



VILLAGE NEWS

www.lowerkingswood.org.uk
Winter Edition 2010

Chairman's Report to Residents



December 2010

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Welcome to our Winter 2010 issue of *Village News* and we would like to extend a warm welcome to all those new residents who have moved into the village over the past few months. Please remember that *all residents* of Lower Kingswood are members of the Residents' Association, if you have any concerns about the Village, the Residents' Association Committee is here to try and help *you* and represent *your* interests.

Unlike most other local Residents' Associations there is no annual subscription payable – our running costs are met from the revenue of advertisements in our newsletter. So please help support our local businesses and advertisers.

A217/BRIGHTON ROAD

Although we have, in previous issues, featured a campaign to seek a reduction in the speed limit on the A217/Brighton Road: we have been disappointed by the level of support from local residents in terms of the number of completed "campaign" forms. Furthermore, our local Councillors have made clear that, given the A217's status as a major feeder road, the chances of achieving any form of reduction in the speed limit are virtually nil.

Based on this we have reluctantly taken the decision to cease campaigning on this particular issue; it appears as though we will have to wait for a major accident to take place before any further action may be taken to "calm" the excessive speed of traffic on the A217/Brighton Road.

BANSTEAD SPORTS CENTRE

Our Borough Council has announced that it intends to demolish the existing Banstead Sports Centre and replace it with a new building - but WITHOUT a swimming pool. We have joined the Banstead & District Federation of Residents' Associations in campaigning for the retention of swimming facilities. Please see page 18 for full details and add YOUR vote for the retention of a swimming pool at Banstead.

COUNCILLORS' & POLICE SURGERY

Our thanks to Councillor Ros Mill & PCSO Mo Langley for attending our Councillors' & Police Surgery on 13th November. This was well supported by residents who raised a number of issues; some of which were dealt with there and then and others will hopefully have been solved subsequently.

We plan to hold further surgeries in May & November 2011, further details of the dates will be announced in due course.

KEEP LOWER KINGSWOOD TIDY

Although we have the benefit of our local "recycling centre" in Stubbs Lane, it is clear that some people (hopefully not residents of the village) periodically use it for "fly-tipping". If you see evidence of this please initially notify the Borough Council (on 01737 -276000) or report it on-line via their website so that the waste can be removed.

At the same time we would like to remind those residents out walking their dogs should ensure that any mess that may be left – particularly in the Recreation Ground – is cleared up at the time.

YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES NEED YOU

Given the parlous state of the nation's finances inherited from the previous administration, the coalition Government have announced, in their 'Comprehensive Spending Review', cuts in public expenditure and increases in taxation. Although the economy now shows some signs of recovery, subsequent increases in taxation may well have a knock-on effect on spending - particularly in the retail sector. It is very important that Lower Kingswood residents continue to support OUR local businesses and services (both established and new ventures) otherwise we could find that the remaining ones will struggle to survive.

VILLAGE NEWS

Once again thank you to all who have contributed articles and helped with both the production and distribution of this newsletter. *Village News* is distributed free to all households in (and around) Lower Kingswood, and this is only possible because of the assistance given by volunteers in its production and distribution. If you can spare the time to help – particularly with distribution – please contact our Chairman.

Don't forget - if you use the services of one of our advertisers, please mention that you saw their advertisement in *Village News*.

We would also like to acknowledge the continuing support of Fidelity International.

AND FINALLY....

Whatever our beliefs, Christmas gives us all an opportunity to reflect on its true meaning and also to take the time to think of family & friends as well as those less fortunate than ourselves. On behalf of the Committee of the Residents' Association, we should like to take this opportunity of wishing all Lower Kingswood residents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Reigate & Banstead Borough Council report



Winter is coming in fast now, and for some months we have been putting into place a Winter Plan. Normally refuse collections seem to grind to a halt for almost two weeks over Christmas and the New Year, and last year was the worst I have known as snow upon snow delayed us further.

Usually the refuse men have had the 24th December as an extra day's holiday because the Refuse Tips are closed. This year they will take their extra day in a staggered manner to suit our working patterns. We have been able to find Refuse Tips that will stay open, so that we can collect on the 24th. They will of course have Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th off work but start working again on Monday 27th and work a normal week - Monday to Friday - even though for most people these days are holidays. They will then have the weekend Saturday 1st January to Monday 3rd as days off, but will then work Tuesday through to Saturday. We are therefore not losing ANY TIME for collections.

This work pattern should mean that the Borough stays clear of rubbish with no build up, just in case we have snow.

Our new Chief Executive has now been with us for three months and has made a difference. We have reduced the Directors from three to two. The Director who has left had a PA and she has filled a vacant post allowing us to delete both the Director's post and a PA post. The Head of Housing moved to a larger authority with greater demands, and we are not replacing him. His work has been taken over by another senior manager and the department is running very well. Two more senior managers will be made redundant; their work will be undertaken by the senior managers who remain. This has allowed us to save in total this year alone £1.98m.

The next major task for us of the Executive is to interview every manager and see what savings they can offer. In these difficult times we have to look at staffing levels and ask that staff increase their productivity and take more responsibility for their work. This will reduce the need for so many managers.

Let us work on the 'Big Society' together and each one of us do what we can to pull us out of this recession, and make our Borough the best it can be. Let us confront the worst of society and help each other over these bad patches.

We can be contacted by email or by telephone; both Ros and I work, so an e mail is the best contact.

Cllr Joan Spiers

Leader of the Council

Email: cllr.Spiers@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Telephone: 01737-833590 (weekdays only please)

Cllr Ros Mill

Executive Member for Partnership & Communities

Email: cllr.Mill@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Telephone: 01737-833705



Residents' Association Committee meeting report

A Meeting of the Committee took place on Tuesday 14th September. In addition to Committee members, Councillors Michael Gosling, Ros Mill and Joan Spiers were in attendance but the Police were not represented. In addition to formal matters:

Councillor Gosling reported that:

- His portfolio was "Supporting Living" and that commissioning meetings had been postponed until the end of October, at which time the County Council would know the amount of funding which would be available.
- Tendering for contracts was proceeding.

