

Ash Parish News

March 2018



Fresh Plan For Ash!

The Ash Parish Neighbourhood Plan is continuing. The team has been working hard on collecting a wide range of information to support the Plan.

Some of you may not have heard about the Plan before. For others, this will be an update. This is where we are in the process and what the Plan aims to achieve.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan

It is a new type of planning document produced by the Parish. It is part of the government's approach to planning which aims to give local people more say in what happens within the Parish.

The Plan provides the local community with a powerful tool to guide the long-term future of the Parish from 2020 to 2037. The Plan will contain guidance and clear planning policies on how the Parish will develop to meet the employment, leisure, bio-diversity, health and housing needs of the community.

Where are we now

One of the key factors in developing the Plan is identifying where we are now. To do this the team has undertaken a wide range of data collection. These are the main areas.



Green Spaces

Green spaces are vital to the wellbeing of the community both for leisure and recreational purposes. To ensure these are retained, improved and increased, these spaces have been identified in the Plan.



Environment & Bio-diversity

The Parish is within the Site of Special Scientific Interest Impact Zone for Pegwell/Sandwich Bay and Stodmarsh Nature Reserve. This means that development in the Parish has a significant impact upon wildlife and the environment. A detailed assessment is being done to make sure the impact of changes can be monitored and managed effectively for the future.



Employment

To make sure the Parish remains vibrant, it is vital that there is local employment and that it can be expanded where possible. A detailed assessment has been made of what employment is currently provided and what plans there are to increase or decrease employment in the future.



Health & Leisure & Infrastructure

Provision within the Parish has been reviewed to see if they are matching the needs of the community, now and into the future. It covers many areas including schools, broadband and traffic.



Next Steps

Having collected the above information, we are now finishing the Neighbourhood Plan evidence documents. We will also set out the key objectives to deliver the vision for the Parish and the planning policies to make sure that vision is delivered from 2020 to 2037.

The Neighbourhood Plan Team is proposing to hold a public event in June, where the evidence and plan details will be on display. Come along and see what has been done so far and have your say in the process.

Chris Turner, Chair Ash Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Standing Committee and the NDP Steering Group.

You are invited to attend the Ash Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 23rd April 2018, 7.30pm

Ash Village Hall, Queen's Road, Ash

All are welcome and local government electors of the Parish of Ash are entitled to speak and vote. There will be a report from the Parish Council Chairman and an update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Ash. Representatives from local charities of the Ash United Charities, the Benevolent Fund, Resthaven Almshouses, the Frank Kingsland Trust, the Jack Foat Trust and the Ash Educational Charities will speak about what has been achieved over the last year. There will be reports from the Ash and Westmarsh Village Halls and the Cartwright and Kelsey School. The Kent County Councillor, Mrs. Chandler and the Dover District Councillors, Mr Bartlett and Mr Conolly will also give reports.

This is your opportunity to ask questions of all the speakers and to raise any matters about the parish.

You may send written resolutions concerned with parish matters, to be taken at the meeting, to the Clerk at clerk@ashpc.kentparishes.gov.uk by the close of business on Friday 6th April 2018.

Draft Minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish meeting and accounts will be available on the parish council website www.ashpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Contact The Council

Chairman

Councillor Graham Foat
Upper Goldstone Farm House
Cop Street, Ash CT3 2DN

Clerk

Mrs Christine Haggart
5 Fairview Road
Elvington CT15 4EP

Tel: 01304 832 909

clerk@ashpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

www.ashpc.kentparishes.gov.uk



Housing Needs

The Housing Needs Survey (July 2017) questionnaire was sent to every household within the Parish. From the replies, it identified that a number of properties are required and it is expected that they will be provided by the existing planned developments coming forward from Chequer Lane and the land south of Sandwich Road.



Character Assessment

To make sure new developments or alterations to existing premises fit into their location, it is important to identify the main characteristics of the areas where they are located. This assessment has described the key features in 10 distinctive areas of the Parish.

Thank you to Richard Palmer and Kelly Lott who took the photos.

Ash Parish Council Chairman's Report 2018

Ash Parish Council is responsible for the recreation ground, the allotments and the toilets (but not the sports pavilion), the War Memorials at ASH and WESTMARSH, five bus shelters and several seats and litter bins.

A new gate has been installed at the north end of the recreation ground adjoining Queen's Road. This will bring added security to the ground and also reduce damage by vehicles to the grass each side of the road leading to the pavilion. Pound Corner has been improved with the installation of two new benches.

Planning and associated problems have given the Council a huge increase of work and also much extra expense. One of the plans that came to the Council was for two new Almshouses adjoining the four existing ones in Queen's Road. This, your Council supported and hopefully, these will be built in the not too distant future as this size of house is much needed.

Our District Council (Dover) is forging smaller alliances with Thanet and Canterbury. This is being done to save money, hopefully. Dover District Council are reducing their council members from 45 to 32. This will of course save money but will mean that for every three Councillors now there will only be two. The work load will be much heavier and how will the standard of service we now receive survive?

There will be a litter day on the 14th July when all residents will be encouraged to clean outside their property and also help to walk the paths around the village clearing rubbish. Equipment will be provided.

During the year Stagecoach brought out new timetables. The affect on Ash is minimal in that we still have three buses an hour to Canterbury and Sandwich but Ash has no direct route to Staple or Woodnesborough. Also, the 13 and 13A routes have been renumbered 43 but this becomes the 81 if one wants to travel to Deal. An extra route has been added so that one can travel from Ash direct to Westwood Cross but unfortunately not to the QEQM hospital.

