

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE PARISH OF ASH

For over 14 months, a hard-working team of people, with our consultant, have helped to gather your views for a future plan for all of Ash. Bringing together the evidence that will inform policies for planners and proposals for action. Every house in the Parish received a survey thanks to all the volunteers who delivered the surveys and collected them up. Last year’s exhibition in April and the results of the survey then informed the workshops which have been taking place. All this comes together in the Sustainability Appraisal which looks at the options for achieving the objectives that will be in the finished Plan.

Themes from questionnaire	Objectives
1. Traffic congestion and parking	To improve traffic and parking we will need to improve junctions to the bypass; improve pavements; provide adequate parking in the village; more visits from traffic wardens; and implement traffic speed management.
2. Employment	To improve employment, we need live/work units for housing and high-speed broadband.
3. Community facilities	To gain funding and support for a multi-use community centre that can house Scouts, a youth club, indoor sports, information centre and community café for families, elderly and youth and support a pub for all residents.
4. Rural feel	To enhance quality of life in the village small houses with rural design due to compassionate planning giving an improved visual impact leading to an enhanced quality of life with less traffic, more use of local facilities and less pollution.
5. Health and care	To provide adequate health care, we will protect the resources we have by upgrading the surgery and district nursing, increase accessibility to external health and care services; educating parishioners to not abuse the services we have and make greater use of the chemist and its role.

Workshops and their results - we have had over 100 people attending. The results are shown below:

JANUARY – RURAL HOUSING & DESIGN WORKSHOP

KEY OBJECTIVE: We envision a rural community with green spaces, safe spaces, adequate medical services, the right kind of housing in the right place and bio-diversity; also, the community pub, church and school.

‘The assessment of need shows that for a first-time buyer to be able to afford entry level market housing, an income of over £25,000 would be needed to buy a small 2-bedroom apartment in Ash. An income of over £35,000 would be needed to buy a 2-bedroom terraced house. A deposit of at least 10% would also be required to obtain a mortgage. To rent a 2-bedroom terraced house an income of over £30,000 would be required. Analysis also identified that:

- 50% of those needing affordable housing were families with children
- 8 of the households include people over 60 years old (4 single people, 3 couples and 1 family)
- The majority of respondents (31%) were in the age group 21-30
- The majority of respondents would prefer to rent from a Housing Association

Overall, a need for up to 22 affordable homes, for local households was identified.

Three issues were prioritized by attendees: **Issue 1: Housing to meet local needs** and, in considering, **Issue 2: Allocating additional sites** Exception sites and Community Land trusts (CLT’s) seemed a positive way forward; **Issue 3: Pressure on services drainage and sewerage** recognised that new development would be detrimental – supported by Southern Water.

FEBRUARY - COMMUNITY, HEALTH AND CARE WORKSHOP

OBJECTIVE 3: Community Facilities and Projects

Gain funding and support for a multi-use community centre that can house Scouts, youth club, indoor sports, information centre and community café for families, elderly and youth and support a pub for all residents

OBJECTIVE 5: Health and Care

To provide adequate health care we will protect the resources we have by upgrading the surgery and district nursing, increase accessibility to external health and care services, educating parishioners to not abuse the services we have, making greater use of the chemist and its role.

Care for the elderly—Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Elderly care hub consisting of rooms and staff to visit clients at home, meals on wheels, advice to community via a ‘not for profit’ service with government and local government involvement and KCC social services funding.	Developers required to include group of supported linked homes – modern alms-houses – for village retired alongside their development.	Technology to support residents in their homes eg facetime medical monitoring, easy to use for those not happy with it. Think 10, 20, 30 years ahead.

Impact of new housing on services Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Smaller developments of appropriate housing for local demographics (starter homes/the elderly).	Upgrade infrastructure in-line with development.	Differentiate social needs “in village” vs rural/hamlet locations.

Surgery, Chemist and Social Care Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Expansion of existing social/medical services to include: • Nursing visits • Drop-in advice • Longer/changed opening hours • Additional staff • Transport links to hamlets and lonely (community bus)	Staying as we are	New units – larger health centre, chemists, medical/social care services centered in and around the village/parish including access to NHS Dentist, Chiropody, Mental Health Care etc.

FEBRUARY - TRANSPORT, TRAFFIC & ECONOMY WORKSHOP

OBJECTIVE 1: Traffic, congestion and parking.

To improve traffic and parking we will need to improve junctions to the bypass; improve pavements; provide adequate parking in the village; more visits from traffic wardens; and implement traffic speed management.

Solving parking in Village—Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Chequer Lane development to include public car park	Encourage residents to use their own garages: • Signage • Publicity • Education	New development to include adequate personal parking/bays

Speeding—Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Installation of interactive speed indicators (x 4?)	Community led enforcement system	• 20 mph speed limit in village centre • Put a new chemist in a layby on the A257!

Access to A257 junctions / safety issues—Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Roundabouts at each of the junctions	LED warning signs for speed on A257	40 mph speed limit before and after junctions

A range of other issues were noted at all these workshops. Examples of these, from the last workshop on transport included:

- Compulsory purchase redundant buildings to create additional parking spaces in or near village centre
- Buffer zones before 40 mph speed limits on A257
- Developer contributions are controlled by KCC (need to influence this through NDP)
- We need to be looking at alternatives to the car – cycle routes, more buses etc
- New chemist in either the local surgery or in new developments

IN THE COMING YEAR – YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

- ⇒ If you have not completed a survey form, contact us and complete one. Thank you to 340 households that have completed a survey. This is about 30% of households in the parish.
- ⇒ We will be having at least one more workshop. Please come along and give your views.
- ⇒ Look out for all the NDP material we produce, please respond with your views, especially our draft report which can be changed to reflect your comments. It will be on the Parish Council web-site and see Facebook – Ash Futures
- ⇒ Volunteer to help us if you can – delivering information especially when the draft is published and spreading the word about the Plan and when events are happening.
- ⇒ Remember to vote in the referendum – the more votes we have in the referendum the stronger the case we can make to planners, developers and local authorities.

Jeffrey Loffman, Chair – NDP Standing Committee & Steering Group