

MINUTES OF THE CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 27TH 2007 AT 7PM

Present: Cllr Daniel Smy (Chairman), Cllr Joyce Rhodes (Vice Chairman), Cllr Andrew Brewer, Cllr Terrie Connor, Cllr Elaine Stenning, Cllr Caroline Round, Cllr Valerie Bache, Cllr Thelma Smith, Cllr David Smith, Cllr Abi Scard and Cllr Geoffrey Northcote

Cllr Smy advised those present that the District Councillors would not be speaking at this meeting owing to a full agenda and time restrictions but have been asked to submit a report which will be placed with the minutes if received. Cllr Smy introduced himself, Chairman, Cllr Joyce Rhodes, Vice Chairman, the elected members and the Clerk.

PUBLIC INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS None to report.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD

a. Mr Vaudin Graham, a resident of Oaklands Park, spoke about the events on the Hippy Field over the May Bank Holiday weekend expressing his disgust at the decimation of the area. Mr Graham spoke about his fears for extra development in Crossways which, he felt, would become a small town. Mr Graham noted that the now defunct planning application at Redbridge could be resubmitted at some point noting that the area of land was annually rotavated to prevent any wildlife reforming. Cllr Smy thanked Mr Graham for his remarks advising him that the Council has been in consultation with the Developer and his agents and registered their own disgust at the events. Cllr Brewer and Stuart Mugatroyd, the Council's tree officer had reported on the Company's Ecological Report on the Hippy Field and found it wanting. Cllr Smy said the Council will insist on proper landscaping when plans for this area come in and will take the whole process very seriously liaising and monitoring carefully each step

b. Mr Warner, of Egdon Glen questioned the legality of the Developer's agents in felling all trees. Cllr Brewer advised those present that the Forest Commission and WDDC were supposed to be bringing charges of illegal tree felling but to date the Council was not aware if any progress had been made. Mr Warner urged the Council to raise every objection to the development. Cllr Brewer advised that the Council could only object on proper planning grounds and any developer would be seen to improving the area and this could be a reason they could use.

c. Mrs Marriott suggested that in view of the practice of developers coming in and taking this type of action the Council might consider lobbying their MP in an effort to prevent such events. It was agreed to place the matter of lobbying Mr Knight MP on the sub committee planning agenda.

ACTION: CLERK

d. Mr David Croft asked for reassurance that the public would be able to participate in Item 9 of the agenda. Mr Croft was informed this was agreed.

REPORT BY COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER PCSO Vickie Hedges said that she had attended the Village Fete and spoke to many residents. She had nothing negative to report. Cllr Connor gave PCSO Hedges her apologies for missing the last Crime Prevention Panel Meeting in Dorchester but stated she would endeavour to attend the next one.

THE MEETING

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE There were no apologies for absence.

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a. Cllr Scard declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 18 declaring she would stay in the room, listen to the debate but not vote.

b. Cllr Dave Smith declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 9 stating he would stay in the room hear the presentation but not vote.

c. Cllr (Mrs) Smith declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 9 stating she would stay in the room hear the presentation but not vote

d. Cllr (Mrs) Rhodes declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 9 stating she would stay in the room hear the presentation but not vote

ITEM 3 DECLARATIONS OF PREDETERMINATION None declared

ITEM 4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 26th JULY 2007 The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record and duly signed.

AGREED

ITEM 5 MATTERS ARISING There were no matters arising.

ITEM 6 CORRESPONDENCE Nothing to report not covered by the agenda.

