

**AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**  
**COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 22 MARCH 2016**  
**7.30PM – PARISH OFFICE**  
**AGENDA**

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**1. Apologies**

**2. Declarations of Interests**

**A. FOOTWAYS/HIGHWAYS/LIGHTING MATTERS**

**1. General Highway Report**

**2. Eccles Highway Matters**

Proposed pedestrian crossing in Bull Lane. It was agreed at Council on 15 September 2015 that the Parish Council would offer to fund 50% of the cost of the crossing up to maximum of £10,000. Clerk has been advised that there has been a change of KCC Officer dealing with Members Grants and continues to pursue for progress.

**3. Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters**

3.1 - Milestone – The Milestone is still with the contractor, though he has now asked a colleague to complete the work. The Clerk will update the committee at the meeting if he has any further information.

**4. Aylesford Highway Matters**

4.1 - **Old Bridge Lighting Project** – Tree work completed. Discussions to be held with the street lighting contractor to see how the light can be focussed more on the bridge. Following these discussions the Clerk will report back to the meeting..

**4.2 - Aylesford Village Square**

Awaiting response from KCC Officer re incorporating Gallagher furniture into the design. Clerk and Cllr Homewood (who is providing some funding from his KCC's Members

Allowance) are actively pursuing to get this project progressed. Clerk has been advised that there has been a change of KCC Officer dealing with Members Grants and he will continue to pursue for progress.

Clerk will endeavour to involve local residents when there is clarification re progress on the project from KCC.

#### **4.3 – A20 congestion between Larkfield and Aylesford**

KCC have engaged Amey to undertake the study of traffic flows on the A20 and they are expected to report back in Spring 2016. These results will give the baseline information from which ways forward can be identified.

#### **4.4 – Hall Road Motorway Bridge**

Fencing repairs and rubbish clearance still awaited by Highways England.

### **5. Walderslade Highway Matters**

#### **6. Public Footpaths**

##### **6.1 - Kent County Council Definitive Map Modification Orders for the Creation of Bridleways in the Parishes of Aylesford and Burham.**

Public Inquiry completed. Decision expected in 2 months.

**6.2 – River Medway Towpath** – Work expected to commence after April 2016. APC has committed £20,000 to the project. KCC have informed the Clerk that TMBC are unlikely to be making a contribution to this scheme. This will probably not stop the project but could impact on the detail of the scheme in the Aylesford Parish area. Awaiting further update on this scheme in due course.

#### **7. Street Lighting**

7.1 - Works in progress report:

##### **7.1.1 – Repairs Ordered**

4 lamp columns which are in a very poor condition and to provide LED lanterns - £5690. Work delayed due to UKPN not having provided a price for the part of the work. It was also indicated that there could be further columns in need of replacement.

Various other works of a minor nature - £1545. Work in progress.

### **7.1.2 - Victoria Road and York Avenue**

Streetlights have checked the condition of the lighting columns being proposed for replacement before KCC will adopt and advised some work is required but not the amount envisaged by KCC. Clerk awaiting detailed written report before discussing further with KCC.

### **7.1.3 – Survey of all Parish Lights**

Streetlights are working on a full survey of all Parish lights which is nearly completed. This has highlighted some additional repairs required but will also provide an up to date detailed record of all our lights which can be presented to UK Power Networks to ensure our future unmetered energy costs are accurate.

### **7.1.4 – Eccles Car Park**

Clerk is investigating with Streetlighting the extent of the alleged light pollution nuisance and whether all night lighting is necessary in the new car park and the costs of rectifying the reported nuisance with shielding around lamps.

### **7.2 – Christmas Lighting**

Royal British Legion – Deputy Clerk to contact the Estates Manager to see a Christmas tree in the region of the Base Camp would be welcomed.

### **7.3 – KCC Lighting Upgrade to LED**

KCC will be progressing with upgrading all lights to LED with the return of all night lighting where applicable and a dimming option available elsewhere. Work on lights in the TMBC area is due to commence in the Autumn of 2016. The opportunity for Parish lighting to be upgraded as part of this scheme (with the appropriate charge) will be available. The Clerk is looking into this matter and will report back when further information is available.

## **8. Car Parks**

### **9. Lower Thames Crossing Consultation**

Following a series of studies and a public consultation in 2013, the Government commissioned Highways England to consider options for a new Thames crossing at two locations. These are at the site of the current crossing at Dartford and a new crossing location east of Gravesend. At the crossing to the east of Gravesend three potential route options have been identified north of the river in Essex and two south of the river in Kent. The two options

on the Kent side of the Thames include a direct link into the M2 motorway at Junction 1 (the Eastern Southern Link) and an alternative that joins the A2 further to the West (the Western Southern Link).

