

## Shadoxhurst Village Forum

### Notes from the 8<sup>th</sup> Village Forum meeting of 2017 held in the Village Hall on Thursday 14th September 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

24 villagers attended the meeting.

Cheryl welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 2) Guest Speaker: Dr James Kelly

Cheryl introduced Dr James Kelly from Kingsnorth Medical Practice. Dr Kelly gave an overview of how contracts & funding were organised for healthcare. He explained the rationale for the way that Kingsnorth Medical Practice operates. KMP very much values the input and support from their virtual PPG of over 1000 patients and the Friends of Kingsnorth Medical Practice, who also undertake fundraising for items of equipment which improves the patient experience.

There is a national shortage of GPs & the government is having to recruit from abroad. Also, national policy is now for care closer to home but the money doesn't follow. There will need to be a more diverse workforce in the surgery, nurses, paramedics & other clinicians are being upskilled to work alongside GPs, although it's the important doctor/patient trust that keeps the NHS afloat. Surgeries in Folkestone are closing their lists. There is going to be a £30 million black hole in East Kent over the coming years. It is unsound to take work out of hospitals until primary care is solid.

Regarding the proposed Chilmington Green development and what amounts to a couple of GP consulting rooms in the community hub, Dr Kelly is of the view they are unfit for purpose, and that what Chilmington needs is something along the lines of Estuary View (an excellent miniature hospital) in Faversham. The Chilmington Green bid which Kingsnorth Medical Practice put time and money into working this up, has now been taken over by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), although they haven't published any plans yet. Kingsnorth Medical Practice were persuaded into moving onto the national GMS contract (rather than the PMS contract) which means no increase in funding for at least two years hence. The partners were very aware that they need to proceed cautiously now, with less income overall as they would want to retain their staff. As a direct result, they have taken the decision that they will not be able to take any patients from the new Chilmington development. There would have been a

real risk to existing patients by taking on any new patients Existing patients from Chilmington Hamlet will of course remain on their list.

In response to a question from the audience as to what the individual patient can do to support their primary care providers, patient power can help to improve things – join the PPG at your Doctor’s surgery and get involved. Lobby the Health commissioners to ensure they request enough money for health from new developments, and that primary care is properly funded before care is devolved from hospitals.

Carol told everyone that the Chilmington Green Draft Community Development report had been presented to the Parish Council yesterday. The first residents are expected to move in during 2018 yet the appendices of the report say the community hub will provide for healthcare *but not until the occupation of 1800 homes*. When asked when that might be, we were told not until at least 2025. Looks like a big black hole in medical provision.

Dr Kelly answered several questions from forum members, and was thanked for speaking to us this evening.

### **3) Open Forum**

No one had any questions or issues they wanted to raise.

### **4) Notes from previous meeting**

There were no changes required to the notes from the meeting on 17/7/17.

### **5) Parish / Village update**

#### **5.1) Local Plan**

The Parish Council have sent a comprehensive reply to Ashford Borough Council’s Local Plan consultation on behalf of the village. The Local Plan is an important document which sets out Ashford Borough Council’s policy and delivery framework to enable them to meet their aims where they relate to planning and land use.

They want to build thousands of new houses and needless to say the Parish council is unhappy with many of the proposals, seeing them as unrealistic and detrimental to the quality of life for Shadoxhurst residents. They have made suggestions for improvements which they hope will be listened to. The Local Plan may come to a Public Inquiry in December, and the Parish council will make their representations to the inquiry.

## **5.2) Pub field site**

This planning application will be considered at the Planning committee meeting at the Civic centre next Wednesday at 7pm. The Officer's report is available to see online and recommends approval. Despite not yet having planning permission, work has already started on the field, they are cutting the grass and moving the animals. It feels like the case has always been pre-determined even though many people in the village do not want this special site to be built on. The Parish Council has also tried to negotiate for a bigger Green. Come along and support them next Wednesday, we're 1<sup>st</sup> on the agenda at 7pm.

Shadoxhurst Parish council is unhappy about the government dictating that so many houses should be built everywhere. In consultation with other parishes, they are preparing an open letter to the Housing minister and Secretary of State. All but three Parishes in the Borough have signed up to the letter.

## **6) FOI Request**

Replies received have been incomplete and raise more questions. It seems that no notes are kept of meetings between Ashford Borough Council Planners / councillors and Developers. Cheryl stated that planner Mark Chaplin has also said that there are **no rules or regulations** about contacting stakeholders during pre-application enquiries, and that the 2<sup>nd</sup> application for development on the field between Park Farm Close and The Hollies was treated as a pre-application. Cheryl is now waiting for a full reply, with a deadline of 21 September and will circulate this once it is available.

Another FOI has been sent to the Planning Inspectorate about the appeal, and on a broader theme, about how many ABC appeals actually go through to being heard on Appeal. Aileen said this information is available and reported to the Planning committee every quarter. Cheryl responded that the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol will easily be able to produce a few statistics to enable the Forum to take a view.

## **7) Harvest Fete Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 10am – 3pm on the Recreation Ground Hornash Lane.**

This is going to be a great fun day out for all the family. There's lots of attractions, including Morris dancing, beer tent, traditional games, face painting, archery, BBQ, craft stalls, classic cars, pony rides, story telling, owls and much more. Please come along with your friends & family and support us on the day, whatever the weather!!!

Anyone willing to make a cake or volunteer an hour of their time to help us on the day, please let Carol know (732084)

## **8) Upcoming Events**

Tickets are now available for the Murder Mystery evening at the Village hall on 14<sup>th</sup> October. (Phone Lis 732901)

Our Quiz Night date has been changed to avoid a clash with the pub quiz. The new date is 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018

A Race Night is in the process of being organised, provisional date is 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

## **9) Village Clubs**

Information about all our clubs is in the village newsletter and on the parish council website.

## **10) Neighbourhood Watch**

Peter Webb is kindly organising this. A preliminary meeting will be held to talk about what's happening & how to get involved.

## **11) Showcasing Shadoxhurst for Local Businesses.**

We held a showcasing event earlier this year for our local groups & clubs. We hope to do something similar, but for local businesses, probably next March or April.

## **12) Local Websites for Information**

David is in the process of collating useful websites, and the Parish website is being improved.

## **13) Superfast Broadband Update**

Carol told everyone she had received an update on the current situation from Kent County Council's Broadband team this week. There was good news and bad news. The cabinet at the north of Tally Ho road, Stubbs Cross was in the commissioning process and should go 'live' by the end of September. The same for the cabinet at Bethersden Rd/ Woodchurch road. This is good news for residents whose homes are linked to these cabinets. However, there are problems at the Hornash Lane/Woodchurch Rd cabinet and the Church Lane cabinet was damaged in a car accident this week. So neither of these cabinets are in the commissioning process yet, and they don't know how long it will take to get things fixed. Kent County Council say they are pushing Openreach to sort things out as quickly as possible.

#### **14) Car Parking in the Village Hall**

Car parking is generally meant to be for people using the Hall. Notes are being put on unauthorised vehicles.

#### **15) Fly Tipping**

Fly tipping on Blindgrooms Lane has been reported.

#### **16) Dates of Next Two Meetings**

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December