

**PLANNING AND STRATEGY WORKING GROUP**

**Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2017**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllr. Richard Blackwell – Chairman  
Cllr. Terry Mullard  
Cllr. Karen Lewis  
Gillian Smith, parish clerk  
John Williams, resident

**Apologies for absence:**

None received

*Chairman brought forward Item 4, as Mr. Williams had to leave early.*

**Highway Matters:**

Mr. Williams expressed concern that there is only one crossing in the village and there is no easy way to cross the road. The school no longer provides assistance to school children crossing the road and it was suggested that an appropriate place for a crossing would be close to Country's Field and the school.

Cllr. Blackwell suggested the school be encouraged to develop a petition to build-up a campaign and present it to the parish council who will contact the new KCC Councillor to pursue on behalf of the village. Cllr. Blackwell agreed to discuss with the head of the school.

Mr. Williams informed the steps at the side of the City of London public house are in poor condition and these would be used more, if they were in better condition. It was explained the steps are in private ownership of the landlord of the public house.

The twitten at the side of the garage sales area is in need of cutting back. Gill to inform SDC.

*Mr. Williams left the meeting at 10.30am.*

**Approve Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January and CCT Report:**

Approved.

**Coastal Community Group:**

Cllr. Blackwell provided an update on Friends of Martello Tower no. 24:

Volunteer training sessions will commence shortly. An electrical report/certificate is expected shortly from English Heritage and water ingress is continuing to be a major problem. Sheila is to continue to work for EH during the week and Trustees will take over at weekends. New signage is being erected. Cllr. Karen Lewis offered to be a key holder for the Tower at The Arcade shop.

To keep liaison with traders and tourism-related businesses in the village it was suggested that a letter be sent to key representatives inviting they attend a meeting in Oct/Nov. Gill agreed to draft a letter for discussion at the next meeting.

Projects undertaken and identified in the economic plan are:

Promotion leaflet – produced and being distributed throughout the summer.

CCTV & Web-cam – up and running

Martello Tower No. 24 – now open to the public

Beach Entertainment – secured and successfully being administered.

Floral displays - implemented

Properties fronting central car park – enforcement officer has made contact with property owners to arrange a programme of refurbishment. It was suggested that our district councillors ask to see SDC officer monitoring reports regarding the chimney with a tree growing in it, to satisfy themselves that the structure is safe.

### **Highway Matters:**

Eastbridge Road: Monitoring reports from KCC inform that there has been no further subsidence. Cllr. Blackwell suggested if there is no further movement KCC should resurface, install new kerbs and take out the chicane. KCC Cllr. Martin Whybrow should be asked to enquire where the road is in the budget schedule and pursue improvements on behalf of the village.

Pot-holes: Some have been rectified on the A259.

Dropped kerbs: There is a noticeable lack of dropped kerbs in the village and residents could be asked to identify where these are lacking. An article in the next newsletter could bring residents attention to this issue and the matter be brought to KCC's attention in due course.

### **Planning:**

Gill informed residents have expressed concern regarding the renovations at The Shipp Inn and the encroachment of new decking onto Ship Close. The decking is impinging onto Ship Close and concern has been raised that utilities vehicles, waste disposal lorries and emergency services could have restricted access. It has also been reported that the new owner has informed he is to close the entrance to Ship Close from Tartane Lane. This is the access that most people use to leave Ship Close because leaving by the A259 has a restricted site line to the right. Gill was asked to contact SDC enforcement officer to make enquiries and report back to full council.

Planning Application Y17/0675/SH:

15 Brookside. Erection of a rear conservatory.

The working group had no objection to the application.

### **Training:**

KALC has offered to undertake councillor training for DPC at a cost of £36 per head plus the cost of a venue and catering. Cllr. Blackwell suggested the room at the rear of the Methodist Church and he would approach local caterers for a quote per head. It was suggested that 17 or 18 October be considered for training and a session from 9am-1pm be pencilled in at this stage. Every councillor and clerk will be expected to attend.

**Public Safety:**

Cllr. Blackwell informed that parish councils are now buying their own police cover. Rural crime is increasing and is currently standing at £800M.

Kent has 3090 officers.

Since 2010, 20,000 Policemen and 8000 Border Force staff have been axed.

Working Group supported DPC write to the new incoming Parliamentary Committee and MP to reject all arguments about austerity and reinstate Policing and Border Force staffing to 2010 levels.

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, at 10am.

Meeting closed at 12 noon.

**Recommendations to Council:**

- 1. Should a petition/campaign demonstrate support for a crossing in the village, the parish council will support it and present it to KCC Cllr. Martin Wybrow requesting he pursue the matter at KCC.**
- 2. The working group invite key representatives in the village to resurrect the coastal community group and engage in dialogue and village initiatives.**
- 3. Letter be sent to KCC Cllr. Martin Whybrow to pursue improvements to Eastbridge Road.**
- 4. An article in the next Newsletter requests resident participation by identifying where dropped kerbs could be installed.**
- 5. Planning Application Y17/0675/SH - raise no objection.**
- 6. That every councillor attend the councillor training course.**
- 7. That a letter be sent to the incoming Parliamentary Committee and MP rejecting all arguments about austerity and reinstate Policing and Border Force staffing to 2010 levels.**