

Tenterden Forum
Notes from Meeting held on Thursday 3rd May 2012
Venue: Tenterden Town hall

Attendance:

Mike Hill, Philip Carley, Keith Ashby, Frances Smith, Chris Friend, Tom Lupton, David Richardson, Mike Pearson, Mike Bennett, John Rivers, John Probyn, Paul Clokie, Annette Haigh (notes).

Apologies:

Michael Burgess, Peter Goddard.

Actions from last meeting:

- Newenden, request for flashing sign. Mr Hill to check situation with Highways.
- Newenden, a safety concern regarding hedges which are hanging over pavements. The Parish has written to house owners to no avail. Mr Hill to request that Highways put in some form of sanction.

Tenterden Greens:

Things have not progressed and the situation is now as it was 12 months ago. A very large area including hedges would need to be covered. This is not possible, due to staffing etc.

Ideally the Town would like the greens to be cut 8 times a year. (This used to be done 12 times a year).

There is a lack of weed killer resulting in more dandelions than grass, and seeding is needed. Apparently there are no funds available for anything except grass cutting.

Mick would like a contact name in order to request more cutting if funding can be resourced.

Note: Mr Hill to speak to Cabinet Member about situation again. Look for a local solution.

Biddenden Pavements:

Good news - Work on the north side and the island has been completed the work on the south side is due to take place. The new crossing is in place. There has been a good reaction locally to this.

It was requested that Phase 2 be discussed as soon as possible.

Pointing has also been done and has resulted in a better surface to walk on.

Highway Issues:

Appledore: 'The state of Station Roads carriageway'. The road between The Street and Appledore station is a narrow B road which has been widened to take two way traffic. This doesn't appear to have a proper road bed and therefore prone to subsidence. It is evident where the original road and the widened areas meet as there are 'bumps' between the two.

Lorries drive through and shake houses when they go over these 'bumps'. Weak parts of the road are getting destroyed. The Parishioners report that Highways are not listening because there have not been any accidents reported.

Speed is not the issue but the weight and width of vehicles which is unsuitable. Residents would like either a reduced speed or weight/width restriction. Mr Hill is aware of this situation and has already put this to Highways but as yet has not had a response. He asked for a 'creative' way to slow traffic down in the narrow parts of the road. May be possible for traffic calming measures to be introduced. Mr Hill has asked for a Highways Officer to do a site visit with him.
Note: Request for Mr Hill to put the above in writing to the PC.

Mr Hill stated that he feels that KCC has a duty to make sure that all roads are safe for all vehicles that use them.

Rolvenden: Despite drainage work being carried out, the problem has not been solved.

Kenardington and Stone: Also have drainage issues. There is a problem somewhere. Possibly a blockage in the pipes.

Youth Issues:

Ian Brooks sent an update to the group. Please see separate sheet 'Latest Update on Tenterden Detached Youth Project'.

- It was felt the planned Skate Park would need to be in a visible area in order to 'police' it.
- It was confirmed that Ian Brooks links in with St Mildreds.
- Sally Lees, the Headteacher at Homewood, allows office space/ provision in the school for Ian's base. This is an ideal location.
- The plans for the Pavilion will go on display in the Town Hall.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations:

Parishes shared their plans for this event. There will be many wonderful celebrations for communities taking place throughout the area over the Jubilee weekend. From picnics, parties, concerts, shows, games, fancy dress and BBQ's to a History Day, a strongest man contest and a boating pageant! Not forgetting the Church services and the lighting of many beacons and the giving of Jubilee mugs to local children.

Everyone was reminded that all Ashford Borough Councillors have money available for Jubilee events.

'Make Kent Quicker' Broadband Campaign:

In order to obtain faster Broadband in areas which require it, a need must be demonstrated. Parishioners need to be encouraged to complete the simple on line survey to ensure that the Ashford District does not loose out on this initiative.

www.makekentquicker.com

Parish Updates:

Rolvenden: Consultation on housing development. Glebe Housing, done by rural housing association finished two years ago but hasn't really worked. Service costs have risen by 100%. People living in flats are paying £1,000 a quarter for bills.

Discussion among group: Paul Clokie reported that there has been a change in committee working at ABC. If a Parish says 'no'/'yes' to something, officers have to have a very good reason to say the opposite.

Mike Hill commented that ABC Officers are able to make decisions which should go to Members. Paul Clokie reported that this is improving and John Rivers said that they are working with planners.

Other members of the group agreed with Mike and felt that if Officers don't agree with a Parish, the issue should go to Committee to be resolved or decided upon.

Paul suggested that if anyone knows of something along these lines going on in a Parish, they should talk to planners, developer and/or ABC as appropriate.

Development Plans:

Tenterden: Phil Carley reported that there had been a robust meeting recently. There was a set back regarding part of the land but this has now been overcome. Plans will hopefully come to fruition soon. This will go out to the community for discussion.

Paul Clokie: It has been reported in the press that 9,000 houses are in the pipeline for Ashford. It is unlikely that this will happen in practice.

Parish/Village Handyman:

John Rivers reported that there will be a couple of pilots happening. The areas will have a person for 'x' amount of hours a week and the Parishes will direct how this time is used.

There is no route to take money through.

It was suggested that the handyman would need to have a van with appropriate equipment.

It was agreed to keep this item on future agendas.

AOB:

Mike Hill commented on the number of 'posters' which were being put on posts etc in Tenterden advertising rugs for sale. These are being removed as they appear.

The next meeting: Tuesday 30th October 2012, 7.00pm at Tenterden Town Hall