

## **12 March 2007 – Press release for immediate use**

### **Busbridge Community Forum brokers deal with probation service**

Busbridge Community Forum is setting up a number of projects in collaboration with the Surrey probation area. The first of these will see the currently bare block walls of the changing rooms at the Holloway Hill clubhouse sealed and painted. People serving court orders to do unpaid work in the community will provide the labour under probation service supervision, materials are being donated by a local DIY store, Cornmeter.

The manager of the Holloway Hill Sports Association, Barrie Hogan, said, "John Taylor of Cornmeter has generously agreed to donate whatever we need free of charge. That and the free labour provided by the probation service means that this long-overdue job can go ahead without further delay."

The chairman of Busbridge Community Forum, Mike Harrison said the Forum had established links with the Surrey probation area's development officer for unpaid work, Malcolm Howard, through the neighbourhood specialist police officer, PC Peter Harris. Mike said, "This is a wonderful example of the power of networking – exactly what the forum was set up to do. The Holloway Hill Clubhouse will provide a base from which groups of unpaid workers can operate and the Forum will act as a broker in arranging a number of free-work exercises in the area. In the pipeline at the moment, alongside the changing rooms job, are repair and redecoration of the Scout and Guide hut and new fencing at the Village Hall – and we are actively seeking other possibilities."

Malcolm Howard explained that contrary to a commonly held view, many of the people serving unpaid work orders are not youths but mature adults with good practical skills. "Usually they are only too happy to make themselves useful and to feel they are putting something back into the community. At the probation service we try to encourage responsible attitudes and having a decent base like the sports clubhouse means we can expect a good job in return", he added.

Mr Howard will attend the next meeting of the Forum to answer residents' questions. It will be held at the Holloway Hill Ground Clubhouse at 7 for 7.30 PM on Wednesday 28 March 2007. Full details can be found on the Forum's web site at [www.busbridge.net](http://www.busbridge.net)

#### **ENDS**

#### **Notes to editors**

Busbridge Community Forum was founded in October 2006.

It serves an area in the residential streets to the south of the town of Godalming, covering the districts of Busbridge, Holloway Hill, Crownpits and Bargate Wood. Residents can exchange information and express their views to the authorities through the forum.

Forum meetings are held approximately four times a year and there is also a lively exchange of views by e-mail. Residents can sign up for an e-mail list.

The forum is independent and non-political. It does not serve sectional interests or seek to usurp the function of other organisations within the area. Its function is to provide a focus for inclusive community action and help residents communicate their views to the authorities, including councils, the police, Royal Mail, road authorities and licensees in the area.

#### **Contact:**

Mike Harrison T: 01483-425165