

Shadoxhurst Village Forum

Notes from the 10th Village Forum meeting of 2017 held in the Pavilion on Monday 11th December 2017

- 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 and Introductions

30 people attended the meeting.

Cheryl welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2) Open Forum

Cheryl asked for any items for discussion later in the meeting and items raised were possible purchases by the Forum, and major changes to reduce bus routes.

3) Rural Means Rural

Forum Member Sally Cunningham introduced this as the Aldington Residents scheduled to speak were unable to attend the meeting. Sally explained it originated with something called the Saxon Shore DIG which is a group of Saxon Shore residents looking at the various sites put forward for development in the villages in the Saxon Shore Ward.

They considered that there is not much protection in the current local planning process. Aldington in particular has had a large amount of development with more still on the cards, they got a Planning Consultant to set up a Landscape Protection Policy. Although this work was originally for Aldington, neighbouring villages and Parishes have got onto the idea and it is now widely put forward for the Saxon Shore Ward. This was fed into the Local Plan consultation, however ABC who have just agreed the Local Plan (LP) to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, have decided not to include the LLP. David interposed by saying our own Parish submission included an amended version of the LLP, but this was also not included in the Draft LP.

Sally said that the RMR campaign has come out of all this and there is a groundswell of unhappy residents where development appears to be 'acceptable' by ABC. They held public meetings at Aldington and Bromley Green where there was also drop in sessions to help residents to write to Government Ministers about the injustice of not being able to be heard. They are trying to get the LLP adopted by Ministers into the National Planning Policy Framework.

Although we couldn't show the slides, Sally circulated copies (these will be circulated with the minutes). The maps were explained. It included where the Parish Council is considering a green buffer around the village, however this is still very much work in progress. A petition for RMR was also circulated, this is not just for local people, the RMR team hope it can be Ashford, even Kent wide. They are filming local residents at Aldington expressing their views. This includes Paul O'Grady and the results will be put on the RMR Facebook Page. We need lots of numbers to sign but also good PR to take this forward. So far there have been about 100 residents that have written to the Ministers. Each village has similar problems, but each has its own special characteristics and we need to identify these that we wish to keep. We also need to maintain our rural status.

Comments were made that the Ashford website does not give the whole picture about proposed development. If everyone saw the whole thing, people would become very worried. It was suggested that we form a Shadoxhurst Action Group and need an event to explain all the problems. We can use Facebook and social media to get the word out. Also, a Shadoxhurst strategy is needed to establish how things are taken forward.

It was questioned whether there was a need for any more housing in Shadoxhurst or is it all driven by money? Perhaps need should be tested. The last time this happened is about 2008. We heard that an announcement today stated that mortgage protection will be lifted in 2020. It was also pointed out that HS1 was being promoted to increase use, and it is driving housing growth, indeed each seems to be driving the other. We are becoming a 'Commuter Village' as we are adjacent to Ashford.

We are told that the borough population is increasing maybe by 30,000 in the coming years, but actually might it be decreasing as so called 'baby boomers' die?

4) Notes from the Previous Meeting

There was one slight change made to the notes from the meeting on 16 /9/17 clarifying a point made by Oliver Welch concerning the use of 'Nextdoor' which is not monitored by either Neighbourhood Watch or the PCSOs. It was suggested that the only way of reporting non-urgent incidents need to be reported to **101**.

Carol was thanked for doing the minutes of the meeting.

4.1) Matters Arising from the minutes

Speed Issues in the village.

David Ledger said that KCC were consulting over the reduction of the speed to 30mph, although there was an error that Duck Lane was included, but not shown on the map. Please write and support this so that KCC know they are doing the right thing. We also heard about HGV problems including Polish lorries down Duck Lane going to premises that don't have planning permission. Residents were asked to get photographic evidence of the problems and keep records.

5) Terms of Reference

Cheryl has drafted some Terms of Reference and these will be shared with the Parish Council and brought back to the February meeting.

6) Matters Arising

6 a) Parish / Village Update:

- i) Local Plan/planning Issues/Housing/PROW

David gave an update and said that there will be an 'drop-in' event promoted by GreenVolt Development Ltd on Thursday afternoon. The information we have is that they propose up to 200 houses. We need to know what they are planning.

The footpaths (Public Rights of Way) on the pub field were discussed. We recently had a site meeting to discuss with representatives of KCC, Parish Council, Forum, Ramblers Association and the developer who wanted to divert one and 'extinguish' the other. We made a strong opposition to any extinguishment, rejected using the proposed tarmac pavement within the development as no solution at all and suggested diverting both around the outside edge of the field. It would help with drainage and the maintenance of the hedging to be retained. We made a good case but still await a reply on this.

[Post meeting note: KCC are recommending extinguishment of AW 327 due apparently to ecological considerations, but re-routing of AW 328 around the periphery of the development, and we have until 12 January 2018 to respond. There is no mention of re-routing before works commence or assurance that the PROW can continue safely throughout the course of the housing development, as we would endeavour to keep a route available throughout this period and beyond].