Councillor Mill reported that:

- Her portfolio was "Partnership and Communities" and it was difficult to make plans until the spending cuts had been ascertained. The hope was that communities would appreciate the problem and would become involved in self-help activities and there were signs that this was already happening.
- A question was raised regarding the Chipstead Lane Recreation Ground where children were still able to run through the hedge and on to the road; proper fencing was required.

Councillor Spiers reported that:

- She was working closely with the new Chief Executive and he would be visiting Lower Kingswood in the foreseeable future.
- She hoped that Business Rates would soon be reintroduced.
- The Council had recently lost a Director and Personal Assistant who would not be replaced. Their work would be undertaken by other Managers with an annual saving of £300,000. Formal Departmental checks were currently being undertaken to see what other monetary savings could be made.
- She had visited Babylon Lane and was aware of the need for more verge posts up to the post box so as to prevent dangerous parking.

There was a general discussion about the route of the proposed water pipe which would supply Sutton with water. It could go either over Walton Heath or along the A217 and each route gave rise to its own problems. Work could not now commence until January 2012.

It was again pointed out that the pedestrian crossing barrier (in the central reservation by 'The Fox on the Hill') had still not been repaired and the lives of pedestrians were being put at risk; remedial work was urgently needed. [NB. Several weeks after this Committee meeting the barrier was finally replaced.]

The Chairman reminded the Meeting that the developer of the land next to the Village Club had undertaken to provide money for use in the improvement of the Buckland Road/A217 junction and this must not be lost sight of.

Surrey County Council reports

NEW SURREY STREET LIGHTING

Surrey County Council has demands on both its revenue and capital spending and the access to funds that would make a fundamental difference to residents' lives can lead to difficult choices.

In this case the situation is quite clear. We were offered PFI (Private Finance Initiative) credits by central government for the express purpose of renewing our street lights. For two years my colleagues and I, working with Procurement, sought to make best use of this opportunity. Only when we were sure that the expenditure on an annual basis would be lower than the historical cost did we decide to proceed. We obtained for the County new street lights which give a better light and which can be controlled individually, i.e. we can reduce the intensity, even turn them off, therefore controlling our energy usage. This means a £12 million saving over the period of the contract.



Cllr Michael Gosling

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

County Councillor – Banstead South

Email: Michael.Gosling@surreycc.gov.uk

Telephone: 020-8541-9733 (work)

Telephone: 01737-832897 (private)

CARERS' EMERGENCY CARD & CARERS' REGISTRATION

A Surrey wide Emergency Card is available across Surrey. The card aims to provide peace of mind for both the Carer and the person who is being cared for, in case of the Carer being involved in an accident or becoming ill while they are away from the person they care for. If an incident does occur a member of the emergency services usually will try and find some sort of identification on the person. The Emergency Card first of all tells the Emergency Services that the person who they are attending to is a Carer and there is someone at home who also needs help. If you would like a free Carers' Emergency Card you may contact the Surrey County Council Contact Centre on 03456-009-009

Carers often worry about what if, at short notice, they are unable to care so the County Council has developed a Carer registration process to help give Carers peace of mind. The process entails maintaining a register of details of people who would not be able to manage on their own if their Carer became suddenly incapacitated. Should an emergency then happen, the County Council will then be better able to respond as there will be better information available about the case.

To register on the scheme call 03456-009-009

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL CONTACT CENTRE

As a resident of Surrey you may want to contact the Surrey County Council Contact Centre, which is your first point of

contact for council enquiries. Residents of Surrey who are deaf or hard of hearing can now text the Contact Centre from their mobile phone and they will get a text back from the Contact Centre answering their query on the number below:

Contact Centre SMS: 07527-182-861

Surrey's first celebrity leftover cookbook

A football legend and a Strictly Come Dancing winner are **among the stars to contribute to Surrey's first ever celebrity leftover cookbook.**

'Match of the Day' presenter and ex-England captain Gary Lineker and celebrity dancers, Camilla Dallerup and Flavia Cavacece have given their leftover recipes to the free publication as part of Surrey Waste Partnership's campaign to reduce food waste.

The book, 'Why not give your leftovers a makeover', is part of the campaign to encourage residents to reduce their food waste. Ten celebrities have backed the Love Food Surrey campaign by each offering a leftover dish.

Featured TV Chef Prue Leith said: "Eating up everything or not wasting the leftovers is not just good for the economy and the environment, it is also very satisfying and makes you feel happily smug!"

Surrey Waste Partnership chairman Jean Pearson said: "We all have responsibility to curb the culture of waste and not throw away food that can be used again. We hope that people follow the lead of Surrey's famous faces and use these recipes to make significant savings."

To get your free copy of the limited edition celebrity cookbook, send an A5 stamped addressed envelope (1st class - 66p/2nd class - 51p) to Love Food Surrey, County Hall, Penryhn Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, KT1 2DN, or visit www.lovefoodsurrey.com to download an electronic copy.

Notes:

Research shows that nine out of 10 Surrey residents admit to throwing away uneaten food which accounts for 20% of the county's household waste.

The Love Food Surrey campaign aims to reduce food waste which will benefit the environment and save on waste disposal costs.



Surrey Police report



TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

We are currently receiving reports of anti-social behaviour in some areas of Tadworth. This is in the form of alcohol and drug misuse and general intimidating behaviour. This has obviously had a

detrimental effect on the area, causing residents to feel alarmed. Since the initial report, we have conducted patrols at random times of day and have had numerous positive results, with four males having been arrested for various offences and alcohol being seized from underage persons seen drinking in public. We will continue to patrol the area however we need you to report any goings on which may affect you in a similar way. If you are being affected by behaviour in this or any other area, please report it to us on 0845-125-2222. If it is an emergency always dial 999.

We also ask that you speak to any young people living in your household, encourage them to report similar behaviour and make sure that they themselves are respecting people and property in the road and surrounding areas.

We take anti-social behaviour extremely seriously and will continue to work to disrupt offenders following calls regarding this and other nuisance behaviour.

