

Caterham on the Hill Parish Council

Parish Council News

March 2008



WELCOME



I am very glad to welcome readers to this tenth edition of our Parish Council News. I hope that you find it interesting and useful. We have had a busy year and I take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors and our Clerk Helen Broughton for their support and their success in carrying through our programme of work.

Please do get in touch with me, with one of the Parish Councillors for your Ward, or with Helen Broughton, for further information about any subject covered by this Newsletter, or indeed on other Parish issues where you feel we can help.

Council meetings are held at 7.30 pm on the third Wednesday of every month (except August and December) at Hillcroft School. (These arrangements may alter from June onwards). Please do come along to these Parish meetings; there is an opportunity at the start of the meeting for residents to raise issues and comment on Parish Council proposals. Meeting details are published on our notice boards at Hillcroft Corner and outside Audley School and in the Hill Library.

Hilary Turner
Chairman of the Parish Council

PARISH ELECTIONS 2008

Parish Council Elections will take place on Thursday 1st May 2008 – the same day as elections for Tandridge District Council (TDC).

Our Parish Council is almost eight years old. The first Parish elections were held in May of millennium year 2000. There are nine Parish Councillors - three each for Portley, Queen's Park and Westway Wards.

Anyone who lives in or near the Parish, or who has a business here, may stand for election as a Parish Councillor. Details of who is eligible and the process for nomination and election may be obtained from TDC's Electoral Registration Department, by phone on 01883 732976 or by email to elections@tandridge.gov.uk. An information pack is available from our Clerk, Helen Broughton. Candidates' nomination papers must be delivered to the TDC Electoral Registration team by noon on 4th April at the latest.

Life as a Parish Councillor



I was born and raised in Caterham on the Hill, and joined Caterham on the Hill Parish Council to try, with the other parish councillors, to keep the area a nice place to live and work.

Being a councillor can be very time consuming, and frustrating, when, for whatever reason, efforts are in vain, but very rewarding when things fought for come to fruition.

We are trying to keep Caterham on the Hill as the local residents want it. *Daphne Ferguson*

Make a difference

People from all walks of life are being urged to stand as local councillors at the elections in May 2008.

For more information contact the Clerk, Helen Broughton, (see contact details at foot of this page)

HELP WANTED

The Parish Council is looking for space to keep and occasionally maintain the Christmas lights.

Do you have a suitable space to rent?

Please contact the Clerk
(See contact details below).



Winners of the Parish Council's Litter Bin Poster Competition (see back page)

Library Good News

The Hill Library will be increasing opening hours within the next couple of months. It will no longer close at lunch times and this will be a great advantage for its many users.

Two years ago it was threatened with closure and thousands of residents joined the campaign to keep it open, so the increase in hours is very good news

This library is a wonderful asset for local residents so please join if you are not already a member and give it your support.

The Valley Library will also see an increase in opening hours.

Published by Caterham on the Hill Parish Council
Clerk to the Council, Helen Broughton tel: 01883 382151 email: caterhamhillpc@msn.com

CHRISTMAS 2007

THANK YOU

The Parish Council would like to thank all those businesses who contributed to the Christmas Lights. Residents will have noticed that the display was extended to the Coulsdon Road this year. Councillors were disappointed that some lights were not working due to faulty street lights. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, the contractors did not fix the problem until the New Year.

Thank you to Buxton Homes who supply the power for the lights and to Elite Garages who allow the contractor to store equipment during the installation and taking down of the lights.

The following businesses made financial contributions:

Alice Rose Gifts
Bidwells Estate Agents
Buxton Homes (SE Ltd)
Caterham Carpet Centre
Caterham Clearance Centre
Cedars Osteopathic & Natural Health Practice
Dove's Decorating Supplies Ltd
K. J. Desbottes & Co.
Munch@Coughlans
Park & Bailey Estate Agents
Roger Lugg & Co
Swift Windows
The Ballet Box
Total Homes & Developments
Village Health Foods
Vivace Pianos



Cedar Tree Lights

Many people gathered under the Cedar Tree to sing carols on Saturday 1st December. Led by a choir from the Girl Guides, young and old joined in with all the popular carols.

The Parish Council would like to thank the Girl Guides for their very tuneful singing, Buxton Homes for allowing the use of their car park and everyone who came along to help get Christmas off to such a wonderful start.

