

Ash Parish News

March 2019



NDP Plan For Ash!

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

The Ash Parish Neighbourhood Plan is continuing. There have been some delays outside our control. The main ones were the late issue of the new National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPF) and the government changing the rules for the calculation of housing numbers. This happened after we had completed our housing survey and so we had to undertake a further review. We are now making good progress and are confident we will meet our timetable of completing the draft Ash NDP by Spring 2020.

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.



Housing Needs

Following the Local Housing Needs survey in 2017, we have undertaken a detailed analysis using national and local data to identify the number, type, tenure and affordability of the housing required over the plan period. We are currently discussing this with Dover District Council to make sure it is in line with the District's needs and policies.



Character Assessment & Design Guide

The Character Assessment has been completed. A team is now writing a design guide for the parish. This will identify the key design characteristics of the buildings in the parish. It will include guidance notes to help individuals and developers understand what is needed to maintain the character of the parish and how to incorporate this aim into new developments. It also includes standards, for example, on light emissions and the protection and enhancement of bio-diversity and wildlife.

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



Green Spaces

This document has been completed and is now being incorporated into the DDC new Dover Green Infrastructure Strategy.



Environment & Bio-diversity

This document is almost completed. It has identified a number of rare and endangered species within the parish. They require additional protection from development. Details about these species have been shared with national bodies for ratification and on-going surveillance and protection.



Employment

This document has been completed. It has led the team to review a number of issues including IT infrastructure and in particular broadband coverage. Interestingly, excluding businesses, there are over 70 people working from home in the parish who are dependent on good IT links. Working with Kent County Council and providers, we have identified areas of poor connectivity within the parish and are aiming to develop a strategy to improve connectivity.



Health & Leisure & Infrastructure

We are actively working with the Ash GP surgery to identify where the plan can support them. This includes improving the GP facilities which could be funded from Section 106 contributions from larger housing developments. Additionally, we have completed a survey of all the sports and leisure clubs within the parish to identify their needs. Again, the aim is to try and support these groups by securing funds from developments.



Next Steps

Delays have meant there are a number of changes to our timetable. The first draft Ash NDP has under-gone an external, undefended review and is currently being amended. We expect to issue the second draft to DDC for their consideration in the summer. This will be followed by an independent examination (which is part of the process) before going to a parish referendum in Spring 2020.

During the next twelve months, there will be a number of exhibitions and a public meeting which you are urged to attend. There will also be leaflets delivered to every household for you to comment on. This will be your chance to have a say in what happens in the parish over the next 17 years.

The dates for the events will be published on the Parish Council website, the noticeboards and in the Ash Parish magazine. You can also contact the Clerk on clerk@ashpc.kentparishes.gov.uk for more information.

Chris Turner, Chair Ash Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Committee

You are invited to attend the Ash Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 15th April 2019, 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 Ash 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, Mrs Chandler 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 Monday 1st April 2019.

Draft Minutes of the 2018 Annual Parish meeting and accounts will be available on the parish council website www.ashpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Contact The Council

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