TARGETING DRIVING OFFENCES

We recently ran an operation on the A23 in Hooley Coulsdon targeting driving offences and criminals travelling through the area. We were assisted by colleagues from the Specials Department, Neighbourhood Support Team and Casualty Reduction Officer. We stopped 42 vehicles and conducted a large number of name, driving licence and insurance checks. We issued one Fixed Penalty Notice, conducted a search of a vehicle under the misuse of drugs act, issued four production documents, gave out three Vehicle Defect Rectification Notices and advised a large number of drivers regarding minor road traffic offences. We see this as a success in addressing anti-social motorists and disrupting criminals using Surrey's roads, providing reassurance to local residents and businesses.

We will continue to run operations like this directed in areas where you have told us about problems and in places where we have knowledge of neighbourhood issues arising.

We hold regular (monthly) Street Surgeries at Buckland Road outside Kingswood Primary School between 8.30am and 9:00am with the next one scheduled for Monday 6th December 2010. This is an opportunity for you to see us 'on the street' and discuss any issues you may have in the area. We also welcome you at any other surgeries or meetings held by the team which can be found on the website www.surrey.police.uk going to the 'my neighbourhoods' tab and by clicking on the area in which you live.

PC 3029 Ed Ferris

Tadworth Village, Walton, Kingswood, Lower Kingswood, Hooley & Netherne Neighbourhood Specialist Officer (NSO)
Banstead Police Station
0845-125-2222 extension 39707

Alternative contact North Reigate & Banstead Safer Neighbourhood Team via email: reigateandbanstead.snt@surrey.pnn.police.uk

PCSO 13051 Mo Langley

0845-125-2222



Editor's Note:

We have received a Surrey Police 'Alert' via one of the Neighbourhood Watch contacts in Tadworth that a "skimming" machine was recently found on a cash point machine at Barclays Bank in Waterhouse Lane, Tadworth. At the same time the following advice was also forwarded from Surrey Police:

USE cash machines during the daytime if possible. It is best to use a well-lit cash point. Avoid dimly-lit deserted areas.

BE WARY of people around you and do not use your card or enter any numbers if you are being overlooked.

DO NOT allow anybody to get involved in your transaction even if they offer to help you with it.

COVER the key pad on the machine when entering your PIN.

MAKE sure you put your card and cash away quickly - don't keep them on display.

NEVER write down your PIN or share it with anybody else.

If you notice anything suspicious at any cash machine please report it immediately to Surrey Police on 0845-125-2222.

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Kingswood Primary School



This term seems to have flown by and the children who started Reception in September have settled so well into Kingswood. They are now all in school full time and it amazes me how independent they have become in a short period of time. I visit their classroom several times a week and try to read a story to them as regularly as possible. Even though we live in a far more technical world than we did 5 years ago, children still love nothing more than having a book read to them. The excitement and enthusiasm they show during stories is just one example of why working at Kingswood is so rewarding.

Our oldest children, Year 6, went to France this term and they too showed their enthusiasm and excitement about learning new things. The trip was packed full of visits and French experiences including: learning how to make crepes, visiting the war graves at Etaples, purchasing from French market stalls and spending a day in a French Primary School.

Throughout the trip the children were not only impeccably behaved but also so positive about everything they did.

It was lovely to see our children trying to communicate with the French pupils. In a short amount of time, the adults were able to step back and watch the two groups of children communicate, laugh, smile and play. We are hoping the French children will visit us in June.

It is sometimes hard for the children to understand the impact of things which happened a long time ago so the visit to Etaples was very important. The children had to find certain graves and then research about the soldiers back in school. When it came to Remembrance Day the children were then able to think back to Etaples.

Finally, this term saw our choir sing at the Lower Kingswood Evangelical Church, which we are hoping to make a termly event. It is a great opportunity for the children to sing to a different audience and to feel proud about their achievements.

I hope everyone has a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Duncan Steele
Headteacher



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The Wisdom of God Church

Dear Friends,

In St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians chapter 13 he wrote "For now we see through a mirror dimly but then face to face"

I believe that what we see dimly is a sense of love, perhaps in a way that we can scarcely understand. But we saw that love in action at the first Christmas when God in the form of Christ came into our World. Very few recognised him for who he was. Just a few Shepherds who were humble enough to realise they had much to learn; the wise men who were wise enough to realise they did not know everything: Simeon the elderly faithful servant of the Temple. Peace on earth and goodwill is the message the shepherds heard and it is the message we most associate with Christmas.

Jesus practiced what he preached by accepting a brutal death on a cross. Even there the Cross could not hold him. Love was victorious and he rose from the dead. If we allow him to do so Christ will take us by the hand and lead us into the presence of God - to see him face to face. Perhaps we need to create space in our lives to meet him and come into the most profound love imaginable.

With Christmas blessing,
Arthur Bowyer

Nativity

The Parish of Kingswood, in association with Gatton Community Theatre, will be

presenting a dramatic reading of *Nativity* at The Church of the Wisdom of God on **Tuesday 14th December** starting at 7:30pm. Tickets are £8 each and include seasonal refreshments - available on the door or in advance.

There will be no Taizé service in December.

For dates and venues of 2011 **Taizé Services** see church notice boards, weekly Pews4U sheets or the Parish Magazine

Into 2011

Confirmation Classes These classes, for both teenagers and adults, are starting in the New Year, leading to the **Confirmation Service at St Peter's, Woodmansterne on Sunday 13th March.**

Churches Together Service during the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Sunday 23rd January at St Mary's Church, Headley starting, 6:30pm**

Women's World Day of Prayer The 2011 service, written by Christian women of Chile takes as its theme 'How Many Loaves Have You?'. **Friday 4th March, St John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, Tadworth, 10:30am.** Refreshments in the Church Hall. All welcome.

Information on all Parish Events is available from our Parish Administrator **Lindsay Cole** - telephone: 01737-830167

Advent and Christmas Services Details of all Seasonal Services are in the Parish Christmas card. (If you have not received one please contact our Parish Administrator.)

Parish Magazine You can now receive an email copy of the Parish Magazine by contacting our editor



Gatton Community Theatre presents dramatic readings of

NATIVITY

by John Durnin

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Church of the Wisdom of God, Lower Kingswood

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 www.gattoncommunitytheatre.org.uk
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Lower Kingswood Evangelical Church

Outside my back door is our rather sad looking Christmas tree from last year. We bought it in a pot with the naive hope that it would last for a few years. The tree was once green but now is a depressing brown. It had lots of needles initially, but now it is looking a little sparse. That's the thing with lots of the trimmings of Christmas, they look good for a while but then they fade away, just like my poor Christmas tree. This reminds us that the significance of this time of year is not found on the surface of things, but a little deeper.

