

# Ash News

April 2010



## Parish Action Plan Out



It has taken a little longer than hoped, but the Parish Action Plan has now been completed and published.

It is the result of extensive consultation with local residents to find out what people wanted for the future of Ash village and the wider parish.

A leaflet summarising the Action Plan has been delivered to every household and business along with this newsletter.

A hard copy of the full report is available for anyone wanting to see the details of the consultation responses. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like a copy. Alternatively copies are available to be borrowed from the Village library and it is also available as a pdf document on the Parish Council website.

Grateful thanks to all the volunteers who contributed to the production of the Plan.

## David Downes

The Parish Council was saddened by the recent death of David Downes. David was Clerk to the Council for 30 years and together with long time Chairman Dr James Ogilvey saw the Council move from a moribund group that met just 4 times a year to an active body working for the good of the parish.

After his retirement as Clerk, David continued to offer his legal expertise to the Council and was a trustee of many local charities.

He will be a great loss to Ash as well as the county as a whole where he had worked hard for the well-being of rural communities and parish councils.

## Spending a Penny!



Like many local authorities Dover District Council finds itself short of cash. As a result they are looking to cut expenditure on those services that they are not obliged to provide. This includes the provision of public lavatories.

Town and Parish Councils have been told that to retain these facilities they will need to fund the regular costs of cleaning and servicing of DDC owned lavatories as well as their daily opening and closing.

The cost to Ash for keeping the car park toilets would be £9500 for 2010/11 and would have to be funded out of the Parish Precept that forms part of our Council Tax.

This is a significant additional sum for the Parish to fund and the Parish Council sought the views of residents before agreeing to pay. The clear view of those people who contacted us was that the toilets provided a vital service for residents and visitors and must be retained.

The Council has therefore agreed to make this payment to DDC in order to maintain this facility. The public lavatories on the recreation ground belong to the Parish Council and have always been funded and serviced by the Parish Council.

## 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  
Kent  
CT15 4EP  
Tel: 01304 832909

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## From The Chair - Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL in Ash Village Hall at 7.30pm. There is an agenda below for the meeting and a summary of the Parish council accounts. There will be an opportunity to question your County Councillor, your District Councillors as well as the Police.

Ash Parish Council are responsible for the recreation ground including the toilets but not the sports pavilion, the war memorials at Ash and Westmarsh, 4 bus shelters and several seats and litter bins. The allotments are all being used and there is a waiting list. Bulbs have been planted at various places near the by-pass.

During the last year the Council asked dog walkers to keep their dogs on leads on the recreation ground to enable them to clean up after their dogs more easily. There has been a huge reduction of mess left on the recreation ground, but there has also been a large increase of mess on pavements & footpaths. The dog warden has been notified.

The Public toilets in the centre of the village have been opened this year only because the ratepayers of Ash have paid £50 a week towards the cost. For the year starting 1st April 2010 the Parish have been asked to pay all the costs of £9,500 per year or £180 per week. The parish Council have agreed to this otherwise the toilets would have been closed by Dover District Council.

Last summer we said goodbye to PCSO Lisa White and welcomed PCSO Anita Pollard. The Parish Council have agreed to renew the contract with Kent Police for a PCSO until July 2011. This is to be reviewed on an annual basis.

26 New Street and the old Lion hotel are still derelict. Despite much pressure from the Parish Council all that has happened is that the old Lion has been made safe. There are still plans to develop the rest of Millfield for local needs housing but our District Council seem to keep finding ways to obstruct this much needed development.

During the year the Parish Council commented on many planning applications the most difficult being the extension to The Bunker which is just in Woodnesborough parish. This development will affect Ash more than Woodnesborough as all the heavy lorries will travel along New street and Cherry Garden Lane.

The Parish plan has now been completed and is being delivered with this newsletter. This should make interesting reading.

Last summer a group of talented local actors & singers performed a promenade play of the Swing Riots. This was professionally written and directed and was based on the riots on farms in the 1830s. About 100 people took part in many different ways. This production has led some residents to form the New Ash Players and they performed three performances of the pantomime Cinderella to packed audiences. Great fun.