ITEM 7 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO INC CONSIDERATION OF QUOTES RECEIVED FOR THE GROUND WORKS TO THE MEMORIAL, MEMORIAL PARK

a. Memorial Park Cllr Smy stated that at a previous meeting it was agreed to withdraw Parish Council monies held on deposit at WDDC to undertake works to the Memorial in the Memorial Park. Cllr Brewer questioned the transfer of this money believing that the agreement was only for new gates. Cllr Smy referred Councillors to the copy of quotations received for ground works including a quote in the sum of £2498.00 from Mr S Manuel. Cllr Smy recommended acceptance of Mr Manuel's quote. Cllr Brewer asked if the new ground work included the removal of the raised pebble detail stating that he would be sorry to see this part of the Memorial removed as he felt that this raised pebble section prevented children playing on the Memorial. Cllr Brewer recommended a modification of the proposal to exclude the pebbled area. Cllr Smy asked for a seconder for Cllr Brewer's proposal stating that the pebbles presented a Health & Safety risk. Cllr Bache said she had rung Health & Safety in the matter of the pebbles. Cllr Smith said Councillors are striving to get the work done by November 11th. Cllr Dave Smith said he had photographed the Memorial and he feels the pebbles are not relevant and served to prevent people who are short sighted getting close to the Memorial to read the inscription. Cllr Connor questioned the expenditure. Cllr Smy advised Cllr Connor that a budget of £3500.00 has been agreed.

It was proposed by Cllr Scard, seconded by Cllr Bache that the complete proposed works go ahead.

Cllr Brewer proposed an amendment to retain the pebbled area, seconded by Cllr Connor

A vote was taken on the amendment. 4 Councillors voted for the amendment; 7 voted against.

Cllr Smy called for a vote to accept Mr Manuel's quote and undertake the work in its entirety:

A vote was taken. 9 Councillors voted for the work and quote, 2 Councillors voted against.

RESOLVED

Cllr Smy advised the meeting that Spring Forge has been instructed to supply new, galvanised gates and Mr Phillip Bearman will undertake cleaning and painting of the benches for an agreed sum of £95.00

b. Library Cllr Smy advised those present that a letter had been sent to DCC giving the Council's decision on the way ahead for the Library. Cllr Smy said DCC was asking local Parish/Town Councils to take over the running of their Library to retain the 15 hrs (in Crossways's case) opening hours. DCC had decided that they would fund the Library for 9 hours only, the remaining 6 hours to be funded locally; undertaking this would put the precept up by as much as 60%; a figure that was unacceptable to the Parish Council. A letter has been sent to DCC advising them of the Parish Council's decision and asking them to reconsider and treat Crossways as a special case. Cllr Smy stated that he felt that the cut in hours would be implemented by DCC and the Parish Council's regret at this. Cllr Northcote stated that nothing has been mentioned of the proposal for a Contemporary Interpretation Extension. It was agreed that this matter would be taken to the Council's Committee meetings on the 10th October.

ACTION: CLERK

c. Land Closure Cllr Smy spoke about the 2 day closure by Mr Wyatt Paul of his land. He was unable at this stage to confirm if the closure was permanent or temporary saying that the Council will follow this up.

ACTION: CLERK

d. Village Fete Cllr Smy offered the Council's congratulations on the success of the Village Fete thanking all those who participated with particular thanks to Roy Dean for all his hard work. It was noted that the Parish Council sponsored the Fete.

e. Cllr Smy thanked Cllr Scard for removing the rubbish accumulated at the store on the sports field.

- f. Woodsford Fields Cllr Smy advised those present that the Council had met with Mr Roger Tustain, the agent for the Woodsfield Fields development discussing future development. Notes of this meeting are available on request.
- g. Computer Cllr Smy advised those present that he had agreed expenditure of £70 to repair a computer failure
- h. Code of Conduct Training Councillors were advised that a Code of Conduct training is available on October 19th.
- i. Declarations of Interest Cllr Smy asked Cllr Dave Smith if an e mail he referred to at the previous Planning Committee was from a relative, Mr Garrot. Cllr Smith replied yes he is. Cllr Smy asked Cllr Smith why he did not declare an interest when referring to Mr Garrot's e mail. Cllr Smith said he would respond to this question, in writing, later.

