

Ash News

April 2013



Action on poor parking



New parking restrictions being considered

Many local residents are complaining to the Parish Council about inconsiderate parking of cars and commercial vehicles. Footpaths are being blocked; driveways obstructed and views at junctions badly restricted. Buses are having problems getting through the centre of the village.

The Council is therefore looking at a number of possible measures that will ease the situation. These include:

- Double yellow lines on the south side of The Street from the junction of New Street to Moat Lane.
- Bollards on the footpath by the public toilets (see photo above).
- Double yellow lines on the junction of White Post Gardens and on parts of New Street.

There will be a map on display at the Annual Parish Meeting showing the ideas being considered. You can also send any comments or suggestions to the Parish Council via our website or to the Clerk by post or email.

Neighbourhood Plan for Ash Parish

New planning arrangements introduced by the Coalition Government have introduced the concept of "Neighbourhood Plans". Unlike "Parish Plans" which are community development action plans, Neighbourhood Plans are very much development control documents which deal principally with new housing and other building and planning issues.

Ash Parish Council has started the process of drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan that will cover the whole Parish. The process is being led by Cllr Chris Turner. The Plan can't overturn DDC planning policies and housing allocations, but will be able to influence their implementation.

There has to be a lot of public consultation with local residents before the Plan can be finalised and it then has to be voted on in a local referendum. Only if Ash residents agree to the plan can it become a formal document that the Planning Authorities have to take account of.

More information about the plan will be coming out soon so keep an eye out.



Community Football Scheme Tuesdays @ Ash Recreation Ground

6pm - 7pm = 7-13yrs

7pm - 8pm = 14yrs +

Free for all young people to attend!

The community football scheme is part of a wider project to be delivered in Ash by PACE, supported by Kent Sport and Sport England.

This project is funded by The Community Safety Unit (DDC) and Ash Parish Council. For more info on PACE please visit www.pacesports.co.uk

- All Abilities Welcome
- Learn New Skills
- No Experience Necessary
- Sessions Involve Coaching & Matches

For more information on this project please email info@pacesports.co.uk

Councillor Vacancy

Following the resignation of Linda Martin from Ash Parish Council a vacancy exists. As Parishioners did not call for an election the Council is able to co-opt a new member to serve until the next full elections in 2015.

With the Council undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan, more services being devolved to us by DDC the Parish Council has an increasingly important and influential role. Why not help us

If you would like to know more about what is involved in being a Parish Councillor please contact either the Parish Council Chairman, Graham Foat or the Parish Clerk, Christine Haggart. Contact details are shown below.

Contact the Council

Chairman

Councillor Graham Foat
Upper Goldstone Farm, Cop Street, Ash
CT3 2DN
Tel: 01304 812121

Clerk

Mrs Christine Haggart
5 Fairview Road, Elvington, CT15 4EP
Tel: 01304 832909
clerk@ashparishcouncil.net



From the Chair – Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 15th April in Ash Village Hall. This is your meeting. There will be an opportunity to question our County Councillor, District Councillors and the Parish Council.

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, 4 bus shelters and several seats and litter bins. During the last year Mrs Martin resigned as a Councillor and there is still a vacancy.

26 New Street is still derelict but the Lagaan site is now being converted into 2 houses and St Nicholas House has been demolished with building to start very soon.

The waste site at Richborough is still under threat of closure despite a very strong campaign by the Action group. Discussions are taking place about the future of the library in Ash.

The tree from the Ash Bash to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee has been planted as has an oak from the Kent Men of the Trees.

The saga of the street light outside 6a Chequer Lane continues. This light is beyond repair but no agreement can be reached as to where a replacement can be sited.

Early in 2012 the Parish Council realised that changes had been made by the Police to the way the PCSO was being used. The agreement between the Parish Council and the Police was that Ash would pay half the cost of the PCSO and in return the PCSO would work solely in Ash except in an extreme emergency. On the 9th July the Chairman and Clerk met with Det Inspector O'Malley who confirmed that the current Policing structures introduced in November 2011 meant that it was no longer possible to provide the services of a PCSO exclusively for the Parish of Ash. The Parish Council agreed that the contract between the Council and Kent Police had ended. Later the Council met a representative of "Xfor", a private security company but these negotiations fell through. The Council will pursue other courses of action.

