

Dear Residents

The Parish Council were approached by Crest Nicholson for the provision of a construction traffic haul road along the north eastern boundary of the recreation ground, for a period of between 18-24 months.

The purpose for utilising the recreation ground for construction movement will be to alleviate traffic concerns raised by the Residents. We are all in agreement that the Hoadlands junction is totally inappropriate for this type of vehicular movement, specifically with those attending the school and visiting the doctor's surgery. During those discussions it was made clear that at no time would the Chestnuts Trees be sacrificed to make way for the Haul Road.

Part of the Crest Nicholson planning conditions and management of the scheme was to undertake an arboriculture survey of the trees on the boundary which included the Chestnut trees due to the proximity to the temporary road. It was at this time that Council were made aware of the trees poor condition and recommended removal. Obviously, the Members resolved that an independent survey would be undertaken and sadly this supported the arboriculture survey findings. In spite of their early demise the developers have offered to replace the trees. We are keen to work with Crest, the Community and along with those who were involved with the original planting of the trees'.

In terms of the proposal itself the Council were asked to discuss a rental fee payable to the Parish in exchange for the temporary lease of the land for the duration of the works. In doing this Members were asked to look at current projects, specifically the much need refurbishment of the Sports Pavilion where there is a substantial shortfall and no future developer funds coming forward at this time. The Council with Crest's support have agreed a fee £25kpa which will ensure that these works can go ahead, with additional funding coming forward from the development in the future, which is fantastic news for the whole village.

We are very sorry to be losing the trees, but are assured that nothing can be done to prevent them from deteriorating further and that this is the best possible outcome for everyone and look forward to replacing them in the future.

Slaugham Parish Council