ITEM 8 TO AGREE TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS TO ALLOW FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND QUESTIONS IF REQUESTED FOR ITEM 9 Proposed Cllr Connor, seconded Cllr Rhodes.

AGREED

ITEM 9 TO AGREE, IN PRINCIPLE, THE PROVISION OF A SKATE PARK, MUGA, TARMACED CAR PARK AND DISABLED PATH WAY ACCESS ON THE SPORTS FIELD. A PRESENTATION WILL BE GIVEN BY KRIS HALLETT, DCA COMMUNITY WORKER Cllr Smy introduced Kris Hallett and CPSO Vickie Hedges who have been working with other agencies to bring a presentation to the Council. Cllr Smy stated that this evening the Council is being asked to agree in principle to supply a Skate Bowl and MUGA and extensive public consultation will follow. Kris Hallett handed over to her colleague, Russ Holbeck of Maverick Industries who gave a presentation on the proposed development. A copy of Kris Hallett's report, document titled The Vision and a copy of a letter from Inspector Fry, Dorset Police is attached at Annex A, B and C to these minutes. Cllr Smy welcomed the children and young people present asking them if they had anything to say at this stage. A youth replied "I like it" promising to treat it with respect and look after it. CPSO Hedges said the majority of the young people in Crossways were good; just bored and they need an area such as this to call their own. Cllr Smy said plans like these bring great concern to residents who live nearby and asked for public comment

a. Mr David Croft raised the following points

- i. Have any noise impact studies been carried out and does the report give noise levels?

KRIS HALLETT TO PROVIDE REPORT

- ii How well used are the MUGA to date? Russ Holbeck replied that there are well used. Surveys and the recent Parish Plan survey has all shown a need for a facility such as this. CPSO said that the MUGA at Puddletown was well used.

- iii. What is the cost of construction and how will it be funded? Cllr Smy said the Council will be looking for grant funding.

- iv. What is the cost of maintenance and ongoing costs. Cllr Smy said that a business plan will be put in place as a part of the grant funding process.

- v. Have any surveys been carried out? Mr Croft said that older residents need to be surveyed as well as the young people.

- vi. Has Kris Hallett considered alternative sites? Kris Hallett replied that she had walked all around the Village with Cllr Smy and Inspector Fry and they were not able to identify any alternative sights. Mr Croft mentioned the possibility of Bardon Aggregates releasing quarry land to the Parish Council. Cllr Smy advised the meeting that the Parish Council has received no official notification of the plan to release quarry land and if this proposal goes ahead it will take many years to come to fruition.

- b. Mrs Roache stated that she was not against a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) but she was very concerned about the noise emanating from a skate park stating that properties abutting the field would be subjected to unacceptable noise levels. Russ Holbeck replied that the noise level heard from skateboards on tarmac is not the same as on concrete. Russ Holbeck stated that the noise of voices would probably be heard above any other noise.

- c. Mr Guy, Egdon Glen Mr Guy stated that he had no objection to a MUGA or skate park but he did have an objection to the proposed site. Mr Guy stated that it must be in a place to suit everybody. Mr Guy said he has visited a MUGA in Maiden Newton and was advised that the noise from footballs against the wooden boards surrounding the MUGA was unbearable. Russ Holbeck replied that there would be no such board round the MUGA proposed for Crossways. Mr Guy stated that he felt the proposed site for the MUGA was too close to Egdon Glen.

- d. Mrs Marriot asked if the present basketball location which has caused problems recently could be moved to the site of the new MUGA. It was agreed that basketball rings could be placed at this site.
- e. Mr Walker, Egdon Glen said he does, in principle, support the facility; however the proposed site is bordered on three sides by residential properties and he would like to see additional provisions to decrease noise.
- f. Mrs D Bearman questioned a possible clash with the Archery Club. This is noted.

