

# The vital assets team

## Continuing commitment of Bourne Conservation Group

THE Bourne Conservation Group (BCG) is generally viewed as a band of volunteers committed to protecting the desirable features of Farnham's natural environment and they have worked unceasingly since 2002 to protect flora and fauna in The Bourne area of Farnham, a town which now appears to be fighting a rearguard action against profit-hungry property developers, but with little local authority backing or control.

At its AGM on September 7th, a decline in help hitherto given to the group by Waverley Borough Council (WBC) will almost certainly be considered.

In conjunction with W.B.C. Countryside, work was carried out in Burnt Hill Wood (west) in January 2014, but there is now concern at the reduced effort by Waverley being put into management of their estate and the likely effect on the sites they own in The Bourne as well as the number of houses which developers hope to build there in the near future - 190 houses in Compton Fields, 80 houses in Frensham Vale plus 60 houses on Gardeners Hill Road.

Activities in the past year have been set against a background of increased concern nationally at the decline of many animal species, and at the greatly increased pace of building development with much now proposed on green spaces.

BCG feels able to contribute usefully to the debate on housing issues but its focus remains on practical work, including the introduction of a 'bug hotel' and saving the lives of frogs and toads in the spawning season, thus enabling the group's members to enjoy a croaking chorus or two by the pond in the Old Bourne Churchyard.

More details: email [info@bourneconservation.org.uk](mailto:info@bourneconservation.org.uk) or call 01252 726420.



*BOURNE Conservation Group volunteers are endeavouring to conserve green spaces in the face of the tide of development engulfing Farnham.*

## Environment watch on Compton Fields

**RESIDENTS** in the area of Compton Fields, which span Waverley Lane, Old Compton Lane and Moor Park Way, have received hand-delivered missives from Wates, the developer which is considering building houses on the fields, although it is emphasized in the letter that 'this is not a planning application.' Wates Development has appointed Curtin and Co. a specialist community company: "to ensure that communities are aware of, and benefit from, new development in their area." Despite the firm's assertion that even though it has already been in discussion with both Waverley Borough and Farnham Town Councils, a planning application has not been applied for, David Todd, of the Bourne Conservation Group, says he believes that Wates is at the pre-planning stage, adding that it is not the planning merits of the case but purely the likely environmental implications of the development which would need addressing. On this detail Mr. Todd has been meticulous in his homework (141 species of plant have been recorded and 396 species of animal in the Compton Fields area to date). He concluded: "If we determine that it (the development proposal) does require an Environmental Statement then we will have a further deadline to issue a Scoping Opinion (WA/2014/0013). The scoping opinion will outline the areas we consider will need addressing in an Environmental Statement."



The Harvest Mouse (*Micromys Minutes*) is now an endangered species.

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