Hill in Lights Competition

Caterham on the Hill Parish Council held its first ever 'Hill in Lights' Competition as a way of thanking the many Parish residents and traders who cheer us all up with Christmas illuminations.

- The first prize winners in the residential class are Brian and Carol Sims for the splendid illuminations at 87 Buxton Lane.
- Second prize was shared by the gay and lively display at two adjacent houses in Avenue Road.
- Third prize went to the Residents' Association in Cedar Park (off Whyteleafe Road) for their display which earned a commendation from the judge.
- The Caterham Clearance Centre in Westway won the commercial class prize for the best shop window display on the Hill.



First Prize - Buxton Lane



Second Prize, Avenue Road

Value for money? – You be the judge

By the time you read this you will have received your annual Council Tax bill. We are pleased that we have kept the increase in the Parish Council part of your bill below the level of inflation. We consider that the 2008-09 Parish Council Tax of less than 14p per week for band D properties represents real value for money.

You will be aware of the Council's major projects – Christmas Lights, Hanging baskets, CCTV camera, Hillcroft Corner, Litter Picks, Hill in Bloom and Hill in Lights competitions amongst others – but if you feel there are other ways that we might contribute to the community then let us know. We remain committed to enhancing our town and are happy to consider any ideas on how we may help this come about.

Some figures:

- the rise in Parish Council Tax for 2008-09 is just 1.9%;
- that's an increase of just 7p per year per household at band D;
- Parish Council Tax for the year 2008-09 totals £7.42 at Band D

Ron CASH MBE

Ron Cash has announced his retirement as a Member of the Parish Council for health reasons. Ron has been a member of the Parish Council since its foundation eight years ago. He was Chairman of the Council for two years and was also Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Ron and his wife Phyllis have lived in Caterham on the Hill since 1995. Ron was born and educated in London and worked in Croydon, London and the Midlands, becoming Secretary to the National Association of Steel Stockholders. He was awarded the MBE in 1985.



Planning

Your Council has become increasingly concerned about the number of planning applications relating to Caterham on the Hill which have been overturned by government appointed inspectors, who do not have the local knowledge and understanding possessed by residents and their elected representatives.

We have written to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government expressing our concerns. We have also sought an explanation as to why public statements of the former Housing Minister Yvette Cooper, that local councils have control over where development should go, appears to be contradicted by inspectors who so often override locally made decisions.

We have also acted on another matter relating to residents' concerns with planning matters. Last summer Tandridge District Council decided to end the arrangement by which paper copies of planning applications were sent to the relevant local library. The intention was to send this copy to the Parish Clerk. The hope was that more people would use the inter-active on-line planning service. It was our view that these changes would make it harder for concerned residents to study applications, especially those who were not familiar with using computers. After an exchange of letters TDC agreed to send the Parish Council's copy to the library to enable easy access for local people.

Both these issues involve local democracy within the very hot topic of planning and development, the former supporting locally made decisions and the latter helping people to become involved in matters which may have an effect on their immediate or the wider environment.

Cllr Sarah Burningham, Chairman, Planning Committee

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BILL

Recently passed legislation by Parliament included the Sustainable Communities Bill.

Please stifle that yawn - it could make quite a difference to us all and to the roles of District and Parish Councils. It was a private Member's Bill whose objective was to give individuals and local Governments a louder voice in policy and decisions closely affecting them - a bottom-up rather than top-down approach in fact.

Suggestions and objections are to go from the lowest level to Whitehall rather than being imposed from the top. How well this will work in practice remains to be seen, but we should applaud the objective. We'll be working to take as much advantage as possible of this louder local voice as matters develop.



Consultation on extension of the 541 Metro Bus Service.

The Parish Council would like your views on extending the hours of the 541 Metro Bus service that runs from Caterham Station up to Caterham on the Hill and to the Barracks.



This last bus currently runs up to 6.15pm during the week and to 5.45pm on a Saturday. The Parish Council is considering helping to fund an extension of this service up to 8pm.

Would you use this service? Would you like to see the 541 running later in the evening? Or would this be a waste of money?

If you have any views please email caterhamhillpc@msn.com or write to: The Clerk, Caterham on the Hill Parish Council, 65 Court Road, Caterham, Surrey CR3 5RH.

Once again the Parish Council will be holding the Hill in Bloom competition in 2008.