Cllr Smy thanked members of the public for their input and opened discussions for Councillors:

- a. Cllr Elaine Stenning Cllr Stenning said the previous Parish Council had worked very hard to bring a MUGA to Crossways but seemed to be thwarted at every turn; she reiterated she would like to see improved facilities for the young people but understood the concerns of the residents of Egdon Glen.
- b. Cllr Terrie Connor Cllr Connor said this facility was desperately needed a skate park would also be used for roller blading and BMX. Cllr Connor proposed the idea of providing this facility is supported.
- c. Cllr Valerie Bache Cllr Bache thanked Kris Hallett for undertaking this project on behalf of Crossways.
- d. Cllr Caroline Round Cllr Round supported the idea stating that all issues will be looked at. Cllr Round confirmed that no other location was suitable and proper consultation will be carried out.
- e. Cllr Andrew Brewer Cllr Brewer welcomed the young people present and welcomed the vision of a MUGA/Skate Park. Cllr Brewer said as a youth worker of some 30 years he saw the need but was aware of both sides of the issue, the residents's concerns and the needs of the young. Cllr Brewer reminded those present that a planning application had been submitted and permission granted for a MUGA on the sports field close to the Pavilion, which he believes would have acted as a sound barrier to residents of Egdon Glen. The only alternative he could see would be the Village Hall area but felt that parents would not feel comfortable with their children having to travel so far. Cllr Brewer confirmed that the original site of the MUGA was on the advice of Inspector Fry. Cllr Brewer welcomed Kris Hallett's work and was in complete agreement.
- f. Cllr Geoffrey Northcote Cllr Northcote welcome the idea but suggested rebalancing the plan to allow for a site further away from Egdon Glen.
- g. Cllr Abi Scard Cllr Scard said the Village must provide this facility; the youth of the Village are the Village's future and if the Village want the people to stay in the Village they need to have happy children. Cllr Scard advised Kris Hallett to consult widely with residents and suggested using the Bridge to advise residents of the consultation. Cllr Scard said a questionnaire should be sent to all residences. Cllr Scard expressed concern about the funding and cost of future maintenance. Cllr Scard said that the residents of Egdon Glen need respect.

Cllr Smy thanked Kris Hallett for all the work to date and thanked the members of the public and the young people for attending to give their views. Cllr Smy said the Council needs to consider the way ahead; are they as a Council happy for Kris Hallett to continue her work towards this project.

It was proposed to amend Item 9 to read "To agree to allow Kris Hallett to continue with this project and to agree in principle the aspiration for a MUGA/Skate Park.

This was proposed by Cllr Brewer, Seconded Cllr Round:

Councillors voted 6 for, 2 abstentions

CARRIED

ITEM 10 RETURN TO STANDING ORDERS Agreed.

ITEM 11 CONSIDER FUTURE OF METHODIST CHAPEL – CLLR BREWER Cllr Smy reminded the meeting that Mr Barry Crook, the present owner of the Methodist Chapel, has asked the Council to consider the future of the Chapel. Residents were asked to offer their views in the Parish Council report in the Bridge.

Only one reply was received. Cllr Brewer did report he had received a phone call from a former member of the congregation who was distressed to see that the article inferred that the congregation was not interested in the future of the Chapel and had 'walked away'. The Council has offered this lady their apologies for the misunderstanding perceived from the Council's article. Cllr Brewer advised the Council that the Scout Movement, who own land at Brown Johns Copse, have an area which could accommodate the Chapel where it could be put to good use by Explorer Scouts and Young Leaders. Unfortunately lack of finance prohibited the Scout Movement from hiring contractors to dismantle and re-erect the Chapel. Mr Crook has offered to transport the Chapel. Cllr Scard suggested that a cross should be erected on the site of the Chapel when it is moved and Mr Crook could be asked to supply this. Cllr Smy suggested Mr Crook be approached on these matters.

Proposed Cllr Northcote, seconded Cllr Stenning

AGREED/ACTION: CLLR BREWER/CLERK

Cllr Brewer decided not to vote on this matter.

