

**FRIENDS OF THE RIVER CRANE ENVIRONMENT (FORCE)
NEWSLETTER FIVE: JUNE 2004**



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the latest FORCE Newsletter and the first days of summer find us in rude good health. Back in April this year we held an introductory meeting with the Council and we are now developing the ground rules for how we shall move forward in a long term partnership with them for the benefit of the local environment, residents and the wider community. We have also had a meeting with the CEO of the London Wildlife Trust (LWT) and the Trust is set to become a key partner with us. Various documents are currently in development to support these relationships including:

- Heads of Agreement with the Council to define the terms of the partnership on Council owned land
- Supplementary Planning Guidance, being developed by the Council with inputs from FORCE, to guide future developments in the Crane Valley
- A 10 year management plan for the Crane Valley, currently in the early stages of development, in partnership with the Council and LWT
- A plan for the management of the Mereway Site as a Nature Park and educational resource

Also in April we opened FORCE for public membership and we are pleased to say that at the latest count we have around 300 members. Contact details for any of your friends or neighbours wishing to become a member are provided below.

On Sunday 20th June we are holding our second annual Open Day, on Craneford Playing Field West from 12 noon to 5pm. This year we are included as part of the Twickenham Festival and we plan a wide range of entertainments for adults and children including treasure hunts, environmental assault courses, rifle shooting and organic gardening demonstrations. Harlequins are providing coaching skills sessions for any local children with an interest, at 1pm and 4pm. Come along for the afternoon and bring a picnic or join us for an hour or so; you can see some of the small scale improvements we have already undertaken as well as contributing to the developing ideas for the area.

On the following Sunday, 27th June, we are holding our next Volunteer Day. This time we shall be on Mereway Allotments site, from 10-30 am until 4pm and plan to clear some of the rubbish on the site. As with all our volunteer days it will be lovely to see you, for the whole day or just an hour; we shall provide the tools and the advice and recommend you wear old clothes and stout footwear.

On Sunday 17th July we shall have a stall on St Margaret's Fair as part of the Council's Open Spaces Strategy Consultation. We shall be using the opportunity to brief the public on our ideas as well as holding informal discussions with Council staff.

There are a number of plans in the pipe-line for the Crane Valley area and FORCE has recently submitted formal responses to the Council's Planning Team on an Outline Planning Application for the Post Office site on London Road as well as the detailed Planning Application for a new west stand and associated housing development at the Harlequins ground. In addition, we are awaiting further information from the College on their proposals for re-development with associated housing.

It is for these reasons that we welcome the Council's proposals to produce Supplementary Planning Guidance for development in this area. We shall be working alongside Heatham Residents' Association to ensure that this guidance reflects local concerns regarding housing and associated traffic issues as well as protecting and enhancing the surrounding environment.

We are also attending, later in the month, the first meeting of the River Crane Management Forum, with representation from Hounslow and Hillingdon Councils as well as the Environment Agency and convened by the British Airports Authority. This is an attempt to develop a management group for the entire length of the Crane, which extends northwards around 20 miles to Ruislip and joins the Thames in Isleworth.

As you can see there is plenty happening and we therefore encourage anyone with an interest in any of these issues to get in contact with us, become a member and help us to develop and manage a better local environment for us all.

Yours,

Rob Gray (Chair FORCE)
April 2004

Website: www.twickenham-online.co.uk/forceweb
E-mail: FORCE@twickenham-online.co.uk

Enquiries regarding membership should be addressed to:
Mike Day (FORCE Membership Secretary)
89 Third Cross Road
TWICKENHAM
TW2 5DY Telephone: 020 8893 3503
E-mail: mike.day@dsl.pipex.com

Please pass this Newsletter on to any friends or neighbours who may be interested