It is found in things like spending time with family, in enjoying a relaxing time, in showing love for others through giving and receiving presents. But even here things don't always go smoothly... Some families don't get along and Christmas becomes a stressful time rather than an experience of 'Peace on Earth'. We can't avoid our normal routine for ever; we have to get on with life. Someone buys us a totally inappropriate present which we have to queue up for hours to exchange. The grand plans we have for Christmas don't always work out as we hoped. We need to look somewhere else for the heart of Christmas.

The real significance of Christmas unfolded in a backwater village in the Middle East just over 2000 years ago when a baby was born who would change the world. Through his life and death, Jesus has changed countless numbers of lives throughout the world and he continues to do so today. That's the good

news we are focusing on as a Church at this time of year and that we would love to share with you. Don't just settle for the trimmings of Christmas, dig a little deeper into the heart of Christmas.

You would be more than welcome to come along to one of our services over the Christmas period. Our Carol Service is on the 19th December at 6:30pm. Alternatively we meet every Sunday at 10:30am and 6:30pm. You can also find us on the internet at www.lkec.org.uk or you can e-mail me at pastor@lkec.org.uk.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Jim Murkett



CAMEO Club - 'Come And Meet Each Other'

Recent CAMEO meetings have been enjoyed by our members.

The October meeting was a visit from the local primary school when 56 children entertained us with songs from 'Joseph' and a very cheerful song about vegetables – 'Harvest Samba'. Different children gave interesting reasons why they liked the particular song. It was good to see their happy faces singing so well. After their performance they all had a biscuit and a drink before returning to school. Also at this meeting our members came along

with their boxes "Joy in a Box" and donated clothing for needy families in Romania. On arrival at the Horley depot all these items were able to catch the next dispatch due to arrive in Romania in a few days time – ready for Christmas distribution. More CAMEO news will appear in the next issue of *Village News*.

'Come And Meet Each Other' meetings are held in the Lower Kingswood Evangelical Church in Smithy Lane, on the second Monday of each month at 2:00pm. Our numbers are continually increasing; if

you also would like to come along please contact us for more information. We welcome both men and women of all age groups to our informal meetings, which finish with a light tea followed by a short epilogue. If you are looking to make new friends or renew old acquaintances this is the meeting for you.

Lower Kingswood Strollers

The Autumn has whizzed by, offering us only two strolling dates so far, but no cancellations! However, September was a very small party due to a number of other commitments. Not deterred – after all "never mind the width feel the quality" - a much reduced group of 4 ventured up onto Colley Hill. Bearing in mind that there is only one direct way onto Colley Hill from the Wray Lane car park, nevertheless Colley and Reigate Hills offer a constantly changing prospect over the Low Weald Greensand valley towards Crawley and the High Weald.

October saw us back to full strength and returning to Oaks Park for yet another variation on an old favourite. The weather had been wet and we were pleasantly surprised at how dry the paths were underfoot on a "cloudy with sunny spells" day. Once again we realised how far you can see over London from the Surrey

Hills: among the landmarks spotted were the Wembley Arch and the un-missable St Helier Hospital. Nearer at hand, we found ourselves collecting masses of golf balls and returning them to the driving range as we passed by, having navigated our way around the main course.

In November we will have met up at 1:30 (to avoid feeling our way back in the dark) and in December plan to meet up for our customary meal & stroll in the run-up to Christmas. Otherwise we anticipate resuming in the New Year, hopefully more consistently than this year. If you would like to share one of our gentle and brief non-adventures, you would be very welcome. We usually meet at about 2:00pm on the fourth Monday each month.

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Telephone: 01737 832609 for details
or email: secretary@lksc.orangehome.co.uk

Or visit us on our website at
www.lowerkingswood.ciu.org.uk

Church Hall

At a recent Committee meeting we said a sad farewell and thanks to Shirley Easton for her many years of hard work as Secretary. We then welcomed Alison Newman, who kindly has agreed to take on the role.

There isn't really much new news, except many different types of classes are continuing in the hall – Friday sees a new Beginners Yoga class to add to Monday morning's Yoga class. Zumba is proving to be popular. Little Kickers takes place on Friday afternoons. All these classes are advertised on the Hall Board.

The Committee continues to thank all who use the Hall for their care, also for the villagers who help pick up litter around the area.

Marianne & Laurie Kaye continue with their work as Booking Secretaries and can be contacted on 01737-832848.

A comment made during the recent Icelandic financial crisis:
"What's the difference between Iceland and Ireland? One letter and six months".

Sally Magnusson



9th Reigate Scout Group

Lower Kingswood



Our new Outside Activity area...

Six months ago we had an overgrown and totally unusable area behind and to the side of our Scout Hut in Buckland Road. The hut itself is quite small and as our sections grow in numbers more space was needed in which to run our meetings. The answer was a major development project to clear the site and turn it into a usable activity area. We were fortunate to obtain a number of very generous grants to fund the project and during the summer break most of the work was completed.

We now have a large multifunctional open area that will be used by the group throughout the year for many of our activities. Section meetings will expand to the new outdoor area particularly in the summer months. Huge thanks to everyone who has planned, worked, fundraised or donated money for this long awaited group facility.

We now have our own Website...

In order to improve the communications both inside and outside our Scout Group we have created our own Group Website: www.9thReigate.co.uk. All the hard work to achieve this was down to Gavin Dunstan – our thanks to him.

Please take a look at our new site. Whilst it is now actively in use, we want to further develop and improve this important new facility. If you have any suggestions on how to improve the site, or if you have items you want to contribute to it, then contact Gavin via email: Webmaster@9thReigate.co.uk.

Linked to the new Website we also now have special email addresses:

Beavers@9thReigate.co.uk - to find out more about our Beaver Colony

Cubs@9thReigate.co.uk - to find out more about our Cub Pack

Scouts@9thReigate.co.uk - to find out more about our Scout Troop

GSL@9thReigate.co.uk - to find out more about our Scout Group as a whole

Please note that the old Group email address Scouts9thReigate@live.co.uk has now been discontinued.

