

Newsletter

December 2014



WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY

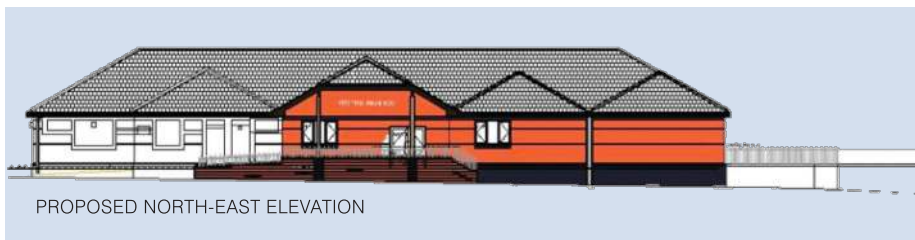


Chandler's Ford
Parish Council

Fryern Pavilion Extension

The Parish Council are very pleased to be able to announce the approval of £300,000 of match-funding from the New Homes Bonus Scheme from the Borough Council towards the costs of the long awaited extension of the Fryern Pavilion.

This with the essential equivalent reserves the Parish Council has built up over the last four years will enable the extending of the pavilion to create a facility which will benefit all of the community.



PROPOSED NORTH-EAST ELEVATION

Wilding Butler were appointed as contractors for this project in September and the work has already started with the foundations having been poured and the blockwork emerging above ground level.



The build period is going to last some 30 weeks during which there might be some disruption on the narrow approach roads with deliveries, but assurances have been given that these will be minimised and avoid the busy school times.

It has taken time to ensure that a proper tender process and all the necessary due diligence tests as well as ensuring that the VAT can be reclaimed and the Council's cash-flow can be properly managed.

At the Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council on 29 September at which all the final matters required were resolved the Chairman, Cllr Margaret Atkinson concluded the meeting saying *"I am delighted the Council has taken these important decisions tonight as I am sure that the re-development of the Fryern Pavilion will not only provide a valuable asset for the Parish Council but more importantly a significant asset for the use of all the Parishioners of Chandler's Ford."*

In this issue

- Dogs and Fouling
- RidgeRider
- Community Speed Watch
- Fryern Arcade Lantern Parade
- War Memorial Restoration
- Work on Hoccombe Mead
- Network Rail Footbridge

Transfer of Assets

September was certainly a busy time as the Fryern Pavilion and Recreation Ground, Pennine Way and 5 play areas (Lincoln Valley, Mead Road, Westmorland Way, Cox Row and Suffolk Drive) were finally transferred to the ownership of the Parish Council.

Hiltingbury Pavilion and Recreation Ground is still going through the transfer process but it is hoped that the transfer will be completed soon.

The Parish Council are negotiating a Service Level Agreement with EBC to ensure that the grounds maintenance works help maintain the recreation and play areas at an enhanced level for the enjoyment of all residents. Balancing costs against improvements and having listened to representations made by those using our open spaces have been part of this process.

Dogs and Fouling

The Parish Council would like to remind residents with dogs that they need to clean up after them. All open spaces in the Borough have Dog Control



Orders (fouling) on them to prevent thoughtless owners from not cleaning up after their pets. Owners failing to clean up after their dogs can face a Fixed Penalty Notice or if they fail to pay that a fine of up to £1000 in court.

Leaving dogs' poo on the recreation grounds is highly anti-social. Most importantly it is a health risk to all, especially to children and those hiring the football pitches as well as being singularly unpleasant.

Unfortunately some owners also seem not to be in proper control of their dogs when exercising them on the parish's open spaces. Can we please also remind owners that it is their responsibility to have proper control of their pets and that some children and adults can be made to feel very scared by a strange dog (large or small) bounding up to say hello.

Please be considerate to others.

Community Speed Watch



A recommendation from the Planning, Highways and Licensing Committee for the Parish Council to support the purchase of equipment for a Community Speed Watch project went to Council on the 27 October and approval was given.

At the present time there is a Police and Crime Commissioner funded initiative to help develop these important community projects and they are offering match-funding of £1,000 to community organisations including Parish Councils to set up teams in their areas.

PCSO Ian Nicolson is heading up the initiative in Chandler's Ford and would like to hear from any people who would like to volunteer. Full training is given, equipment supplied and the more volunteers we have the greater the impact the project can have in helping make our roads safer.

Anybody interested in volunteering should contact Ian by email to: ian.nicholson@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Fyern Arcade Lantern Parade



On the 3rd of December The Fryern Federation of Junior and Infants brought to the Parish of Chandler's Ford a "Christmas Carol Lantern Parade", the parade went from Fryern Schools to the Fryern Arcade Parade Car Park where Christmas Carols were enjoyed and participated in by the community.



The Parish Council sponsored the lanterns to ensure that all children were fully involved.

Father Christmas came along to help out - with some mulled wine and mince pies available a jolly time was had by all. The local shops also stayed open for an extra hour helping with the festive fun.