- ii) The Utilities Sub Committee is being put together but has no date for the next meeting as we are awaiting a reply to a letter written to Southern Water setting out a number of questions to which we wanted answers, many in relation to the pub field and village development capacity. The date will be circulated to the Forum once set.
- iii) The Parish website is still undergoing improvements

6 b) Upcoming Events:

The Coffee Club has its last get together on the 19th, and will have a festive theme although is fully booked. It was reported that Sheila had embroidered table cloths for the Coffee Club and a vote of thanks was recorded. The Coffee Club resumes on the 9th January.

The Quiz on 13th January was featured and Karen reported that there were three definite and one possible tables were booked so far. We need more to sign up, so it will need to be put on Facebook and Nextdoor to advertise. Just as a reminder, bring your own drinks/nibbles, £5 per ticket or £30 for a table of up to 6 persons. Contact Karen on 732276 for tickets/further details.

Peter had found a source of equipment for holding a Race Night, but we need one or more volunteers to work it all. Please get in touch with him on 732901 if you can help.

It was agreed to hold another Murder Mystery night with the **28th April** suggested. This will be confirmed in due course. It was suggested that a hand-held microphone be employed so everyone could hear the cross-examination part. The audience appeared to get a bit louder as the drink flowed!! It was suggested that the actors work better with food, so we would investigate booking the Fish and Chip van to attend. It was then up to the audience if they wanted to eat. There may be a minimum number required to get the van to attend. This will be investigated. **Post Meeting update:** The date of the 28th has now been **confirmed** and as the inaugural Murder Mystery night was a great success and a sell out, so tickets will probably go quickly (for tickets, please contact Lis on 732901).

6 c) Club News

The History Club (mornings) meets on Thursday this week. Both this and the Sewing Club (evenings) are meeting fortnightly and the first meeting of the new year for both coincide on Thursday the 11th January, at 10.30 and 7.00, in the Pavilion and the Village Hall, respectively.

6 d) Village Fete 2018

The Sub-Committee chaired by Ian will meet at 7.30 Wednesday 17th January. We do need more volunteers for the next one, there are a lot of jobs and we need to give people a break in the middle, and it would be good if people could step forward to offer an hour or two for the event, even at this early stage. Please contact Ian on 732084 to discuss/volunteer. The meeting will be held in the Pavilion as the Scout Hut is in use.

7) Showcasing Shadoxhurst for Business.

Cheryl is organising this event and the date was set at Saturday 21st April 2018. If you know of any businesses who may be interested to join in, or indeed you want to help with refreshments on the day, please let Cheryl know on 733124.

8) Super Fast Broadband

Carol was unwell and could not attend, so we could not have an update. We shall see if we can get an update for when the minutes go out.

9) AOB

9.1 Commemorations

The 150th anniversary of the opening of the Methodist's Chapel is likely to be in July so we need to get in touch with them to see how we can mark it. Also, the 100th anniversary of the last day of the First World War will be on Sunday 11th

November. This coincides with Remembrance Sunday so there could be a religious and non-religious ceremony the same morning, we will have to sort out the timings.

There was a discussion about a memorial and it is understood that the Church clock was commissioned as a memorial but there is no information to say this is the case. There was some confusion about who did and didn't come back from the First World War and we need to research this. We need to also ask when the Methodist Church erected the plaque to those who served. It was thought it is an ideal project for the History Club to get this straightened out, then we can plan what we want the memorial to mark.

9.2 NHS Meeting

Cheryl attended a meeting that was planning the future of medical provision in East Kent. This was to establish and outline what the hospital should be catering for, up to 2022. It involved the four Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and the East Kent Hospital Trust. It was a public meeting and her notes made at the time (they are not minutes) will be appended to the notes from this meeting. David thanked her for taking the trouble to attend for the village.

9.3 Spending the money raised at village events

There was a discussion about spending some of the money, this included having display boards that clubs could use and buying a digital projector for use at meetings. It was agreed that Peter investigate the projector options in a price range of £350 - £450, and the Forum voted 75/25% in favour of such a purchase. As the Forum will not meet until 22 February, Peter will liaise with David and Cheryl in order to get on and purchase this.

9.4 Bus Routes

There is a proposal for some 75 bus routes across the County to be axed, which for us locally includes the 2A and 11. It is believed that the final decision will be made in May 2018, so perhaps we had better use it more, but certainly we should raise objections on behalf of the many young and older folk that depend on the services. It was agreed that Cheryl will write to Cllr Matthew Balfour, KCC Cabinet member for highways, to register our alarm at being cut off from the outside world, for those in our community who neither want to drive or who cannot drive.

9.5 Parking at Rectory Bungalows

The Parish Council is talking to the residents there about solving the parking issues around Church Lane. This is very much work in progress.

10) Dates of Next Forum Meetings

Thursday 22nd February 2018, 7pm in the Pavilion

Tuesday 27th March 2018, 7pm in the Pavilion

Thursday 17th May 2018, 7pm in the Pavilion