ITEM 12 CONSIDER WORKS NEEDED TO THE SPORTS PAVILION AND TO AGREE TO REQUEST QUOTATIONS FOR THOSE WORKS Cllr Smy outlined the works required on the Pavilion and advised those present that a donation of £1000.00 had been received from Mr Barry Crook towards the cost of the works.

Proposed by Cllr Round, seconded by Cllr Rhodes that quotes be sought.

AGRRED/ACTION CLERK

ITEM 13 CONSIDER REPORT FROM MR STUART MURGATROYD AND HIS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TREE PRESERVATION IN CROSSWAYS, AGREEING TO REQUEST TREE PROTECTION ORDERS TO WDDC WHERE APPLICABLE Cllr Smy welcome and introduced Stuart Murgatroyd and reminded those present that following the random tree felling being undertaken around the Village the Council instigated a tree survey to identify trees worthy of protection in the Village. Councillors were provided with Phase 1 of the survey undertaken by Mr Murgatroyd showing 69 trees, their height, crown and amenity value. It was agreed to bring this survey to the next full council for the formal agreement to forward this survey to WDDC to place protection orders on these trees. Stuart Murgatroyd stated that eventually a tree survey will be carried out on all trees in the Village; this process will take approximately 12 months. Cllr Smy said that the Council was fortunate to have the services of Mr Murgatroyd and ask the meeting to show their appreciation. Mr Murgatroyd was applauded for his efforts.

Cllr Scard stated that Magna had promised to replant felled trees early in 2007. Stuart Murgatroyd said he had not seen any young trees. Cllr Scard confirmed no trees have been planted. The Clerk was instructed to write to Magna and question this.

ACTION: CLERK

ITEM 14 TO CONSIDER ATTENDANCE MY MEMBER AT THE WDDC HOUSING STRATEGY CONSULTATION DAY ON FRIDAY 12TH OCTOBER AT CHARLTON DOWN No member expressed a wish to attend.

ITEM 15 TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEES SEPTEMBER 5TH 2007 AND TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES:

a. **AMENITIES - Page 377-380** Cllr Bache presented the minutes of the Amenities Committee dated 5th September which were accepted.

b. **PLANNING - Page 241-242** Cllr Smith presented the minutes of the Planning Committee dated 5th September which were accepted.

c. **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION - Page 158** Cllr (Mrs) Smith presented the minutes of the Finance & Administration Committee which were duly accepted.

ITEM 16 TO NOTE AND APPROVE INCOME/EXPENDITURE FOR THE PREVIOUS MONTHS (JULY 26TH – SEPTEMBER 27TH) The following items were noted:

	Expenditure £	Income £
Rates (August)	32.00	
Interest	2.20	
Bank Charges	16.00	
Donation Barry Croke		1000.00
Crossways Football Club		189.00
BT	195.74	
Blanchards Solicitors	13.00	
F C Bearman & Sons	25.00	
Roman Glass (Notice Boards)	103.05	
Fireline Extinguishers	119.88	

Fleet Line Markers	165.60	
S Manuel (Grass Cutting)	964.00	
Wessex Water	56.37	
Cleaners Pavilion	70.00	
Expenses Clerk	96.00	
Salary Clerk	811.91	
DCC Grass Cutting Agency		1313.21
Rates (September)	32.00	
DCA Connecting Dorset		906.05
Novatech (Connecting Dorset)	980.01	
Pipex Ltd (Connecting Dorset)	84.60	
Transfer Deposit Acct WDDC		3500.00
Net Benefit	298.58	
Viking Direct	105.70	
Village Hall Rent	32.00	
F C Bearman & Son	110.75	
Century 21 Photocopier Hire	105.75	
Loc Out Security	146.88	
S Manuel (Grass Cutting)	482.00	
Southern Electric	25.36	
Crossways New Church Donation	250.00	
Petty Cash Top Up	200.00	
Computer Repair	50.00	

ITEM 17 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATION 1/D/07/001598 LAND TO THE REAR OF 40-42 DICK O’ TH’ BANKS ROAD – ERECT 2 BUNGALOWS TOGETHER WITH THE PROVISION OF VEHICULAR ACCESS AND PARKING (CLLR SMITH TO LEAD) Councillors were shown an objection letter received.