On a more serious note 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 Foat*

Chairman, Ash Parish Council.

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Monday 19th April 2010 7.30pm Ash Village Hall, Queen's Road Ash

**The Hall will be open from 6.45pm with tea and coffee provided.**

Parishioners will be able to meet County, District & Parish Councillors, the Police and the Police Community Support Officer and representatives of the parochial charities and trusts. The reports will be on display boards in the Hall so that they can be read prior to the meeting. All local government electors of the Parish of Ash are entitled to attend, speak and vote.

#### AGENDA

- Minutes of the last annual meeting 20 April 2009 to be signed (available at the meeting)
- To receive reports and take questions:
  - from the Parish Council Chairman
  - from the Recreation Ground Committee
  - from the Footpaths Committee
  - on the audited the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31/3/2009  
on the un-audited Parish Council Receipts & Payments for the year ended 31/3/2010
- Reports from the parochial charities and trusts:
  - Ash United Charities – Benevolent Fund and Resthaven
  - The Jack Foat Trust & The Frank Kingsland Bequests
  - Ash Educational Charities
- To receive the accounts of the Village Halls with the comments of the trustees:
  - Ash Village Hall
  - Westmarsh Village Hall
- Police & Community Safety Reports from:
  - PC Wright
  - Police Community Support Officer Pollard
- Parish Action Plan Update – Mr Nigel Whitburn
- Report from and to take questions for the Cartwright and Kelsey School, Mrs Sue Chandler
- Any resolution for which written notice has been given.
- To receive the report from and to take questions for County Councillor, Mr Leyland Ridings, on Education, Social Services, Fire, Highways and Footpaths
- To receive the reports from and to take questions for District Councillors, Mrs Sue Chandler, Mr Trevor Bartlett and Mr Mike Conolly, on the Local Development Framework (LDF), Planning and Enforcement, Environmental Health, Housing and Refuse Collection.
- Any other business concerned with parish affairs.

### Summary of Ash Parish Council Receipts & Payment 2009 / 2010

Estimated March 2009		Estimated March 2010
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
41,763	Balance in hand	26,192
212	Allotment rents	197
728	Investment income	22
511	Insurance / rents	532
58,800	Precept	60,240
229	Sale of books & walk cards	26
2,986	VAT refund	5,343
280	Refund of bank charges	0
100	Inland Revenue on-line rebate	100
5,000	Kent County Council grants	0
2,000	KCC contribution to bus shelter	0
112,609	<b>TOTAL</b>	92,651
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
Administration:		
484	General admin/audit fees	669
21,660	Employment	22,859
293	Employee expenses	184
3,045	Insurance	3,000
347	Postage / stationery/telephone	283
561	Rent paid	519
1,114	Subscriptions	972
394	Training / Chairman's Allowance	138
144	Bank charges	36
278	Dog Warden	115
650	Newsletter	565
12,645	PCSO ( to Dec 09)	13,006
5,972	Donations / Grants	5,134
1,464	Re-imburse Parish Plan grant	745
0	Contribution to DDC Public Conveniences	1,950
0	KCC Funded Environment improvements	1,950
Maintenance:		
151	Consumables / protective equipment	526
487	Repairs / renewals of bins, seats etc	241
7,318	The Street bus shelter	0
Recreation Ground:		
3,331	Mowing, etc	2,513
19,833	Play equipment	450
1,289	Repairs / renewals	1,238
40	Tree surgery	1,170
239	Toilet block	204
5,343	VAT on purchases	2,015
86,789	<b>TOTAL</b>	60,296
25,821	Balance	32,355
371	Adjustment	161
<b>26,192</b>	<b>TOTAL CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>32,516</b>
12,992	Ring Fenced Balances	12,544
of PCSO £6,000, Youth £2,835, Parish Plan Grant £241, Other £1,468, Scouts Hall Floor £1,000, Heritage Project £1,000.		