Earlier consultations included an option to improve connections between the M2 and M20 via the A229 at Bluebell Hill. This option seems to have now been dropped on the grounds that it does not assist with the delivery of the LTC project objectives.

The A229 is the main route between Maidstone and the Medway Towns and is the shortest link between the M2 and the M20. It is therefore the most likely route that will be taken by drivers using the Eurotunnel at Folkestone or the port at Dover with starting points or destinations north via the LTC. The A229 is expected to take the brunt of the additional traffic flows. It is also possible that some drivers may choose to use the A228. There is no real prospect that the A228 could be enhanced practically, but it may pose as an attractive alternative if the A229 cannot adequately cope with the additional traffic. This places even greater need to make improvements to the A229 itself and related junctions.

In some quarters the A249 link from junction 7 of the M20 to junction 5 of the M2 is being promoted as the preferred route between the new crossing and Dover/Eurotunnel, in order to attract the prospect of improvement invests to that route. However, that presents a considerably longer travelling time than the A229 and seems highly unlikely to be the choice for drivers.

The information available shows that the A229 will have an increase in traffic. It can be inferred that a high proportion of the decrease in traffic volumes on the M20 through the Borough would have diverted to the M2, via the A229. This is in the order of 5,000 vehicles a day.

In conclusion, whilst the consultation is focused on route options, the impact on the existing local road network and junctions are not adequately considered. As a result of the changing traffic flows created by the LTC, improvements to the A229, the Lord Lees roundabout, M20 junction 6 and M2 junction 3 should be given serious consideration, designed and funded in parallel with the LTC scheme to avoid future problems and to provide the most comprehensive and agreeable solution to strategic traffic movement through the area.

It is recommended that the view of the Council is to support the LTC preferred route together with the more detailed comments re the A229 detailed above.

## **10. Any Other Business/Correspondence**

### **B. RECREATION AND AMENITIES MATTERS**

#### **1. All Sites**

**1.1 - Local history signs** – Clerk will be looking at this in conjunction with the Aylesford Village Square enhancement project as at A.4.2 above.

1.2 – **Annual Tree Survey** – Work completed.

### 1.3 – **Grass Maintenance – All Sports Sites**

Clerk to report on proposals for future grass maintenance enhancement programme following discussions with Landscape Services

## 2. **The Hollow**

### 3. **Ferryfield**

#### 3.1 - **Hirings:**

Sunday 20 March – Junior Rugby Festival using pitches and overflow car parking

Sunday 24 April. Junior Rugby Festival - Use of Ferryfield pitches and overflow car parking

Monday 25 April – 3 nights - Lawsons Circus

Tuesday 3 May – 6 nights – Forrests Funfair

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 May – Culverstone Dog Club - Overflow car parking around the Rugby Club/Ferryfield gated gap in the hedge.

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 July – North West Kent Dog Training Club – Overflow car parking – exact site to be agreed

In view of the number of the above uses of Ferryfield, advance warning notices for the general users of the site will be put up and details on the website.

3.2 - Unauthorised access to ‘**race track**’ causing damage to surface. Being investigated. Installation of barriers at either end to be considered.

## 4. **Forstal Road Recreation Ground**

4.1 - **Disabled Children’s Play Equipment** – Bucket style seat at Forstal Road recreation ground in place of one of the flat seats received. However no chains or harness received and these are being chased and installation will take place on receipt.

## 5. **Allotments**

## 6. **Eccles Recreation Ground**

6.1 - Two new picnic benches and bin received. Awaiting installation.

6.2 –Fayre visit from 16 or 17 May to be open for business weekend 20/21/22 May 2016.

## **7. Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms and Car Park**

7.1 – **Dog Fouling** - Bag and Flag event and litter clearance to be requested with TMBC.

## **8. Blue Bell Hill Recreation Ground**

### **9. Blue Bell Hill Pond Site**

### **10. Cemetery**

### **11. Churchyard**

### **12. Old Bridge Gardens**

The Aylesford Big Lunch – 12 June 2016.

### **13. Mill Hall (Beside Rose Cottage/Old Bridge)**

Tree works to improve lighting of Old Bridge completed. Replacement trees installed.

### **14. Yoakley Land**

Work on a long term plan and strategy for the area as a whole being considered by the Clerk for further discussion with Members at a future meeting. Clerk has had initial discussions with Kent Wildlife Trust.

### **15. Walderslade Open Spaces**

One bollard received from Kent PROW. The need for further bollards has been assessed and two more are required. Implementation delayed to enable discussions to be held with landowners (Boxley Parish Council) and the Walderslade Woods Group as to whether they are looking at an alternative option.

### **16. St Marks Square, Belgrave Street car park, New car park**

Work on improvements to access road surface due to commence 17 March 2016 for 2 days.

**17. Podkin Meadow**

**18. Any Other ESC Business/Correspondence**