Cllr Smith questioned highway issues. Cllr Brewer advised the meeting that these plans had been submitted before and concerns noted. It appears no changes have been made to previously refused application. The Parish Council questioned access for emergency vehicles. Cllr Smith said changes had been made to the size of the bungalows. Cllr Smith proposed approval. Cllr Bache said that there would be increased vehicle movements on an already well used area.

Proposed Cllr Stenning, seconded Cllr Bache that this application is not recommended on the grounds of over development and the strain on the already busy road of Dick o’ th’ Banks and its proximity to the School entrance.

AGREED

ITEM 18 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATION 1/D/07/001547 - 3 FOREST VIEW – ERECT TWO STOREY AND SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION

Proposed Cllr Smy, seconded Cllr Northcote The Council voted 6 for 1 against, 3 abstained

AGREED

ITEM 19 CONFIRM DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING The Council agreed to meet in the Village Hall on Thursday 25th October 2007

ITEM 20 ANY LATE URGENT BUSINESS Cllr Scard raised personnel matters which were ruled out of order.

There being no other business the meeting closed.

Signed (Chairman) 2007

CROSSWAYS PLAYING FIELD FACILITIES

- THE VISION -

Working with CSO Vickie Hedges for the past year, the needs of the community - with regard to the open spaces in Crossways - have been identified by

- attending regular Parish Council meetings and researching documents from past meetings
- out and about, meeting people of all ages in Crossways
- a consultation with young people in early 2007,
- attending Youth Club sessions
- attending 'Holiday Hangout' events
- attending Magna Sheltered Housing events; liaising with Magna Housing staff members
- discussions (and two walkabouts) with Parish Council representatives and Dorset Police and an additional 'on-site' visit (all during 2007)
- meeting with pre-school play leader, Head of local school, mother & toddler group leaders, registered childminders, local vicar and all other Elected Members
- discussions with members of the Crossways Community Association who produced the Village Plan in 2004/05, which identified community needs and aspirations for the future of Crossways

Current facilities:

A Pavilion with catering, changing room facilities

Football pitch with two goals

Cricket practice strip

Basketball hoop on small area of tarmac

Uneven, open parking area for cars

Proposal:

To increase facilities with a few items, which will have a quick impact and effect for a larger number of people.

- Installation of a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)**, without lighting, so that it is used in line with the other facilities, in daylight hours only.

This would benefit the new school if it were placed at the rear of the field so they have close access to it.

When the new Church/Community Hall is built nearby, this facility could be used for activities/events.

Other groups/organisations would benefit from it and new activities could be set up to encourage more sporting activities to help people of all ages enjoy a healthy, active lifestyle.

- Installation of a concrete Skate Bowl with a seating shelter.** This would enable young people to have a designated area to meet and socialise. They could practice their extreme sports (skateboarding, rollerblading, BMX-ing, mountain biking and scooters - all

these can be used in a skate facility) in safety, in an appropriate place designed for the purpose. It would encourage them off the streets where their current activities are perceived as 'anti social' and noisy. These facilities can be used by any age group; including adults. This location meets Local Authority and ROSPA advice/guidelines for 'distance from other properties' – a minimum of 50'/100' for a skate facility – the nearest structures (houses) where measurements are taken from, are outside this area.