Well done Rhys and our Cub Pack...

Congratulations to Rhys Legon a member of 9th Reigate Scout Troop. He has achieved the very special award of the Chief Scout's Gold Award. This is the highest and prestigious award that a Scout can earn. Well done Rhys!

Also our Cub pack had a very successful day at the District Push Cart Race. This annual competition organized by Reigate Scout District was held in the playground of the Warwick School in Redhill. The 9th Reigate Cubs were once again equipped with their ever reliable red pushcart 'Terminator'. Following a series of races in different age groups we were declared the overall Push Cart winners in the district.

Change of Group Scout Leader...

For the past 6 years I have held the post of Group Scout Leader (GSL) for 9th Reigate Scout Group. In that time we have made really good progress in the group including:

Starting up our Beaver colony

Restarting our Scout Troop (twice!)

Celebrating our 70th Anniversary year and introducing our new scarf badge

Refurbishing our Scout Hut – inside and now outside and much more...

I have made the decision that as of the end of this year it is time for me to step back from this role - however I am pleased to say Geoff Dunstan is taking over from me as our GSL with immediate effect. Geoff (aka Bagheera) has been a key part our Group for many years and is known to everyone in the Group. I am sure that under Geoff's leadership the Group will grow and develop on to even more and better things in the future.

Please can everyone give Geoff and the Group Leadership team all your support. The group contact telephone number remains the same 0844 414 2215 and you can also contact Geoff via email GSL@9thReigate.co.uk.

Mike Buzwell

9th Reigate (Lower Kingswood) Scout Group

Lower Kingswood Village Fête

The first meeting for the 2011 Village Fête took place on Tuesday 12th October with a very disappointing turnout, as just Gill & Ken Utting were at the Wallis Room at the Evangelical Church, Smithy Lane. However another attempt to get the fête rolling was made with a further meeting on Tuesday 19th October when there was a better attendance.

Clare Larbey has agreed to continue as Chairman; however many more positions are waiting to be filled - such as Administrative Officer, Field Layout; someone with electrical experience is also needed on fête day, as well as a meeting minute taker. An Equipment Transportation officer, who will need a team to assist him/her, is a vital role in organising the distribution equipment to the field in the morning and its return at the fete end.

Please contact our Chairman with any offers of help or ideas. Further meetings to plan the fête will be held at the above location on Tuesdays: 18th January 2011, 15th February, 15th March and 19th April.

The date for next year's Village Fête will be 2nd May 2011.

2011 Village Fête - *YOUR* help is needed !!

THE LOWER KINGSWOOD VILLAGE FÊTE COMMITTEE NEEDS *YOUR* HELP WITH:

ADMINISTRATION
MINUTE/NOTE TAKER
ORGANISER OF FIELD AND EQUIPMENT
ELECTRICIAN
TEAMS OF MEN TO HELP ON THE DAY
TUG-O'-WAR ORGANISER

IF YOU CAN HELP WITH ANY OF THESE VERY VALUABLE TASKS PLEASE CONTACT THE FÊTE CHAIRMAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Netherne Printing Services

DORKING SOCIAL ENTERPRISE OPENS ITS DOOR TO MINISTER

Dorking-based Netherne Printing Services (NPS) was visited by Maria Miller, Minister for Disabled People, on 16th November. Netherne is a commercial printing company *and* a Social Firm, as its primary purpose is to create meaningful employment for people with disabilities.

Staff talked to the Minister about their roles in the successful print company and the benefits of being in work.

The Department for Work & Pensions Minister's visit was well-timed as Social Enterprise Day took place on Thursday (18th) during Global Entrepreneurship Week. The day was about encouraging people to use enterprising ideas for social and environmental change and was promoted by Enterprise UK and the Kauffman Foundation.

NPS can clearly demonstrate that by empowering people economically through employment, they contribute positively to the **local economy**; by **reducing their employees' reliance on health services** whilst increasing their ability to spend locally.!

NPS depend entirely on winning and maintaining business contracts in order to support their social aim of providing work and training opportunities to those who are furthest away from the job market. NPS specialise in printing stationery, business cards, brochures, reports and books; also offering design, copying and branded promotional items such as t-shirts. You can call them on 01306-875150 and read more about them at: www.netherneprint.co.uk.

About NPS

NPS is the first Social Firm in Surrey to get the Social Enterprise Mark – offering consumers a recognisable way of identifying enterprises working for social and environmental aims.

NPS started out as an occupational therapeutic project for mentally ill patients at the famous Netherne Hospital in the 1930's. After the hospital's closure in 1993, the printing department was relocated to an industrial estate in Dorking under the auspices of Surrey Oaklands NHS Trust and renamed Netherne Printing Services. In 2006, NPS externalised from the Trust and now operates as an independent, profit-reinvesting Social Firm.

Kelvin Bagley, Manager of Netherne Printing Services can be contacted on: 01306-875150 or via email at: kelvin@netherneprint.co.uk.



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reliability at a
competitive
price

Netherne Printing Services
Unit 12/13
Havenbury Industrial Estate
Dorking
Surrey RH4 1ES
Tel: 01306-875150
Fax: 01306-875152
email: info@netherneprint.co.uk
website: www.netherneprint.co.uk

Lower Kingswood Parent & Toddler Group

We are nearly at the end of a very busy and fun term at Lower Kingswood Parent & Toddler group. It has been lovely to see lots of new faces and of course the old ones!

During this term we have enjoyed a Halloween party, at which lots of children dressed up for the occasion and are currently busy organising our Christmas party at which Santa will be making a surprise visit hopefully with a sack full of presents!

We send a huge thank you to the Lower Kingswood Village Hall Trust who kindly gave us a grant to help us to buy new storage boxes and 4 new ride-on cars. The new cars are being well used by our children and we are very grateful to the committee for their kind contribution.

Toddler Group is open every Thursday during term time from 10:00am until 12 noon in the Church Hall in Buckland Road. All children aged 0-4 years are welcome to join us to enjoy our variety of craft activities, baby safe zone, ride-ons, role-play areas, story & song time and much more!

