

AGENDA ITEM 8 (8)

HIGHWAYS REPORT:

(1) The Clerk has written to Behdad Haratbar about future partnership opportunities between the parish Council and KHS. He will be on for a week beginning Oct 22 but has promised to respond on his return.

(2) Charles Findlay has emailed the Clerk saying:

Thank you for your letter. I am endeavouring to get the criteria of the work that my grant would sustain, in relation to Parish Councils.

Until I get these criteria, I would not be able to say yes or no to the Parish Council's ideas.

As I explained at the meeting, the wheels of Local Government finance move slowly, so don't let your Council get too excited!

(3) The Clerk has written to Paul Jackson, Head of Environmental Services at ABC (and Ray Wilkinson's line manager) requesting confirmation in writing that Gregory Court car park will be white lined this financial year and the installation of a barrier to protect the boundary fence will be progressed. She has also suggested a meeting to discuss the reasons why narrow yellow lining cannot be undertaken in Wye. No response has yet been received.

AGENDA ITEM 8 (10)

Tenterden & Rural Sites DPD UPDATE:

The Clerk returned the Confirmation Form relating to the proposed community workshop (see next two pages). There has been no response.

At a recent Parish Forum meeting Richard Alderton, Head of Planning at ABC indicated that because of delays over the Core Strategy, the proposed community workshops (which are the start of the Tenterden & Rural Sites DPD consultation process) are likely to be delayed until 2008. Wye is likely to require a day-long event.

Confirmation Sheet *(please return in envelope provided by 8th October 2007)*

Parish Council: WYE WITH HINXHILL

Would you like to undertake the workshop event? Yes

Which weekday afternoon/evening would be most appropriate? Wye with Hinxhill PC does not consider that a single afternoon or evening will be long enough to consider all the relevant issues. If the community workshop is to address not only the location of development sites in the parish, but also wider planning issues, such as local employment trends, open space and local community facilities – plus, for example, the results of the ongoing parish plan process, not to mention the impact of the current reduction in activity at the Wye Campus of Imperial College on the village – then a 3-hour session is simply unrealistic. Wye is unique in having a university campus in the parish and this alone adds a dimension that is lacking in all the other villages involved in the community workshop exercise, as well as in Tenterden. The Inspector examining the Core Strategy is concerned that the CS does not take into account the 'wildly fluctuating situation regarding Wye College or how its retention, said to be crucial, is to be achieved.' One method for dealing with this would be to develop an appropriate policy in the Tenterden & Rural Sites DPD and this policy would need to be part of the consultation process from the beginning. Unless Wye's community workshop is tailored to meet the distinct needs of the parish then the consultation exercise may not stand up to scrutiny.

Wye with Hinxhill Parish Council would like to suggest that Ashford Borough Council enters into discussions with the Parish Council to ensure that an appropriate way forward can be achieved. It is understood that at the Parish Forum meeting on 3 October 2007 Richard Alderton stated in public that larger villages like Wye would have a day-long workshop. Wye with Hinxhill Parish Council welcomes this statement and strongly urges that such a workshop should take place on a Saturday. If it were scheduled on a week-day then it would immediately exclude people with day-time working or family commitments and this would almost certainly jeopardise the workshop's validity.

Do you wish to suggest a venue? The Village Hall would be a possibility, as would the Methodist Church Hall. These get very booked up towards Christmas so finding a suitable date may prove difficult. There are lecture theatres available at Imperial College but villagers may not feel altogether comfortable debating their future in such surroundings.

Who will be the contact person between you and us?

Name : Jenny Oram

Telephone Number: 01227 700204

Email: wye.parishclerk@btinternet.com

Address: Priors, Church Lane, Waltham, Kent, CT4 5SQ.

Any additional comments:

On 23 August 2007 Wye with Hinxhill Parish Council wrote to Daniel Carter explaining Phase 1 of Wye with Hinxhill's Parish Plan process and included a portfolio of relevant documents. The Parish Council indicated that it supports as inclusive a participatory process as possible so that the views of the parish can be fully represented. It also indicated what it considers the appropriate duration and timing of any community workshop should be. It believes that participants should be as well informed as possible and suggested how this might be facilitated; it offered support to run a day-long event on a Saturday and it indicated a willingness to meet with those organising the workshop to discuss how to work in partnership. No response to this letter has been received.

The need for a more substantial full-day workshop is further justified on the basis of the emerging results of the Parish Plan's Phase 1 questionnaire, which raise a wide range of issues, including, for example,

- road access and infrastructure
- traffic management (safety, congestion and parking)
- flooding and drainage
- environmental/landscape protections
- capacity of infrastructure (sewage, water)

It seems overly ambitious to try and address all these and other interlocking issues, not least those relating to Wye Campus, in the space of three hours.

Finally the Parish Council would like to know what is expected of it in terms of helping organise the community workshop so that it can plan effectively.

If you have any queries regarding this sheet please contact Carly Skillett on 01233330229 or carly.skillett@ashford.gov.uk

AGENDA ITEM 8 (12)

PUBLIC UPDATES BY THE PARISH CLERK:

The Clerk and Cllr P Morris are meeting on 5 November to discuss website issues. The Clerk has set up a contact page for the parish council on wyeweb but is finding the 4,000 character limit to the pages on the mini-site a constraint.

KCC's site for parish councils is being refurbished and the following information has been received.

Introducing the New Parish Website!

EIS have been making improvements to the KCC Parish Website service and is pleased to announce that the new and improved sites will start to be introduced from early November.

The sites still contain all the existing features such as Minutes and Agendas, Diary Dates, Useful Links etc but will also now include extra facilities. You will be able to change the appearance of your site with different backgrounds and layouts and add a messaging forum that enables you to interact and publish comments and questions from members of the public. There is also a new site search facility and an improved Hit Counter. You will also be pleased to hear that you can now copy and paste directly from Word into the site and it will automatically clean up any conflicting codes but still retain the formatting. The new email accounts will also significantly reduce the amount of 'junk' mail being received.

EIS have taken on board comments and suggestions to make the new websites more manageable and user friendly. We are no longer using MCMS and are instead using an in-house developed system which makes it easier for us to support you and to add new features.

To view an example site, please click on this link – <http://kpcsample.kcn.org.uk/>

The new website and support for it will continue to be free of charge. If you have not already taken up the opportunity of having a free Parish website then please contact us.

Implementation of New Websites

With 210 Town and Parish web sites in use the move to the new websites will need to be phased over a period of three months starting in November. For each website it will be necessary to have a short period of time where all work on your existing site is stopped to enable EIS to manually move the content over to the new site. An email will be sent to you in advance to agree when this can take place.

Training

The new system has been designed to be easy to use and training materials will be provided to those who have joined the initiative. EIS will be offering training at EIS Centre, Oxford Road, Maidstone.

The Clerk has been in touch with the organisers and provisionally booked a place on a training session on 8 November.

Action The Parish Council to:

- 1) Authorise the Clerk to attend a training session on KCC's parish council website**
- 2) In anticipation of the Parish Council's further involvement in website activities, the Clerk would like formal authorisation to issue information on behalf of the Parish Council to ensure that the public is kept accurately informed of important issues via these means. This would include placing information on wyeweb's Home Page.**