The only conditions are that entrants must live in Caterham on the Hill and that the displays are visible to passers-by. Please send us your details to receive an entry form nearer the time.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

The Closing date is 1 July 2008 and judging will take place in early July. Please send your form to Caterham on the Hill Parish Council, 65 Court Road, Caterham CR3 5RH or email caterhamhillpc@msn.com with your contact details.

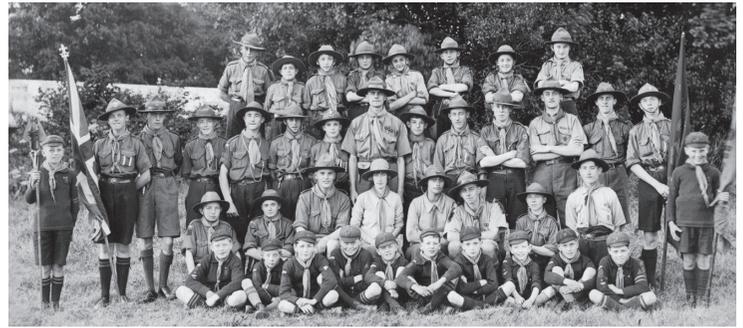
100 years of unbroken history

Did you know 1st Caterham was one of the first Scout Groups to be set up in the country and celebrates 100 years of unbroken history this year?

The 5th Croydon Troop, as it was then called, was formed in the summer of 1908 and continued throughout the First World War with scouts delivering handbills, collecting waste paper to raise funds for war charities, keeping watch at fire stations in case of air raid and acting as orderlies at the Burntwood Hospital for Wounded Soldiers.

Even during the Second World War when many were evacuated and the leaders were called to war jobs, the pack still survived - although a camp in Ashdown Forrest was called off due to flying bombs and the evacuation of Dunkirk ruled out summer camping at Broadstone Warren in 1940.

The group is still thriving from it's HQ in Park Road, proving that scouting



is still relevant for the social, spiritual and physical development of Caterham children and young adults today.

If you were one of the many Caterham residents who was a member and enjoyed scouting over the years and have memories or photographs to share please email mary.kelly@1stcaterham.org.uk or call 01883 341837 by the end of March.

Litter

Tandridge DC is meeting our request for more bins: a number have been installed, with more to come, before summer. We shall enliven them with posters urging people to use them-the winners of a competition we ran for Hill primary schools. There were many good entries, but well done Becky of Hillcroft School who took 1st prize, and Daniel and Isabella of Audley School, 2nd and 3rd. Their paintings will give the bins a far more cheerful appearance; so please use them-and encourage others to do the same. Don't run the risk of an £80 littering fine, and help to stop the Hill from looking scruffy.

There was a successful litter pick in November-particularly lucky for two Scouts. One found a £20 note, while the other fished out a complete tent from some bushes. We plan another pick in the Spring not only to improve the appearance of that part of the Hill, but also to raise awareness of the importance of not dropping litter. We welcome your suggestions for locations' and why not join in? They're more fun than you might think.

Cllr Karle Simpson, Chairman, Transport & Highways Committee



Winning entry in the litter bin poster competition. By Becky of Hillcroft School

Play Safely

The Local charity Play Safely has announced that they have been successful in winning a little over £50,000 from The Big Lottery fund to carry out a programme of improvements at Queen's Park playground during the early part of 2008.

The Charity is particularly pleased with the timing of the grant, as works should be completed in time for their Family Fun Day on Saturday 2 August 2008. This will be held at the Park to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the opening of the playground.

Caterham Croquet Club

www.caterham-croquet.org.uk

Caterham Croquet Club resides at Queen's Park where there are two well maintained Lawns. The season is from May-September. Beginners are welcome and games spread from League matches to social relaxation and much in between. Join the team or play as an individual. For further information contact: John Gilbert, Chairman 01883 340115 or Elizabeth Pritchard, Secretary 01883 335920.



Caterham Cricket Club

These are exciting times for Caterham Cricket Club, now in their 135th year. Promotion to the higher echelons of the Surrey Leagues is a real possibility for their three Saturday teams.

There is a strong colts section for ages from 8-18 with coaching and support. What is more the ladies' team will play in the newly formed Surrey Women's Trust League.

New members, players or supporters will be welcome. Please contact Russell Chapman (Chairman) on 17950 403382, Nick House (Secretary) on 07960 512355 or Tony Parrett (Colts Manager) on 01883 342283. Or visit the website at www.caterhamcc.com.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

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