



WHITEHILL TOWN COUNCIL



PRESS RELEASE

BORDON INCLOSURE OFFICIAL OPENING 27 APRIL 2016 BY COUNCILLOR DAVID COOPER, CHAIRMAN OF THE GREENSPACE SUB COMMITTEE

Cllr David Cooper, Deputy Town Mayor and Chairman of the Greenspace Sub Committee, formally opened the Bordon Inclosure on 27th April 2016. Pupils from Bordon Junior School read a poem rehearsed with Rob Allerston from the Phoenix Theatre & Arts Centre. The opening was well attended by representatives from all organisations involved in the project.

Cllr David Cooper said:

“This is a very significant day in the life of Whitehill & Bordon because after 100 years of a dominant military presence we have reached the end of the first phase of the regeneration of the town. Our community formally becomes the proud owner of a wildlife park, which provides recreational and educational opportunities for everyone in our community, safe walkways for those with push chairs; a woodland playground for the young and a peaceful environment for the rest of us. It is a most appropriate time of the year to be formally opening the Bordon Inclosure. Spring is in the air, the trees are coming into leaf and the birds are more numerous and active than at any other time of the year.

The regeneration of the Bordon Inclosure is a culmination of a great deal of work by many organisations and you may well ask why this has been necessary. Our town is near to the European Protected Sites of Broxhead and Kingsley Commons, which are used by a number of rare birds for breeding, notably the Dartford Warbler. For the protection of those sites, we hope to encourage local residents, particularly those from Quebec Park, to walk here, rather than in the sensitive areas. That is the reason that the Bordon Inclosure has been developed as a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace or a SANG.

Your Town Council assumed responsibility for the management of the Bordon Inclosure SANG on 1 January of this year. It is a most exciting challenge but it is only the first step. If I might borrow the words of that great orator and wartime leader, Sir Winston Churchill :

“This is not the end of the Regeneration of Whitehill and Bordon; it is not even the beginning of the end; but perhaps we could say, this is the end of the beginning”

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation own the Bordon Inclosure but we have acquired a long lease which will allow us to manage and to develop the SANG. To support this task we are to receive £2.2m in the next few years. This may sound a lot of money but it has to last 80 years.

Many of you will be aware of the high standard of preservation that has been achieved by Deadwater Valley Trust in the Alexander Park and Dead Water Valley Local Nature Reserves. We are very fortunate that the Trust, under the leadership of its Chair, Nora Dobson, have extended their

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responsibilities to the patrolling and maintenance of the BI SANG. An additional ranger has been recruited - Freya Prince – to enhance the existing patrol service provided by the Trust.

Your Town Council will establish a framework for the development of the SANG but we need the support of the whole Community to make it a success. Your help is needed to make sure that the 'Fly-Tippers' take their rubbish to the proper place and the would-be vandals made to understand that their services are not needed on our site.

I mentioned earlier that bringing the Bordon SANG up to its present state has involved a great deal of imagination and hard work. Much of it has fallen on the shoulders of Mr Bruce Collinson of East Hampshire District Council, the manager of the capital development project and his colleagues from Hampshire County Council.

The contributions which have been made by James Rowley & Jon Turner of Homes & Community Agency and Francesca Barker and Pauline Homes of Natural England are greatly appreciated.

Introducing the Greenspace Leaflet & Web Site

It gives me great pleasure to launch the leaflet which describes the SANG and the nearby greenspace sites. It has been produced by the Dead Water Valley Trust and it is a most informative and valuable guide to anyone using our greenspaces.

The leaflet consists of 24 pages of guidance and on the reverse of the text pages is a large-scale map of the greenspace sites, showing its many trails and the location of facilities.

Its theme is **'Bringing the countryside into town'**.

It is the delivery of the benefits of the countryside to everyone in Whitehill and Bordon which is so important to our Community.

The leaflet outlines the background to the town's regeneration project and the importance part which greenspace is to play in the life of our community. The benefits are many but to name two:

the pleasure we all derive from access to the wealth of wildlife that can be found here, and

the health dividend that everyone receives when regular exercise becomes a habit.

The leaflet also shows the different ways in which our community can support the site and its wildlife. Copies of the leaflet are available here today.

The Dead Water Valley have also established a web site at

www.deadwatervalleytrust.co.uk

It emphasises the nature and health benefits, as well as providing a useful map of the whole site with an auto-zoom feature.

The website is now operational – so you can get onto the website whenever you wish.

A Poem for the Occasion was read by pupils from Bordon Junior School

As part of the Bordon Inclosure Community Arts Project, coordinated by Mr Rob Allerston, the Phoenix Theatre & Arts Centre worked with the poet Matt West and Year 6 pupils from Bordon Junior School to create an original poem celebrating the 12 native reptiles and amphibians that are unique to Whitehill & Bordon.

A “who-dunnit” based on the notion that someone ate Pulh (Paul) the palmate, its conclusion is a 13th verse that suggests everything will be okay in Whitehill's heathland haven.

The students are delighted to be performing their poem for the first time at the official opening of Bordon Inclosure.”

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