# CUCKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Queen's Hall, High Street, Cuckfield, RH17 5EL**

## Item 13: Courtmead Road Bench

Geoff Goodman, Chairman of the Courtmead Road Residents Assocation, has been in touch regarding the location of a bench installed in commemoration of Connie Bolding, ex Chair of the Parish Council. I have established that the Parish Council arranged the installation of the bench and contributed funds towards the purchase. The details are outlined below:

The residents of Newstead (one of the houses in Courtmead Road) raised this with me because unfortunately since Halloween last year the bench has become the focus for some youths who have decided to congregate there late at night. The bench is directly in front of their house. Since then we have had various incidents of eggs being thrown at houses and also, in one case, a window being broken by a thrown stone. The police are aware of the situation. The residents of Newstead were getting fed up with the noise from these youths late into the night and asked if the bench could be removed. I said I would look into it because at that stage I didn't know who had responsibility for the bench.

So my questions for the parish council would be as follows:

1) If the residents wanted to have the bench removed clearly they cannot just decide that unilaterally so who would I need to contact in the Parish Council to ask permission to do that?
2) Or alternatively if the residents wanted to relocate the bench to another part of the road who could we ask?

By the way, in both cases the suggestion would be that the Courtmead Road residents pay for any costs involved so there would be no costs for the parish council to bear.

My personal view is that whilst I am sympathetic to the residents at Newstead I think that the bench should stay where it is. We have numerous older village residents walking through the road during the day who use the bench to rest so I feel it has a useful social function. Nevertheless my role is to represent the views of the road not just my own views! So if you could point me in the right direction on my 2 questions that would be great.