Entry is £2 for one adult and one child and 50p more per extra child/children. This price includes unlimited juice & biscuits for children and tea/coffee for adults.

We aim to provide a relaxed, happy and safe environment for your child to mix with other children and for the adults to have a good natter!

We are returning after Christmas on Thursday 6th January. We hope you have a lovely Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Brownies & Rainbows under threat of closure

We have a thriving Lower Kingswood community of girls currently enjoying the fun and benefits of being a Rainbow, Brownie or Guide. We also have long waiting lists for all units because of the continuing popularity of Guiding.

The leaders for Brownies will leave at Easter and the leader and helpers of Rainbows will leave in July. All three leaders: Cathy Bateman, Michelle Wakelin & Hayley Hancock, and their helpers have done a magnificent job for the last 2-3 years.

We need volunteers urgently with a couple of people ideally to start early 2011 to ensure a smooth handover. The District Commissioners and leaders would also make it as easy as possible for you – you can volunteer individually or share the role with friends; we would appreciate whatever time you can spare. Meetings are during term time and last 1 to 1½ hours per week. You would not need to attend every meeting. To find out more about how you can help these girls continue their involvement in guiding please contact us.

Lower Kings- wood Rainbows



Rainbows is a member of the Girlguiding group for girls aged between 5 and 7 years. Girls reaching the age of 7 would then hopefully then go on to join Brownies.

We have a fun-packed programme of activities including arts and crafts, baking, sharing news and working together towards badges and of course we usually get to play group games at the end of the session.

This term we have taken part in the District Swimming Gala when we did really well against Walton and Tadworth Rainbows. We made Remembrance Poppies, bird feeders and glittery fireworks and we also took part in Centenary celebrations marking 100 years of Girl Guiding at The Beacon School with many other local units when we took part in a mass cheerleading dance! We are looking forward to Christmas and will be making some Christmas craft and will enjoy a Christmas Party.

We meet in the Church Hall, Buckland Road, on Thursdays between 4:30pm and 5:30pm. Please note there is currently a waiting list, so ideally you should contact us prior to your daughter turning 5 so that we can add her name to it..

Lower Kingswood Brownies

The Brownies have been out and about a lot this term.

They visited Epsom Fire Station where they learned a lot about fire safety, and ended up very wet after using the hoses. Some additional work sees them collecting their Fire Safety following this trip.

The Brownies were very proud to come 2nd in the annual swimming gala. As always it was a fun and lively event and all the Brownies enjoyed taking part and were enthusiastic both in and out of the water.

The Brownies also joined many other Rainbows, Brownies and Guides in the area at The Beacon School to celebrate the Centenary. They joined in with a group cheer, and re-made their Promise at 20:10 on 20.10.2010.

Amazingly, the wind and rain stopped just in time for the Brownies to enjoy their own campfire at The Old Pheantry, where they sang traditional campfire songs.

The end of the term will see the Brownies having some fun with **their own 'Brownies Got Talent'** and enjoying an interactive tour of the CBBC Studios in London.

1st Lower Kingswood Brownies meet on Mondays at The Church Hall, Buckland Road from 5:00pm to 6:30pm.

Surrey History Centre

The latest issue of 'Surrey History' featured a list of recent acquisitions by the Surrey History Centre (which is located at 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6ND). This list included the following which may be of particular interest to our residents:

"We also purchased a set of glass plate negatives and other photographs of Kingswood by Alfred Varney (SHC ref 8516). Varney opened a confectioner's shop in the Brighton Road, Lower Kingswood in 1922 and in the same year took over as sub-postmaster, a position he held until 1945. His shop was famous for the ice cream he produced but he also took local views to be made into postcards and sold in the shop. Among the images are views of the Brighton Road (A217) before it became a dual carriageway."

Kingswood W.I.

Kingswood WI is a small but very friendly group with monthly meetings and many extra activities in which to partake.

Our play reading group recently gave a lively performance of 'Wellingbourne Womens' Guild', in which three husbands try to join the guild, egged on by a wager from the local pub and help from the Equal Opportunities Commission. "No chance" say the women!! It was a very funny play performed well by the group.

Our September meeting was also a lively affair; a "silent auction" with many lovely items to bid for, including china, quilts, paintings, vases, garden vegetables and much more. The afternoon soon became a very noisy one but Barbara Reader kept us all in order and made sure payment was made.

The outing to the wildlife centre was a huge success, with red squirrels, baby badgers, and how to tell a stoat from a weasel (which of course we all knew; a weasel is weasily distinguishable and a stoat is stoatally different!)

July seems a long time ago now, but Jonathan Jones certainly transported us to the world of Rudyard Kipling, his varied life and poetry.

With all our in house activities of rambling, art classes, craft, play reading, handbell playing and, of course, all that the Surrey Federation has to offer, the WI is a great organisation to join. We meet, every second Wednesday of the month, in the Church Hall, Buckland Road at 2:15pm. Do come and join us, it would be lovely to see you there.

Grub Wood

Please be advised that Grub Wood is privately owned by the Haysan Trust, who are happy for the local community to enjoy the amenity but would like to advise everyone that they do so under the guidelines of "The Permissive Use Act".

Only members of the Trust are permitted to use motorcycles, bicycles or quad bikes in Grub Wood. The same applies to approved horse riders.

Please be advised that dog walkers, rambles, leisure walkers enter Grub Wood at their own risk as it is private property.

We appreciate the local community keeping a watchful eye on Grub Wood, and please continue to report any unusual activity directly to the Police so that we can all continue to use this local feature.



at
Banstead Library
The Horseshoe
Bolters Lane
Banstead SM7 2AN

The **BANSTEAD HISTORY CENTRE** offers an extensive range of resources including census records, parish registers, large scale maps, directories, illustrations and photographs covering the following local areas:

BANSTEAD	NETHERNE-ON-THE-HILL
BURGH HEATH	PRESTON
CHIPSTEAD	TADWORTH
HOOLEY	TATTENHAMS
KINGSWOOD	WALTON-ON-THE-HILL
LOWER KINGSWOOD	WOODMANSTERNE

Volunteer stewards are available to help:
1st and 3rd Tuesdays in each month from 2.30 - 4.30 pm
Every Saturday between 10.00 am and 12 noon

NEW VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Further details from:

banstead.history@ntlworld.com

Our latest newsletter can be downloaded from:

www.surreycc.gov.uk/bansteadlocalhistory

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PHONE - 01737 832212 for details.

