

FRIENDS OF THE RIVER CRANE ENVIRONMENT
NEWSLETTER TWO: NOVEMBER 2003

Dear fellow residents,

The Friends of the River Crane Environment (FORCE) has been formed by local interested groups and individuals to represent the interests and views of local people regarding the River Crane and its corridor. FORCE was formed in direct response to the Council's proposals to remove Metropolitan Open Land status, and subsequently develop, council owned green spaces within the Crane Valley between Kneller Gardens and London Road. The latest information regarding these proposals is as follows:

- The council proposed a delay to the Public Inquiry on the Crane valley until December to allow more time for Richmond College and RACC to discuss a merger. Our latest information is that these talks have broken down.
- In the mean time the Council has moved ahead with its proposals to develop the area for housing. These plans have not been finalised but will be produced for the Inquiry.
- FORCE has also been developing its proposals, under Option Five, to improve the green spaces along the Crane Valley, creating a Nature Park in the Mereway and a Community Park on Craneford Playing Fields, using the collaborative efforts of the Council and FORCE with investment through third parties.
- FORCE is not against development of other parts of the Crane Valley per se but wants to ensure that any proposals take full account of residents' interests and needs.
- FORCE has prepared eighteen Proofs of Evidence for the Inquiry and these can be seen on our web site, along with other background information on the area.

We are keen for local people to become more involved by, for example:

- Writing to your ward councillor with your opinions about the Council's and FORCE's proposals,
- Writing a letter to the local press
- Sending an e-mail letter to ed@twickenham-online.co.uk expressing your opinions
- Supporting a volunteer event
- Attending the Public Inquiry, due to start at 10-30 on 8 December at York House

The first Volunteer Event was held last Sunday 23 November at Twickenham Rifle Club. The weather was awful and precluded any outdoor painting, but between 15 and 20 people turned up to remove rubbish, remove graffiti from covered areas and construct a new gate for the site. We hope to re-convene in the next month or so to continue with the graffiti removal.

Regards
Rob Gray (Chair FORCE)

For more details of our proposals and the history of the issue check out our web site at www.twickenham-online.co.uk and accessed through "Community Links".