

Shadoxhurst Village Forum

Notes from the 7th Village Forum Meeting held in the Pavilion on Tuesday 6th December 2016

- *To maintain the quality of life for all in the village*
- *To generate issues that could be put to the Parish Council*
- *To re-kindle community spirit and engender friendship*
- *To build a social feeling in the village*
- *To suggest things that will bring people together*
- *With a Vision to create and develop a positive community spirit.*

1. Welcome

Over 30 villagers attended the meeting. David Ledger chairing the meeting welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for coming.

2. Discussion following the last meeting

A summary of the notes from the last meeting had been previously circulated and there was no further addition to them.

3. Village Vision

David said the Parish Council has a leadership role but it is important that we listen to residents. We have had a public meeting earlier in the year, but we want to take this further forward. There is a need to talk about specific development but we would like to establish a vision for the village that everyone can share. We have started the process and wish to listen tonight to thoughts. Although some of the following comments strayed into the development elements of the agenda, they are broadly included here as follows:

- There is pressure on all villages for house building
- We want to prevent the loss of open space
- The house Frogmore has a history of flooding. Too many built houses will lead to flooding
- The EA can say an area can flood but has no power to stop development
- It will help us to get information and construct a history about flooding incidents
- There have been four flooding incidents around Frogmore in the last 20 years
- The land rear of Poplar Cottage at the top end of Woodchurch Road has been flooded in the past too
- There will always be a threat of flooding due to the clay soil we have
- Chilmington Green development will push wildlife our way as it is squeezed out
- We need 1 and 2 bed roomed houses in the village as children have to leave the village to be able to get a house
- Farley Close was specifically built for Shadoxhurst and local people but now the Housing Association offer the houses to anyone

- We don't know the full impact that Chilmington Green will have both of people and traffic affecting the village
- We should wait and see the impact of that before we build more in the village
- It was felt that a positive strength is that we don't have facilities in the village
- Also a strength is that we have self employed and people able to work from home and not everyone needs to rely on Ashford for their work
- There is a vision is for a good community spirit
- But the village is a rat run and how do we protect ourselves from this?
- The seeking of a 30mph may help although man thought that vehicles will still speed
- A strong community spirit can help us have capacity to protect the village

There was a good turn out by people who care about the village. Everyone was thanked for their input.

4. Appeal Site (Land between The Hollies and Park Farm Close)

David explained the appeal deadline for comments is 23rd December. Villagers have indicated there is no support for large development, and at 15 it is large and is in a strategic position in the village. It is not a case of either the pub field or this site, without giving full consideration to the merits and demerits we could end up with both. It is important to highlight the problems. A picture was provided to show a number of development threats to the centre of the village. We need to deal with one at a time, but also bear in mind the cumulative effect. There was a genuine desire to Keep Shadoxhurst Rural. A letter that can be used by people to raise their objections is available and most indicated that wish to be emailed with a copy.

Comments made:

- We need to keep as wide as a buffer between us and Chimington Green as possible
- If this appeal is allowed, it will fill half the field which will make the second half of the field easier to fill with houses in the future
- Development creeps out as Chilmington creeps towards us
- It is an important strategic field
- There is wind of the field behind Wymondum being developed and 30 houses going in there. This would be devastating as villagers keep shire horses there
- The speed of traffic past The Hollies was highlighted plus the large lorries now using the village
- Access onto Woodchurch Road is an important consideration, two houses were rejected on appeal solely on access grounds. In the end they had to combine onto an existing house access.
- This is a technical argument that could be a precedent at this part of the road
- The gap and the countryside views are important as is the green corridor
- Flooding is a big issue as mentioned earlier, you can't destroy water, only move it around from one place to another.
- The wetlands at the Finberry development won't alleviate the problems they will always have there
- New residents at Oak View have been refused to sign up at the Kingsnorth Surgery and have had to go to Hamstreet
- Two sales at Oak View have fallen through due to the poor quality of Broadband

- Also reported that VFast have refused to take any more customers for the time being due to capacity

5. King's Head Field

David reported that a new letter and layout for the houses has been submitted and uploaded for the site showing that the intention to proceed is very much present. The layout is quite different and the applicant has tried to accommodate some of the criticisms and wishes of some. The Parish Council put in a detailed submission to the consultation on the Draft Local Plan raising objections. We must be vigilant that both methods of application and local plan are very current.

There is still a need to obtain details of past uses. We have heard about the cub jamborees held there for five years, plus the fete in 2004 where the village questionnaires were filed in.

6. Traffic Counts

These were carried out on the 1st December, with thanks to those who helped. David circulated a preliminary sheet concerning the key hours of 8-9am and 4-5pm showing the movements at the three junctions covered. Numbers were still being crunched and more information will follow. It gives a good starting point and might be repeated in Spring. It did show a bit of an increase over the traffic counted for the appeal site in March 2015 in the corresponding hours and day.

7. Showcasing Shadoxhurst

There has been some good interest in this and is provisionally set for the 25th March 2017

8. Village Updates

David said that the work on the village planters in the hall car park is completed with grateful thanks to Colin and Val for their sterling work. He hoped everyone got the newsletter (a couple hadn't), so we need to tighten up on deliveries.

9. Website changes

This had been updated although not yet finished. Those that have seen it said it was a great improvement. Need to tie in with the Facebook page. Any thoughts on what else can go on there are welcomed.

10. Any other business

The new Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) will be attending the next Parish Council meeting if anyone would like to come along and meet him.

11. Date of next meeting

This will be on the 5th January 2017. David thanked everyone for coming, wished everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year and closed the meeting.