

CROW continues work on restoring Ruscombe pond



EIGHT young volunteers from the CROW group — Conserve Reading On Wednesdays — spent a day at Ruscombe pond last week continuing a restoration programme there.

They began dredging the pond and cut back much overhanging vegetation including a willow tree which needed pruning. Pond dipping showed a marked improvement in the number of species present in the pond since the work began last year.

Those who gave up their time to take part were Cliff Jordan, Tina Gower, Nick Clark, Richard Orton, Jenny Nachito, Janet Palmer, Andy Moody and Chris Baird.

The group will return to take some of the reeds out and continue thinning trees.

Meanwhile the Berkshire Conservation Volunteers have approached Ruscombe Parish Council to ask if they can include the pond in a training weekend on October 10 and 11. Chairman Mrs. Mary Mantel said she would be only too pleased to have more work done on the pond, which shortly should be officially owned by the council following the exchange of contracts with Tilbury Construction Ltd.

Pictured are members of the conservation group CROW hard at work dredging Ruscombe Pond as part of its ongoing restoration programme.

DEVELOPERS' APPEAL ALLOWED

Ratepayers to bear part cost of inquiry

It has now been formally confirmed by the Department of the Environment that the appeal by Costain Homes to build on land on the junction of the A4 and Wargrave Rd has been allowed and that part of the costs of the inquiry will have to be met by the ratepayers of Wokingham District.

Mr. J. R. Collyer, Inspector, concluded that "Wargrave Rd has a generally built-up appearance" and that "the present schemes would represent an acceptable form of small-scale rounding-off in this part of the village."

The Inspector also commented that he was satisfied that no significant overlooking or loss of amenity was

likely to occur to adjacent properties. While he recognised the strength of feeling about the issue of pedestrian safety involving school children, he noted that the highway authority did not object to the scheme and that no hazards for pedestrians had arisen at the Amberley Drive junction opposite.

He therefore granted planning permission for either 19 detached houses and garages or 16 detached houses and garages.



Costain Homes had also applied for a full award of costs as they considered Wokingham District Council's evidence was "insubstantial" and that it should not have

Gipsies stay at Orchard site

A GROUP of gipsies camped illegally on a lay-by on the A3032 in Ruscombe have remained beyond their eviction period and local people now fear that the closure of the approved Billingbear site in Wokingham for refurbishment may lead to pressure to expand the Twyford Orchard site.

The lay-by adjacent to the Twyford Orchard site is owned by Berkshire County Council and used for the storage of gravel for road repairs. A county council spokesman explained that access to the lay-by was gained with bolt-cutters breaking the chain, and that a highway eviction notice had been served on the gipsies.

The eviction notice expired on September 14, but as the travellers had a vehicle in for repair at a local garage they were given permission to remain until Friday. The vehicles were still on the site after the weekend.

Mrs. Mary Mantel, chairman of Ruscombe Parish Council, said she was very worried about the number of homes now on the Twyford Orchard site.

The site is licenced for 15 pitches yet for some time the number of homes has gradually increased. Now three new caravans have been moved in on the grass in the middle of the site which Mrs. Mantel feels is a direct result of the Billingbear site shutting.

A district council spokesman confirmed that while some notices to quit had been issued to Twyford Orchard residents, no court proceedings were yet being taken. He could not comment on whether the new travellers had come from the Billingbear site.

Comets seek new recruits

MORE boys aged between 12 and 14 are urgently needed by Twyford Comets Football Club.

The under 13s team, which takes boys aged between 12 and 13 years on September 1, 1987, trains on Friday evenings at a floodlit pitch in Palmer Park. Enquiries should be made to John Reid on Reading 691756.

The under 15s team, which takes boys aged between 14 and 15 years on September 1, 1987, trains on Saturday mornings at Twyford Recreation Ground. Enquiries should be made to Derek Clarke on Twyford 340567. Both teams play matches on Sundays.