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Cllr David de Saxe
Chairman

23 August 2007

Mr Daniel Carter
Policy Planner
Planning and Development
Ashford Borough Council
Civic Centre
Tannery Lane
Ashford
TN23 1PL

Dear Mr Carter

**The Local Development Framework -
Consultation with Wye with Hinxhill Parish on Tenterden & Rural Areas DPD**

As you know, Wye with Hinxhill is developing a Parish Plan with involvement right across the parish. The process was launched at a meeting in March 2007. Following your initial communications it was expected that consultations with parishes (on the Tenterden & Rural Areas DPD) would take place in July this year. As a consequence the Parish Plan Steering Group that was set up in April decided to divide the Parish Plan process into two phases.

The first phase has focused on issues affecting Wye within the framework of the T&RA DPD. To obtain the views of the people of the parish on future developments in Wye, a questionnaire survey has been carried out covering a range of issues, notably: housing; employment and business; community services and parking. The response rate has been excellent (60%), and some clear and positive views have emerged on the nature and scale of future development. This data and the opinions of the parish will be of great value to the planning process. Once the results have been validated by the community, a full report will be published. The questionnaire, as well as other documentation and reports to the village on the Parish Plan process, can be found on www.wyeweb.org (see Directory). A portfolio of relevant documents is also enclosed with this letter for your records.

From earlier communications the Parish Council had understood that the consultation in Wye on the T&RA DPD, and in particular on the list of proposed sites, would be likely to take the form of a day-long event, with the date, venue and participants agreed with the parish. From our telephone conversation in July it became clear that you are intending to hold the event on a mid-week evening, following a standard format for all parish consultations, and that details of the

sites proposed for development will not be revealed until shortly before the consultation exercise.

The Parish Plan Steering Group and the Parish Council feel strongly that a participatory process for a broad range of interested people is essential to fully represent the views of the parish and that they, with Ashford Borough Council, have a shared interest in making the consultation successful. In consequence the Parish Council would like to put forward the following proposals:

- The Parish Council considers it essential that it receives copies of all documents related to the consultation, including the list of proposed sites and developments, at least one month before the consultation event so that people can come to the consultation meeting prepared and well informed. Ashford Borough Council will have data for the wider focus already considered and quantified through the questionnaire that comprises Phase 1 of the Parish Plan process.
- The Parish Plan Steering Group would like to offer support, via the Parish Council, to run a day-long event, organised on a Saturday to involve the greatest number and broadest range of local people. This event would allow local people to view information and express their views on the proposed sites, and enable the options for sites to be assessed in the light of the results of the parish questionnaire survey. The Steering Group could run the first half of the day with Ashford Borough Council's staff and facilitator running the community workshop in the afternoon.
- When the dates for the workshop are discussed could you please consult with the Parish Council so that the interests of both Ashford Borough Council *and* people in the parish are taken into account. A weekday, daytime meeting, would not be appropriate as it would preclude too many individuals.
- Representatives from the Parish Council and the Parish Plan Steering Group will be delighted to meet in advance with those organising the event, including the facilitator, so that they can provide support and work jointly with Ashford Borough Council staff.

The Parish Council very much hopes that you will support these proposals, and would like to re-affirm its determination, along with that of the Parish Plan Steering Group, to support the process of consultation.

The Parish Council looks forward to hearing from you shortly.

Yours sincerely

Dr Jenny Oram
Clerk to Wye with Hinxhill Parish Council

cc Ian Coulson, Chair, Parish Plan Steering Group
 Yew Trees, Scotton Street, Wye, TN25 5BZ