



# The Village Newsletter

FOR THE RESIDENTS

ISSUED BY THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Issue number 05. March 2016

## **The Village Association Limited (VA)**

This is the spring newsletter which is being hand delivered to all members. In addition, bulletins will be emailed following each board meeting to members who have given us their email addresses, so members who wish to can see regular progress.

### **Transfer of the management of the estate**

The new directors have now been appointed to the board of the Village Association and the organisation is finally under the management of local residents and members. There will be an EGM on 19th April 2016 at 7:30pm. The sole purpose of this meeting will to adopt the revised Memorandum and Articles of Association for the Company; any member who wishes may attend and meet their new directors informally. Formal notices will be issued to members shortly.

### **Website**

An all-new Village Association website is about to go live at this address:

[www.thevillageassociation.org](http://www.thevillageassociation.org)

This site contains a lot of background information, and an explanatory chart showing relationships between the various organisations on the Village, plus plans and downloadable newsletters so at any time members can catch up on newsletters and bulletins that they may have missed. The VA has a new contact email address which is [office@thevillageassociation.org](mailto:office@thevillageassociation.org)

### **Your opinion counts**

The website contains a first opinion survey so members can give direct feedback. The survey seeks your opinions about CBCT. Please read the relevant section on the next page and then visit the website and complete the survey. This is an opinion survey and will help your directors understand how residents and stakeholders feel about this matter. The survey closes on 11 April next.

### **Working for your benefit**

Those who have read the November newsletter and the January email bulletin will know that following the feedback given to the directors at the surgeries held last year, we have now set in motion a number of tasks on behalf of the VA, and the current progress is set out overleaf.

### **Wardens**

The hours worked by Terry, the current contractor, have been reduced slightly, while your VA prepares to undertake a consultation exercise in late April/early May, to establish how the members prefer to structure a warden service going forward.

### **Landscaping contractors**

As stated previously, an exercise will be undertaken this spring to test the value for money of the present arrangement for members. Your VA is already on record expressing appreciation of the work Roxy and her staff continue to do for us. The intention is not to change for the sake of change but to ensure we are getting value for the services we all want to see continue to the present standard and in an appropriate signed contract.

NB: Roxy has asked people not to put their household waste in litter bins, adds a lot of complication for her in regularly clearing what are supposed to be bins only intended for 'casual' litter.

### **Management**

The third biggest contract for the VA is the management contract presently in the hands of Hazelvine. Their current contract is due for renewal in November of this year and your VA plans to re-tender this service to make sure we are getting as good a service level as we can, commensurate with a value for money cost over the coming years.

### **CBCT**

As advised in the last newsletter in the autumn, your VA has been holding back maintenance money (that it has been paying for around 15 years) due to CBCT which is currently c.£7,000 per quarter. This action has been taken because your VA has lost confidence in the trustees of CBCT to maintain and keep safe the assets under their control and which they are obliged to keep in good repair. These assets include the playground (the subject of a recent petition) and the cricket pavilion.

Your VA are disappointed that rather than trying to achieve a solution to the payments/repairs issues, CBCT has initiated legal action against your VA for the maintenance money, an action which is being robustly defended. Meanwhile detailed schedules of dilapidations are being completed to establish professionally the extent of the works needed to bring the assets back into a good state of repair.

We are committed to work to establish a mediated solution to these linked problems if possible, failing which we will defend any action CBCT may take to try and secure the money, while the assets remain unsafe and in disrepair. We still await CBCT to attend any meeting to seek a solution.

### **Facebook Page + next bulletin and newsletter**

A FB page "The Village, Caterham on the Hill" has been created for more frequent news and contacts. This is an open forum and anything posted on this is not controlled or managed by the VA. Any opinions expressed thereon are only those of individual contributors.

There will be an email bulletin to those who have registered their email addresses with the VA after the next meeting(s) of the VA (19<sup>th</sup> April) and another newsletter in June.