 01883 708310 or email caterhamhillpc@msn.com.



INVITATION TO THE SWITCHING ON OF THE CEDAR TREE LIGHTS



Residents are invited to this year's Cedar Tree lights ceremony on 22nd November. Come and join in with carols (this year with a brass band accompaniment), watch Father Christmas switch on the lights and enjoy refreshments of mince pies (kindly donated by Blends Catering), soft drinks and mulled wine (donated by the King and Queen).

This year a short section of the High Street, between Whyteleafe Road and Court Road, will be closed for one hour from 5.30pm.

This FREE event, organised by Caterham on the Hill Parish Council, will take place from 5.45pm to 6.30pm in Buxton's Car Park on Saturday 22nd November. Please bring a torch.

Donations will be collected for a local charity

Have your say on local transport

Please complete Surrey County Council's important survey on transport services.

Visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/transportreview



Children's sofa in the library

DOES YOUR GROUP NEED A GRANT?

The Parish Council would like to help voluntary or charitable bodies with a strong connection to Caterham on the Hill. So far this year we have made a grant of £600 to the Caterham Carnival for procession costumes and £250 to the Royal British Legion (to pay for the band) for their Remembrance Day parade. Previous grants have included funding a children's sofa in the Library and redecorating a section of the East Surrey Museum.

Parish grants are normally awarded for specific projects which are of demonstrable benefit to the local community. Please look on our website for further details and the grant application form, or contact the Parish Clerk.

There are other local sources of funding, for example:

The Tandridge Community Fund (TCF) is a charitable fund specifically for the benefit of Tandridge district and its residents. This uses the interest on a capital fund accumulated from donations to make grants to meet local needs. Further details on how to make a donation or apply for a grant can be found at www.cfsurrey.org.uk/tandridge or by calling 01483 409230.

The Rotary Club of Caterham does a huge amount of fundraising locally and provides support for various local groups such as Caterham First Responders and Caterham Red Cross. Their volunteers run local events such as the Bunny Run and the Christmas Sleigh and take part in many local activities. For more details visit www.caterhamrotary.org.uk.

Caterham Round Table is similarly active in the local community running various fundraising events such as the Fireworks and the Beer Festival. Every year, it donates £000's to worthy local causes and individuals. Each request for a donation is presented to the Table's members and individually considered on merit. For more details visit www.caterhamtable.com.

COULD YOU BE A SNOW ANGEL?

Tandridge District Council is looking for more Snow Angels to join its network of volunteers who help clear pavements around key areas when it snows.

As soon as snow is forecast, volunteers are contacted to help pre-salt pavements and then to clear snow and ice. All the equipment and salt is provided by Tandridge District Council and Surrey County Council.

In addition, council staff who can't get into work can volunteer to go and help the group closest to where they live.

Councillor Tony Elias, Chairman of the Community Service Committee, said: "This scheme has been really successful thanks to the hard work of everyone involved, but we need more volunteers. We all need to do our bit when it snows, so if you are able to, please do join our Snow Angels."



If you would be able to spare a few hours to help your local community in the event of snow, please contact Scott Coughlan on 01883 732785, or e-mail scoughlan@tandridge.gov.uk to find out more.



Non Emergency Helpline - call 111 service is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by a team of fully trained advisers, supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. They will ask you questions to assess your symptoms, then give you the healthcare advice you need or direct you straightaway to the local service that can help you best. That could be A&E, an out-of-hours doctor, an urgent care centre or a walk-in centre, a community nurse, an emergency dentist or a late-opening chemist.

Where possible, the NHS 111 team will book you an appointment or transfer you directly to the people you need to speak to.

If NHS 111 advisers think you need an ambulance, they will immediately arrange for one to be sent to you.

Bourne Society Plaque Ceremony *by Councillor Jean Hooper*

On the 22nd February 2014 the Bourne Society held a ceremony at 4 High Street Caterham to unveil a plaque to mark the location of the former Soldiers Home which was a recreational facility for soldiers based here from 1898 to about 1950. Roger Packham, one of our local historians, told the history of how the Soldiers' Home came about and also named various well-known Military people who had been to Caterham Barracks during that time. The Barracks has a fascinating history and I wish local people knew more about it. You would be surprised to know how famous it was! We were also lucky in having Mr Barnes at the ceremony, as his parents were the last couple to run the Soldiers Home. He remembers living there when he was a young boy and he still lives on the Hill so it was good of him to attend.

After the unveiling ceremony we all went to the King & Queen Public House and were treated to an excellent Buffet Lunch by them. In fact it was so nice I think we were all reluctant to leave.

I would also like to say thank you to the owners of the Raja Tandoori Restaurant who were very laid back about the crowd on their door-step. They are stalwarts of our Community and it would be hard to imagine the High Street without them now.

The Police Neighbourhood Panel is the community's opportunity to meet with their local safer neighbourhood team officers and discuss matters of interest or concern. The team do a fantastic job and congratulations goes to PC Leesa Crouch who has recently received an award for her youth work.

The next meeting takes place on Tuesday 25th November 2014 at Linden Homes, Guards Avenue, Caterham between 7.30pm and 8.30pm. Future meetings can be found at <http://www.police.uk/surrey/TNCW/news-and-events/>

Find us on Facebook



The Parish Warden continues to report local issues such as potholes, overgrown hedges, litter, graffiti etc.



If you would like to report any issues please email caterhamhillpc@msn.com.

Parish Council meetings take place on certain Wednesdays at Caterham on the Hill Library at 7.30pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend and have the opportunity to give their comments.

For dates go to caterhamhillpc.org.uk or contact the Parish Clerk on 01883 708310.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Portley Ward

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