War Memorial Restoration



In time for the centenary remembering the First World War the restoration of the memorial at St Boniface was completed and a service of rededication took place on Sunday 19 October. This was attended by Parish Council Chairman Cllr Margaret Atkinson and the Deputy Mayor of Eastleigh who jointly laid a wreath of lilies.

The craftsmen who worked on it have done a wonderful job and renovated it with great care and attention to detail, restoring a fitting tribute to those who have died in the two world wars and also subsequent campaigns.

RidgeRider

Following representation at the Asset Management Committee meeting on the 3 November the RidgeRider piece of play equipment was put out of use in response to parents' perceived safety concerns and a couple of past accidents. It was reported that the ride was found safe during its annual safety inspection on the 7 October this year. At the present time the Parish Council is investigating this piece of play equipment and as to whether it should be removed or not. With the need to set responsible budgets and therefore the Precept additional or replacement equipment is not necessarily being considered at the present time.

Work on Hocombe Mead

The autumn and winter work on the Mead by the Friends of Hocombe Mead is well underway. The first task of the season was raking and removing the vegetation from the South Meadow to ensure that it does not become over fertile and affect its indigenous flora and fauna.

The work currently being undertaken is the coppicing of hazel and removal of non-indigenous species on the northern border of the North Meadow. This will continue during the winter along with other maintenance and conservation jobs such as removal of encroaching species such as holly and willow.



The volunteers taking a coffee break from coppicing.

The Friends have been fortunate in a bid for free trees from The Conservation Volunteers' Big Tree Plant Event and have been awarded fifty trees to plant in the Mead. In December 25 Hazel and 25 Oak trees will be planted in the area of woodland from which non-indigenous Rhododendron trees were removed.

They will be very small saplings but will, over time, begin to reinstate the upper woodland area in the eastern end of the Mead to its original state.

At Halloween a star gazing event was held on the Mead at which thirty people attended and viewed the moon through a high powered telescope and had prominent constellations explained and pointed out to them. A wonderful evening of Carols and Candle-lit walk was held on 12 December.

Details of events and how to help with the conservation work can be found on The Friends' website, www.hocombe-mead.org



Network Rail: Why we want to install a footbridge at Chandler's Ford level crossing

(Camilla Bushill, Scheme Project Manager, Network Rail
camilla.bushill@networkrail.co.uk)

Level crossings are Network Rail's single biggest risk, both to the railway and the public. For that reason, we have closed more than 800 level crossings in the past five years – more than 10 per cent of the total number.

My job is to work with our neighbours, local authorities and crossing users to reduce the number of crossings on the railway, either through diversions, or putting up bridges or underpasses.

As part of that process, Network Rail has approached Hampshire County Council to discuss the possibility of installing a footbridge at Chandlers Ford footpath crossing and close the level crossing on the grounds of safety.

But why Chandlers Ford?

Chandlers Ford is a high-risk crossing, with a history of both deliberate and accidental misuse. It is a very well used footpath and our census information demonstrates this.

Example of incidents at the crossing include a member of the public with an air rifle shooting at a train, several instances of trespassing (where people use the crossing to access the track), youths playing "chicken" with trains and a recent near miss involving an adult and toddler.

We did look at several alternatives to a footbridge before approaching the council including diversions and extinguishment. However, the potential diversion was found to be too onerous and an extinguishment would not be suitable due to the vital community links provided by the footpath.

We also looked at improving the safety features there, but we have found that the most usual technology - miniature stop lights - still require the attention and adherence of users and can be ignored by children and regular users. Equally, stop lights won't stop people from trespassing or messing around. While it's easy to say people should behave themselves on the railway, we know that the simple existence of a crossing gives people – and especially children – opportunities to put themselves in danger, or even just make a mistake.

We realise that installing footbridges and diverting rights of way is not something to be taken lightly and we take our responsibilities seriously. Network Rail would relish the opportunity to work with the community to install a footbridge and promote use of the footpath so we can reduce the incidents of deliberate and accidental misuse that currently take place.

If anyone has any queries or comments please do not hesitate to contact me and I would be happy to discuss them further.

Chandler's Ford Parish Councillors 2014/2015

Chairman ATKINSON, Margaret	023 8026 8510
Vice-Chairman BOYES, David	023 8025 5467
AUBRY, Jacqui	023 8036 1836
BICKNELL, Paul	07999 739882
BROADHURST, Alan	023 8025 3648
BULL, Colin	023 8026 6100
COX, Jacqueline	023 8026 8069
DUGUID, James Ian	023 8026 1628
FOULDS, James	023 8027 5900
GRAJEWSKI, Judith	023 8026 3179
HUGHES, Michael	023 8090 7497
JOHNSON, Ron	023 8027 1319
JOLLY, Nick	023 8026 9451
LESLIE, Kim	07979558762
LUFFMAN, Peter	023 8061 8437
PRAGNELL, David	023 8036 7831
SCOTT, Tony	07799 770206
SIMMONDS, Zandra	023 8026 6875

Parish Clerk

The Parish Council have a new Parish Clerk in post, Duncan Murray, who comes to us fully qualified and with three years of clerking experience from Curdridge Parish Council in the Winchester district. Duncan is usually in the Parish Office Monday to Friday.