Encore Arts

Encore Arts Vocal & Drama group was 5 years old this September, instructing 6 to 16 year-olds in Lower Kingswood and other



locations in the surrounding area. Sarah Locke, the founder, thanks all the members and families for the support she has received over the years - some children have been attending since the club started in 2005.

Sarah, being a professional singer herself, wanted to create a group that provided a creative outlet for those who enjoy vocals (speech and song) and drama. It should not be confused with a dedicated theatre training group and provides a non-pressured, social outlet for young and old to have fun, be creative, express themselves and learn skills with vocals and drama, helping with public speaking, presentation, teamwork and confidence. The first session is free.

From January to April, Encore Arts will be holding one-off events, including dance, musical theatre, stage makeup and a band workshop where children can try out guitars, drums and contemporary vocals. Children do not have to be regular members to attend. Easter and Summer Holiday workshops are also available in the Church Hall.

Adult classes will soon be available in Lower Kingswood, for those 17 years of age and over. This class is for adults who have experience in the arts world and for those who would like to have more.

An adult who has to give presentations but gets crippled by nerves can learn how to present and speak better, whilst others who have wanted but never been able can learn vocals and dramatics with others in a social, relaxed atmosphere. Current, ex-professionals, semi-professionals and complete novices all are welcome. These classes are designed for all to have fun, improve skills and confidence that may be required elsewhere such as a job that requires regular public speaking or presentation-giving.



For more information please contact Sarah Locke: 07941 368860 - www.encorearts.co.uk

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Stand up and be counted - 27th March 2011

In March 2011 the next decennial census will be undertaken by the Office for National Statistics (ONS); embarking on the task of gathering data from more than 25 million households in England & Wales. However, this is in fact the 21st such census and the history of national census returns dates back to the beginning of the 19th century; in fact periodic censuses have been undertaken in various forms and at varying dates since before Biblical times!

By the end of the 18th century, the Government started to take an interest in determining whether the country's population was growing or shrinking, whether enough food was being grown to feed the population (particularly important as Britain was at war with France virtually continually from 1789 to 1815) and began considering issues of long-term planning. After the 1800 Census Act, the very first national census was carried out on 10th March 1801; but this census (and those for 1811, 1821 & 1831) were little more than headcounts. There was some limited information gathered about the type of occupation that each head of household was primarily engaged in, but there was no attempt to record the names or any other personal details of the householders or their families; for good measure only a very few of the actual returns have survived.

1841 set the scene for subsequent returns whereby names were recorded (but not relationships and/or family groupings); the ages of those over 15 were (supposedly) rounded down to the nearest 5 years – so someone aged 59 would be recorded as 55; and occupations were shown in many instances. Places of birth weren't given, just an indication of whether each person was born in the county where they were now residing, elsewhere in England or Wales, in Scotland, in Ireland, or in 'Foreign Parts'. (NB. Surprisingly the 2011 census only calls for the country of birth!) The administration of this, and subsequent, census returns was undertaken by the newly formed General Register Office (GRO) and enumerators were employed to distribute the household schedules (and collect the completed ones) but in practice many enumerators had to complete the schedules on behalf of the households in their allocated area since a significant element of the population couldn't read or write. The enumerators' work then continued by them copying over all the details from the household schedules into their census enumerators' books; with the latter then being forwarded to the GRO for the figures to be collated and compiled. It is only these books that have survived with the household schedules being subsequently destroyed. In 1841 the population recorded on census night (6th June 1841) for England & Wales was 15.9 million.

For 1851 to 1901 the format of the census returns saw no significant changes; the main questions about name, age (last birthday) and birthplace (parish/town & county) remained the same along with relationship (to the head of the household), occupation and address of the property (although this might just be the name of a village). Questions were also asked about "infirmary" (e.g. blind, deaf & dumb etc.). For 1891 & 1901 additional information was sought about the number of rooms occupied (if less than 5) and whether the person named was an "employer" or merely "employed". During this period the censuses were held on the Sunday nearest the end of March or the beginning of April and they reveal that the population of England & Wales was steadily growing. By 1851 it was 17.9 million, by 1861 20.1 million, by 1871 22.7 million, by 1881 26 million, by 1891 29 million and by 1901 it had reached 32.5 million; meaning that the population had doubled in 60 years.

In 1911 the GRO introduced a significant change to the system whereby the household schedules were used as the master documents, instead of the enumerators having to laboriously copy over

the same details into pre-printed enumeration books. Again the main questions remained in terms of name, relationship (to the head of the household), age (last birthday), occupation, employer/worker/own account, birthplace (county & town/parish) and infirmity. Some new information was also called for within the heading of "Particulars as to Marriage" – in addition to the previously requested details of married/single/widow/widower etc., information was sought on the number of years married, the total number of children born, the number still living and the number who had died. An additional question was asked about the "Industry or Service" with which the worker was engaged and – for those born in a foreign country – they were asked whether they were a British subject by parentage or by naturalisation or (if a foreign national) their nationality. The question on the number of rooms now called for an absolute number for the habitable rooms occupied by the family (excluding bathroom, landing etc.).

There was a further significant development with this census in that the GRO had hired 24 electro-mechanical calculating machines and once the enumerators' tasks were completed, the details from the census were entered on to punched cards – some 40 million in total. The cards were punched to contain key information from the household schedules and then sorting machines read the cards and sorted them. All this was intended to produce the census results within a year. Provisional figures were produced by the end of May that year showing the population of England & Wales as 36 million, a further increase of over 10% since 1901.

Data from the 1841 to 1911 England & Wales census returns is available to view from the National Archives, from County Record Offices (for their areas) and via various on-line website (many of which charge a fee). The 1911 census was given an early release after a Freedom of Information request (although details of "infirmary" are still redacted until January 2012); but all later censuses are governed by the 1920 Census Act which states that they should only be published after 100 years had elapsed. The next census to be made available should be the 1921 census in January 2022. Unfortunately, the 1931 census was totally destroyed by fire in December 1942 (not by enemy action but allegedly by cigarettes carelessly discarded by one or more of the night-watchmen on duty in the building) and the onset of World War 2 meant that there was no census held in 1941. This means that (after 1921) the next census return that should be published will be that for 1951 – in January 2052!