I wish to thank the writers of ONLOOKER for the Parish Magazine also our Clerk Christine and our Environmental Assistant Andrew.

The main priorities of the Council remain
 To prevent speeding and inconsiderate parking
 To prevent anti social behaviour
 To stop nuisance by dog fouling
 Graham Foot Chairman Ash Parish Council

Graham Foot
 Chairman, Ash Parish Council.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Monday 15th April 2013 7.30pm Ash Village Hall, Queen's Road Ash

The Hall will be open from 7pm with tea and coffee provided.

Parishioners will be able to meet County, District & Parish Councillors, the Police and representatives of the parochial charities and trusts. Reports and accounts will be available so that they can be read prior to the meeting. All are welcome and local government electors of the Parish of Ash are entitled to speak and vote.

There will be displays from the Ash Heritage Society, the Ash Rugby Club and PACE.

AGENDA

- Minutes of the last annual meeting, 16th April 2012 to be signed (on the web-site)
- To receive reports and take questions:
 - from the Parish Council Chairman
 - audited the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31/3/2012
 - un-audited Parish Council Receipts & Payments for the year ended 31/3/2013
- Police & Community Safety Reports from PCSO Gary Painter along with the Deal Neighbourhood Sergeant and KCC Warden Bob Priestly
- Reports from local charities and trusts:
 - Ash United Charities – Benevolent Fund & Resthaven
 - Jack Foot Trust
 - Ash Educational Charities
- Ash and Westmarsh Village Halls' Reports
- Cartwright and Kelsey School Report – Mr Matthew Crick, Headmaster
- Resolution:- That this Annual Parish Meeting asks the Parish Council to support the formation of a Footpath Group of volunteers to monitor and occasionally walk Ash footpaths.
 Resolution:- That this Annual Parish Meeting supports a public litter pick 'Keep ASH Tidy Day' this summer, when all residents would be asked to tidy outside their property, with local organisations and the school asked to be involved in clearing public areas, to be organised by a committee of volunteers with the support of the Parish Council.
- Kent County Councillor, Mr Leyland Ridings - report and question time
- Dover District Councillors, Mr Trevor Bartlett, Mrs Sue Chandler and Mr Mike Conolly - report and question time.
- Any other business concerned with parish affairs.

Summary of Ash Parish Council Receipts & Payment 2012/2013

Estimated		Estimated
March 2012		March 2013
RECEIPTS		
39,543	Balance in hand	46,587
317	Allotment rents	281
26	Investment income	30
1,777	Insurance / rents	0
72,065	Precept	72,065
105	Sale of books & walk cards	482
2,975	VAT refund	1,763
129	Re-imbursment	4
0	Kent County Council grants	2,000
116,937	TOTAL	123,212
PAYMENTS		
<u>Administration:</u>		
400	General admin/audit fees	400
23,200	Employment	23,852
4,233	Insurance	1,731
395	Postage / stationery/telephone	241
524	Parish Council computer/software	131
278	Rent paid	361
464	Purchase of books	76
2,218	Election expenses	0
1,071	Subscriptions	1,188
400	Training / Chairman's Allowance	141
39	Bank charges	39
0	Neighbourhood Development Plan	100
374	Newsletter	388
0	Directory	1,269
14,537	PCSO (to Aug 12)	8,805
4,300	Donations / Grants	5,800
9,234	Contribution to DDC Public Conveniences	9,365
<u>Maintenance:</u>		
228	Consumables / protective equipment	232
1,235	Repairs / renewals of bins, seats etc	286
0	Saunders Wood	210
<u>Recreation Ground:</u>		
2,891	Mowing, etc	3,123
376	Play equipment	357
643	Repairs / renewals	1,196
958	Tree surgery	1,420
596	Toilet block	387
1,763	VAT on purchases	1,757
70,350	TOTAL	62,855
46,587	TOTAL CARRIED FORWARD	60,357
11,194	Ring Fenced Balances for Security, Play equipment, Road safety, Saunders Wood.	25,055
35,393	General Reserves	35,302