- iii. **Installation of level, tarmac path and secure, safe car-parking area with access for the disabled** which will provide easy access for those with mobility problems (including wheelchair users) and pushchairs as well as providing a direct route to the new facilities for those who wish to spectate, accompany their children or just to sit, have a picnic, or watch any of the activities taking place on the playing field or the new facilities. Defining the car parking area and separating it from those who access the playing field on foot, will enable the area to be used in a safer way. It is currently a free-for-all with no marked out areas, or specific access for disabled persons or emergency vehicles. It will provide easier access into the Pavilion; the current approach is very uneven, bumpy and stony, making it difficult for those with wheels to access.

What else would we need to think about?:

The project could be broken down into phases if required to enable funding to be identified and applied for. Planning Permission is required. Dorset Community Action have a specialist Funding Advisor with access to a national 'Grantfinder' database, which is updated frequently and holds in excess of 10,000 funders and grant organisations – with the latest information available of deadlines, new funders, amounts available, criteria etc

If the Parish Council could consider giving their support to this revitalising of the area and that it will enhance the current space and fills needs in Crossways, a consultation with the whole community could be initiated. The previous community consultations confirm the need is there. Dorset Police have given their support to the facilities (see separate letter from Inspector Fry).

Fine-tuning and detailed plans can be drawn up in due course, and aspects such as drainage, can be looked at and prioritised into how the installations are achieved and in what order the work would need to be done.

It may seem a large-scale project and a lot of money – but Crossways is growing; it is already lacking enough play facilities for children over the age of 7 – this is an opportunity to provide sporting facilities for all youngsters and adults alike – so everyone can benefit. The Multi Use Games Area is just that, multi-use and adaptable – numerous sports and activities can take place in it – and it's particularly useful when the grass is wet and not safe to use. The school would benefit enormously, whether in lesson time or during extended school hours. Other groups of people and organisations can access 5-a-side, basketball, netball, tennis, short tennis, roller hockey, free skating and informal games to name a few, and play for younger children or family activities which are currently not possible in an open space (such as learning to ride a bike in a safe environment). If specific sessions or access was required, a booking system could be in place with a notice at the facility informing the public, so that casual users would know when time has been allocated for that session. The facility will need to be open at all times and accessible to the whole community in order to maximise the funding options. MUGAs are designed to be long lasting, low maintenance and vandalproof.

The residents in Crossways who might not want to use these facilities would still benefit because any activities which are currently taking place in inappropriate areas (football in the road) – those playing can be encouraged to go to the appropriate (and designated)

place – thereby eliminating stress and anxiety about balls hitting cars, windows, rolling into the road etc.

Another area set aside as a future play space has been identified at the current builders compound – this space could provide play for children who are too young to go to the playing field unaccompanied with enough facilities to ensure they do not need to play in the streets.

Full consultation with local residents will need to take place at the appropriate time to ensure everyone has a say, ideas can be submitted, concerns raised and ‘problem-solving and compromises reached, ensuring everyone finds any subsequent scheme acceptable.

Kris Hallett
Dorset Community Action
September 2007

ANNEX B TO CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES DATED 27TH SEPTEMBER 2007

Local Dorset Community Action Community Worker, Kris Hallett, made a presentation to the Parish Council on 27 September about the playing field area off Dick O' th Banks Road. She handed out a document entitled 'The Vision' which had been produced as a result of many meetings and conversations with residents of all ages during the past year who live in Crossways, and by working closely with Dorset Police and the local Community Support Officer Vickie Hedges and Inspector Les Fry.

A Power Point presentation with animations provided by Maverick Industries – specialists on Multi Use Games Areas and Skate Equipment - was displayed to show the potential for the site and to show what a MUGA and a SKATE BOWL look like. The idea of a skate bowl has come about because some residents, whilst supporting the need for skate facilities, were not so keen to have large pieces of equipment on show and the possible noise that could emanate from them. A Bowl would be hidden from view –It would not make a visible presence and spoil the current far-reaching views behind its proposed location at the far end of the field - and is a beneficial compromise for everyone. The animation was designed to show how these pieces of equipment would fit in with the current football, cricket and archery activities with a remit to keep them as far from properties as was physically possible – but positioned so that from a distance, a discreet eye could be kept on the activities going on in that area. It would also be beneficial for any unaccompanied youngsters who get into difficulties – whether being bullied, misbehaving, or, if having sustained an injury, needing medical help (adult or child).