Whilst the latest published census (for 1911) ran to just 1 page and asked 16 questions per person plus 2 other "household" questions (number of rooms and address), that for 2011 runs to 32 pages and includes up to 42 questions per person, 14 "household" questions plus 4 questions per visitor! For the first time, those with access to the internet may – if they so wish – complete the census return online. In the meantime, those with internet access can download a copy of the draft version of the 2011 Household Questionnaire via the ONS website: www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-questionnaire-content/2011-census-questionnaire-for-england.pdf

However, the future of such national census returns is now in doubt; many people have voiced concerns about the intrusive and "politically correct" nature of some of the questions and the new coalition Government has highlighted that the cost (nearly half a billion pounds) could be saved by scrapping future national census returns, since much of the "essential" information is already available elsewhere. Sunday 27th March 2011 could thus bring to an end over 200 years of collecting national census information.

Business Directory

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Why not feature your local business or commercial organisation in this space?

Please contact our Chairman for further information

Banstead Sports Centre



As you may well have read in the local press Reigate & Banstead Borough Council plans to demolish the Banstead Sports Centre and replace it with a new facility, but without a swimming pool. Your Residents' Association is part of Banstead & District Federation of Residents' Association - which is a group of all of the Residents' Associations in the north of the Borough. The Federation together with SOS (Save Our Sportscentre) have joined together and been campaigning strongly to ensure that the pool is retained. The swimming pool is the only sports facility that can be used by people of all ages and by those with disabilities. We feel that at a time when obesity is a major health issue it is madness to get rid of this valuable facility. Swimming is a compulsory part of the National Curriculum, if the present facilities are removed how are schools in the locality to deliver something which is compulsory?

The Council's proposal is contained in its draft Corporate Plan (2011-2015) and it justifies its case by stating that the cost of a whole new Leisure Centre for Banstead - including swimming pool - would be £7.8 million and without a swimming pool would be £4.3 million. Removing the swimming facilities would also reduce the annual running costs by between £100,000 and £200,000. The Council further justifies its case for NOT providing swimming facilities by providing a list of other "community" activities & facilities that would have to be "sacrificed" in order to preserve swimming at Banstead.

The Council also states that it will (over a 4 year period) lose 28% in central Government funding and then there's Iceland! Reigate & Banstead Borough Council deposited a total of £15,500,000 in two of the (now failed) Icelandic banks and, whilst private individuals have been compensated by the UK Government for "lost" deposits, other organisations - including many local authorities (and the Audit Commission) are still awaiting any reimbursement. The Council has assumed that they will (eventually) recover 90% of this sum as a "preferential creditor" - if they do not establish that status they will rank as an ordinary creditor and any sums received are likely to be significantly lower - perhaps only between 29% & 38%.

One of the items contained in the Corporate Plan is a capital spend of some £3 million on 'Improvement to recycling'. The Council seeks to justify this by stating that "Residents have indicated that they want these improvements". However, whilst most residents do support recycling, this question was asked some time back - before the full onset of the economic recession. Furthermore they were not advised (or did not appreciate) that:

- The existing (perfectly usable) recycling/rubbish trucks would be replaced by new vehicles.
- Their Council Tax would be increased.
- Their weekly recycling/rubbish collections would become fortnightly.

Questions are also been asked nationally about the effectiveness, in terms of crime prevention, of CCTV equipment used by local authorities. There are now nearly 60,000 CCTV cameras (up from 21,000 in 1999) this equates to 1 camera for every 1,000 people in the country and local authorities are understood to have spent £400 million over the past few years on such equipment - our own Council's budget being £268,000 per annum.

It's perhaps also worthwhile noting that, for the fiscal year 2009-2010, allowances and expenses paid to the Borough's 51 councillors

amounted to nearly £367,000.

Statistics on the usage of the Council's various Leisure Centres for 2009-2010 in terms of visits make interesting reading:

	Banstead	Horley	Redhill
Swimming	100,388	68,230	156,061
Other	71,463	11,497	318,567
Total	171,850	79,727	474,628

This shows that the facilities at Banstead represented 24% of total usage, 18% of other usage and - more importantly - 31% of swimming; an average of 2,000 visits per week of which just under half are made up of children including school groups, Scouts etc.

The Council's justification for their decision also states that some 400 new houses are being built in Horley and that this has a resulted in "...financial contributions towards the new [Horley] centre from the developers". Nothing is said about the fact that that part of the Borough north of the M25 provides some 50% of Council Tax revenue, from only 30% of the Borough's population!

Whilst the Banstead & District Federation of Residents' Association in actively engaged in debate with Reigate & Banstead Borough Council over this issue we would ask you the following question:

If one were a private individual facing the prospect of losing one's job and thus a significant reduction in income would you: (a) go out and buy a brand new car? Or (b) go out and buy a brand new - but smaller - car? Or (c) spend a reasonable amount on servicing and maintaining your existing car to keep it roadworthy? As 'Aleksandr Orlov' would say "simples".

The Council has invited residents to comment on their draft Corporate Plan 2011-15 via their website:

www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/about_the_council/plans_and_policies/corporate_plan/facgp/index.asp

In our view there are two clear options:

- The planned £3 million capital spend on "Improvement to recycling" should be either (a) scrapped (or consigned to the rubbish bin!) or (b) delayed/deferred for an indefinite period.
- The planned re-building of Banstead Sports Centre should either (a) go ahead with full swimming facilities (utilising the capital savings as above) or (b) be delayed/deferred and replaced with a refurbishment of the facilities thus retaining the existing swimming facilities.

If you have access to the internet we would ask that you all show your support by completing the online form about the draft Corporate Plan 2011-15. If you do not have internet access please write to Councillor Adam De Save, Leisure Portfolio, Town Hall, Castlefield Road, Reigate, RH2 0SH to express your views. In any event please also sign the petition which is located in Kingswood News/Post Office in Buckland Road.

DON'T DELAY - the consultation period ends on 14th JANUARY 2011.

