**Notes of CGRA meeting 10th October 2022**

**Roads**

Blocked drains and potholes - report online via Herts CC website. Get neighbours to do this too. Council has funding issue so numbers really count in getting things done.

Can be reported on https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/Highways-roads-and-pavements/Report-a-problem/Report-a-highway-fault/What-type-of-fault-are-you-reporting.aspx

Noted by residents that roads not swept between December and March.

Speeding on The Green - speed checker signs? District cllr advised not possible because The Green is in a Conservation Area. ACTION :CGRA Chair will chase Herts. County cllr to secure speed checker signs and removal of superfluous signage on The Green.

Parking - we asked Parking dept at TRDC to respond on issues not covered in its summer survey - 1. Impact of CPZ on parking outside the zone, 2. DYLs on street corners, 3. Watford Road on road parking, 4. Impact of CPZ on parking for shops and workers, 5. Impact on Community Way Car Park. No response. It transpired that TRDC Parking had sent an email response on 30/9 but had inadvertently sent it to themselves and not to the CGRA. A district cllr passed the response to the CGRA after the meeting. CGRA questions not addressed and we await answers when parking survey outcomes are published in the near future.

Mentioned unkempt hedges that spill out and block pedestrian access. Provided advice to report incidents to TRDC which has powers to insist on landowner actions.

Rights of Way

2 applications pending:

1. a path from Rousebarn Lane that borders golf course fairways and links up with other RofW and with Cassiobury Park. Access to these paths was physically blocked after lockdown by West Herts Golf Course.

2. A path from Loudwater Lane down to the River Chess, part of the Boundary Walk. This path was closed in February when the land was leased to sheep farmers by the Royal Masonic School but a RofW application was made 17 years ago - yet to be resolved.

Herts CC currently undertaking work on RofW between Loudwater Lane and River Chess, Croxley Green.

A resident advised of a RofW being partially blocked ‘ diverted by a house owner along section by River Chess. CGRA has asked resident for email / photos in order that it can pursue this issue.

**Climate** **change**

In 2019, Three Rivers District Council declared a Climate Emergency; committing to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 for its own emissions and assisting the District to achieve net-zero carbon by 2045. The Council strives to lead by example and has issued a Strategy document and a useful sustainability booklet for residents. However, TRDC is limited in what it can do and has influence over. Covers TRDC land, planning, waste collection. For example, the Council has a Strategy that seeks to work with water and sewage companies to reduce water consumption, prevent water pollution, and reduce flood risks but how much influence can it have?

On the plus side, the Council is well placed to work with us residents to impose a culture of awareness among residents and businesses and the recent initiative to get residents to sign up to a discount scheme for solar panels captures the mood of the moment.

Water - from chalk aquifer - no water restrictions in summer but as water takes an age to seep through the impact of the drought, over-abstraction, tunnel digging for HS2, on the aquifer is relatively unknown.

Leaks - Affinity - real problems in fixing damaged pipes during hot, dry conditions- mainly iron pipes. Affinity prioritises leaks that aren’t draining away.

Sewage - River Chess. In 2020 sewage was dumped into the Chess on 30 separate occasions (by Thames Water at Chesham). Work is being undertaken by Thames Water to deal with groundwater ingress into the sewer network and the capacity of the Sewage Treatment Works is being increased by 30%, which should reduce the frequency of pollution events. And by 2024, phosphorus levels in treated effluent will be reduced from 2mg per litre to 0.25 mg per litre. Phosphorus pollution is known to cause the process of eutrophication in rivers, a highly problematic issue that causes excessive growth of algae, which smothers and blocks out light for other aquatic plants and animals.

General sewage issues in Croxley Green. Cllrs have raised issue with TRDC Local Plan Committee that the present sewage system is not fit for purpose so additional housing would put more pressure.

Carbon emissions Context - TRDC (2/2/22) statement states that by June 2022 it will have saved more than 150 tonnes of annual carbon emissions by improving energy efficiency in residents’ homes.

Context - It takes between 50 to 80 tonnes CO2 to build an average UK house More for apartments). So, for e.g., the Killingdown development will be greater than 80 times the carbon emissions saved through residents’ energy efficiency. The Government’s 300,000 new homes per year target uses up the entire year’s carbon emissions target for the whole of the Country.

**Local Plan** - new housing, infrastructure and significant land constraints.

1. Elmbridge Borough Council (SW London) has drafted Local Plan that could provide the model for sustainable growth that does not require development on Green Belt. ACTION: The Joint Three Rivers RA seeks to persuade TRDC follow similar approach by sharing its vision, backed by a strategy before it starts to look where new homes can go. The priorities for a Local Plan should be 1. Climate Change, 2. Protecting environment, 3. New homes, 4. Economy, 5. Infrastructure. This is what Government guidance prescribes.
2. ACTION: Continue to work with Housing Minister to align NPPF policy with its PPG.

We can expect a second Regulation 18 consultation from TRDC within the next 3 to 4 months. This consultation will comprise new potential housing development sites that have not been consulted on previously.

What infrastructure requirements are top of residents lists? Responses: new medical centre & ..everything!

Croxley Link. Now called W2CJ - ¼ m funding set aside for professional consultation for perhaps a light rail or tramway to a bus link, cycleway, or footpath. CGRA suggested to preserve the route for the time being by making it a footpath / cycle route

**Parish Council has some Community Infrastructure Levy funds** which have yet to be allocated to projects. BTW - TRDC is sitting on £9m CIL money (Community Infrastructure Levy).

**Killingdown development**

Obviously, work has started and immediately it was all alleged that Hill had illegally smoked out badgers from their setts; they put their hoarding beyond their ownership boundary; their lorries have started to overshoot onto the grass (because the Lane is to narrow) ; decimated the protected hedgerow. Not a good start! District cllr advised that temporary concrete bollards will be installed along Road edge to protect The Green alongside Little Green Lane.

**New Special Needs school** - (relocation of Breakespeare school) Manor Way, 210 places, Jan 2024 subject to planning application, consultation. CGRA understands Herts cc are looking to employ someone to oversee the project.

**New day nursery**- 122 kids. Croxley House. CGRA met with Boys and Girls team last month. Planning Application expected any time soon. 1st or 2nd qtr 2024 operation.

Sun clock Tower - Redevelopment planning application appeal refused by Planning Inspectorate as building is a valuable local asset. A legal case re the site is close to being resolved: ACTION: CGRA continues to chase Watford BC on progress.

**Crime**

We have a new PCSO.

OWL email service. We’ve seen a steep rise in burglaries and car theft locally.

Litter - CGRA noted more littering particularly around new Village Green area that is aligned with big increase in house boats on canal. ACTION: CGRA to contact Canal & Rivers Trust to see what can be done about increasing problem.