Gentle landscaping with sympathetic and suitable bunding and planting can be incorporated into the scheme to create protection from intermittent impact noises ((whether by a tennis ball or a skateboard) as further sound deadening protection. . The scheme is to include facilities for all ages, to include paths/safe parking for access, picnic benches and equipment in the MUGA (such as a tennis net) so that everyone can use it, enjoy the health benefits and enjoy the area.

After the presentation, Parish Council Chairman Daniel Smy invited questions from the public and those present. There were approximately 45 adults and 12 children present in the public area and a lively debate ensued. Fears were expressed about the proximity of local dwellings to both the MUGA and the skate bowl and a perception from one person that it would encourage house prices to drop. Kris suggested that if the Parish Council were willing to support the initiative and allow her further time to gather requested evidence of other places who have these facilities and the impact on those neighbourhoods; she would then like to initiate a full, open consultation with the whole community. Councillor Brewer proposed 'the Parish Council vote to support the aspirations of the community for this area,' which was seconded by Councillor Bartlett, and carried by a majority vote.

A letter of support has been received from Inspector Fry of Dorset Police, for the Playing Field area facilities proposed.

A date has now been arranged for the open **Crossways Community Consultation** – it will take place in the **Main Hall of Frome Valley School on SATURDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2007 from 11.00 – 13.30**. The purpose of the Consultation is to provide displays of images, information and data, and to have one or two people on hand to answer questions about those displays. One hour will be set aside from 11.30 to 12.30 to take part in a debate/workshop Chaired by Inspector Fry and facilitated by Kris, so that everyone can have a say, put their ideas forward, air their worries or concerns, look at solutions and ways for everyone to work together to achieve a positive result – a lovely community facility for the whole of Crossways to enjoy and benefit from. This is such an important time for Crossways – please come along and take part.

Children have been involved in this subject ever since the publication of the Village Plan in 2003/04 and The Children's Plan produced in 2006 and they are very keen to help and be involved. You may see some of them delivering a flyer to your homes nearer the time, in the company of a responsible adult. We will be providing a 'drawing & ideas corner' at the consultation so that children can draw or write about their own thoughts and ideas about what they would like to play on or access in their leisure time – or they are welcome to bring their artwork along on the day..

The leaflet drop will be taking place to every property in Crossways and posters will be displayed in all the notice boards. The best laid plans can go wrong! – so if you inadvertently don't receive an invitation, please look on your nearest notice board for the details

In the meantime, if you wish to contact me, my details are: Kris Hallett, Community Capacity Worker, Dorset Community Action on 01305 216409 or kris.Hallett@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

Kris Hallett
Dorset Community Action
Community House
The Barracks
Bridport Road
DORCHESTER DT1 1YG

Dear Kris

I write to offer my full support in respect of the Crossways MUGA and Skate Bowl facilities. I believe that such facilities would be for the benefit and wellbeing of the young people in our community and from a more policing point of view will encourage less incidents of 'anti social behaviour' since reports are made to the Police regarding youngsters using the streets for their activities and generally playing in inappropriate places. This facility would allow them to carry out their activities in a safe environment and will alleviate the impact of their activities on local residents.

I feel that having a designated place to go, which has been identified by the youngsters themselves as the ideal location, with facilities designed by them, will give them a strong sense of ownership and responsibility, which they will be keen to look after. I am aware that they are already 'working together' with yourself, PCSO Vickie Hedges, Parish Councillors and the community.

Once again I fully support the MUGA and Skate Bowl project and firmly believe that such facilities would be of immense benefit to the entire community.

Yours sincerely

L D Fry
Inspector
Dorchester Section Commander