

Tranquillity with a Through Hocombe

A Serene walk through the Mead in March/April gives one the opportunity to spot at least 23 different bird species ranging from Blue tit to Peregrine Falcon. In April/May a wide range of flowering plants, sedges, rushes and ferns can be seen with at least 15 of the species being Ancient Woodland Vascular Plants (AWVP) indicating that the Mead is indeed of ancient origin. It is a wonderful place for a quiet contemplative walk, a view of a microcosm of English nature or a place for young people to learn about our natural history – do try it.



What is a LNR?

Natural England defines it as thus:

"A Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is for both people and wildlife.

LNRs offer people special opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply to enjoy it". We are fortunate to have such a rich and interesting Reserve on our doorstep.

It provides wonderful habitats for wildlife but, as the definition above points out, it is there for people too. Friends of Hocombe Mead take Natural England's definition seriously and in addition to the conservation work it has a website:

www.hocombe-mead.org

It also runs events; produces a monthly 'What to See' information sheet at the three entrances of the Mead; and a downloadable I-Spy for families

Inhabitants of Hocombe Mead

There is a small but representative population of reptiles: toads, frogs and slow worms. Mammals are represented by muntjac deer, foxes, squirrels and moles – evident from their mole hills! From early spring to late autumn, if the weather is sunny, butterflies will enhance a walk. Twenty five different species of butterfly have been observed on the Mead and last year the White Admiral made a welcome return to this habitat.

Velmore – Welcomed into the heart of the Parish

Sitting squarely between Eastleigh and Chandlers Ford, Velmore has often been overlooked, however over the years with input from various community members, Velmore has thrived to become the community it is today.

With excellent transport links, a nature reserve on its doorstep Velmore is an enjoyable place to be.



Following its recent regeneration, Velmore is growing and developing its own sense of identity. Central to this is the new combined Velmore Church and Community Centre, a community hub and focal point for local activity. Providing support services and programmes for the local area as well as a venue for hire! This centre is vital in securing a positive future for the Velmore.

With a friendship club, bingo sessions, quiz nights and lunch club through to youth activities and messy church sessions, the centre is working with the community to try and provide something for everyone.



Why not drop in to the café for a coffee some time and see what Velmore has to offer? You can even purchase a copy of "From Huts to Homes" new book to help you discover more about where the estate has come from whilst you sample a sandwich.

Parish Council Contact details:

Email: clerk.chandlersford@parish.hants.gov.uk
Tel: 023 8026 6612
Add: Fryern Hill Pavilion, Greenways, Chandler's Ford. SO53 2LE



TRANSFER OF ASSETS

From 1 April 2014 the Parish Council has assumed the ownership of the Fryern, Hiltingbury and Pennine Way Recreation Grounds and buildings, as well as the Children's Play Areas – although the legal formalities have not been completed as we are still waiting for Eastleigh Borough Council's estates and legal department to resolve outstanding issues.

This is not costing you, the tax payers, any more in your tax bill, as the increase in the Parish Precept is offset by a reduction in the Special Expenses charged by Eastleigh Borough Council. The Parish Precept for Chandler's Ford remains the lowest in the Borough.

Your Parish Council has made significant additions to its reserves over the last 4 years so that it is has the resources to be able to maintain and to make ongoing improvements to all the assets transferred.

We will be continuing to consult you with our plans and would like to hear your views as to how you wish us to spend your money.

DUE DILIGENCE



Eastleigh Borough Council has not fulfilled the obligations they had undertaken to complete prior to the transfer of assets into the ownership of the Parish Council.

Over the last 3 years your Parish Council has undertaken due diligence on the assets it wished to take into ownership and identified major problems that needed to be resolved by the Borough Council before the transfer could be completed.

The Parish Council is working hard with the Borough Council to assist in anyway possible to resolve these outstanding issues – but it still awaits responses from the Borough Council's Estates and Legal departments to be able to complete the formalities.

Asset Transfers

Some of the assets due to be taken over have not been adequately maintained over the years and bringing them up to the standard we want for the Parish will take money and time.

But already we have well advanced plans in place for the extension of the Fryern Pavilion and we are developing plans for improvements to the Hiltingbury Pavilion.

The Diamond Jubilee Garden—Built by the Parish Council



Looking to the future at the Fryern

Continuing the process of developing the Fryern Pavilion by going to tender for appointment of builders and by making grant funding applications as soon as transfer ownership is resolved.



An Innovative Design to encompass the Community

OBJECTIVE

To provide a multi functional community centre with self contained accommodation for the Chandler's Ford Parish Council. With provision for Parish Council meetings of councillors and members of the public.

The overall design should be adaptable, to accommodate various activities ranging from children's groups to adult recreational and business type functions to changing facilities for team sports such as football, hockey etc.



RESURFACING THE TENNIS COURTS

The surface of the tennis courts at Hiltingbury is deteriorating badly.

For several years letters from the Tennis Club have been sent to Eastleigh Borough Council requesting them to undertake the resurfacing - which is years behind schedule - but no action has been taken.

Your Parish Council has requested that these matters are resolved by either the EBC including conditions in the transfer document for them to complete the work on a timely basis; or that agreed funding be put in place for the Parish Council to effect the remedial work themselves.



BREAKDOWN OF CAR PARK SURFACES

There are serious problems with Hiltingbury car park with the surface breakdown due to the shared entrance with the Hiltingbury Infants and Junior Schools via the upper car park.

This car park is under daily stress from heavy school traffic usage, exacerbated by being part of the turning circle for all the school traffic on a one way system.

In addition there are problems with the drainage of surface water which cannot flow away as the soak ways are blocked - a situation that has not been addressed for years - so much so that vegetation now grows out of them!

The Fryern car park has had little maintenance over the last few years and significant pot holes have developed which have not been repaired. Your Parish Council has requested that these matters are addressed by EBC prior to transfer, or that adequate funds are provided to the Parish Council so that they can have the work completed.



Review of Local Bus and Community Transport Services 2014

What is this consultation about? Hampshire County Council needs to save £1.25-£1.5 million from public and community transport spending by 2015/16 and this consultation form aims to collect the views and preferences of individual users to aid them in the decision making process. - Review of Local Bus and Community Transport services **as well as completion by individuals users is essential.**

The bus services supported by the County Council cater for around 4 million of the 30 million bus passenger trips in Hampshire in a year.

How can I take part in this consultation? By completing **the consultation form which is available to download or complete online** ^{**} from Wednesday 5 March 2014. Please return all pages of this consultation form before the due date of 31st May 2014. Please fill in all sections of the form. www.hants.gov.uk/transportconsultation2014 ^{**}

Neil Beswick Telephone: 01962 846 785 or

Hayley Trower Ext: 023 8068 8478 or

Parish Council on 023 8026 6612: For a hard copy of the consultation form please ring

Information recorded on this form may be used in computerised records. Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 this information will be treated in a secure and confidential manner.



Another fantastic Funtasia day for everyone!



The Fryern Funtasia