During the year the Ash Post Office was closed and although the Parish Council understands that negotiations are taking place no definite decision has been taken about where a future Post Office might be.

The biggest change for Ash was proposed by the Cabinet of Dover Council when they raised the subject of pay parking in the large rural villages with a District Council car park. This proposal has been opposed by all the villages and for the time being is not going ahead.

There is a problem at Cop Street with water flowing from a pipe onto the road. This is now the second winter that we have had to endure what could be a disaster if ice was formed. The problem is that Southern Water and Kent County Council are unable to agree on whose responsibility it is to solve the problem. As a short-term solution, Kent

County Council has pushed a bag of salt up the pipe so that the water will not freeze. Isn't modern technology wonderful?

The Council is very concerned that Public Rights of Way in the Parish are not always reinstated within the two weeks required or even at all. The situation is getting better but more needs to be done.

Last autumn, the Council was approached by local animal owners who around Guy Fawkes night had their animals frightened more than usual. The residents who had let off their fireworks had as required notified neighbours that they would do so. The problem seems to be that some residents are buying more powerful fireworks than in the past. The Council understands that the Government are looking into this problem.

Parking in the village has become at times nearly impossible both in the car parks and on the streets. Illegal parking on yellow lines is the worst problem as this leads to jams which cause buses to be delayed and tempers to be lost.

Planning issues that the Council has dealt with in the parish have been so complicated and time consuming that the Council has now advertised for an Assistant Clerk to enable the Council to function efficiently. Several of the planning applications have gone to appeal which is very time consuming and costly to the Council.

Thanks are due to the writers of ONLOOKER for the Parish magazine, also to our Environment Officer, Andrew and our Clerk, Christine who during the last year has faced an even heavier workload than last year which was the heaviest known to me in all the time that I have been a Councillor.



Graham Foat, Chairman Ash Parish Council
Email: clerk@ashpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Ash Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 23rd April 2018, 7.30pm

Ash Village Hall, Queen's Road, Ash

All are welcome and local government electors of the Parish of Ash are entitled to speak and vote.

AGENDA

- Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th April 2017, to be approved and signed.
- To receive reports and take questions:
 - from the Parish Council Chairman Cllr Foat
 - on audited Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31/3/2017
 - on un-audited Parish Council Receipts & Payments for the year ended 31/3/2018
 - on the Ash Neighbourhood Development Plan from Ash Parish Council Cllr Turner
- Reports from and questions to the local charities and trusts:
 - Ash United Charities, Benevolent Fund, Resthaven Almshouses
 - Frank Kingsland Trust
 - Jack Foat Trust
 - Ash Educational Charities
- Ash and Westmarsh Village Halls: Reports & Questions.
- Cartwright and Kelsey School: Report & Questions.
- Any resolutions for which written notice has been given.
- Kent County Councillor, Mrs Sue Chandler: Report and Questions.
- Dover District Councillors, Mr Trevor Bartlett, Mrs Sue Chandler and Mr Mike Conolly: Report and Questions.
- Any other business concerned with parish affairs.

Cllr Graham Foat
Chairman, Ash Parish Council

26th March 2018

Ash Parish Council			
Receipts & Payments 2017 – 2018			
Actual		Estimated	Budget
Mar - 17		Mar - 18	2018/19
£		£	£
96,465	Opening balances - all bank accounts	110,292	121,427
RECEIPTS			
8,184	VAT refund	4,180	2,602
419	Allotment rents	433	435
67	Sale of books	36	54
93	Bank interest	84	100
7	Rents / miscellaneous	4	15
66,336	Precept	73,621	76,294
1,743	Council Tax Support Grant	1,015	0
13,174	Grants	950	0
90,023	TOTAL	80,323	79,500
PAYMENTS			
<u>Administration:</u>			
595	Inspections / audit fees	628	828
29,408	Employment (2018 Ass Clerk)	31,279	37,000
1,417	Insurance	1,500	1,600
601	Postage / stationery / telephone / broadband	638	850
285	IT & equipment (2018 £600 from Reserves)	0	700
601	Room hire	567	840
1,260	Subscriptions	1,362	1,600
495	Staff training	119	1,000
363	Chairman's allowance / Cllr expenses & training	132	640
78	Bank charges	72	78
5,693	Neighbourhood Development Plan (2018 from Reserves)	4,701	4,000
493	Newsletters	0	400
3,250	Donations / grants	3,666	4,400
8,112	Contribution to DDC public conveniences	7,437	8,300
0	Planning advice	4,492	4,500
0	Traffic calming (2018 from Reserves)	2,251	15,000
<u>Maintenance:</u>			
263	Repairs / renewals of bins, seats etc	269	700
68	Pound Corner & Village	1,254	1,100
114	Equipment	508	550
<u>Recreation Ground:</u>			
3,299	Mowing, etc	3,361	4,275
12,783	New play equipment	0	600
0	Safety surfaces (2018 from Reserves)	0	8,000
2,194	Repairs / renewals	1,213	1,000
0	Tree surgery (2018 £500 from Reserves)	880	1,038
644	Toilet block (2018 Electrical Work)	257	987
4,180	VAT on purchases	2,602	7,200
76,196	TOTAL	69,188	107,186
110,292	TOTAL CARRIED FORWARD	121,427	93,741
2018 Reserves: Election, S137, Contgcy, Rec Grd, PROW		16,560	
Ring Fenced Reserves S106, NDP 2019, Green Spaces		16,000	
66,484	Prior Years' Budget & EMR Reserves	70,949	
43,808	General Reserves	50,478	61,181