

HARTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Office, Hartley Library, Ash Road, Hartley, Longfield, Kent DA3 8EL

Tel/fax 01474 709441

E mail mail@hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk

14th March 2008

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Highways Committee to be held on **Thursday 20th March 2008 at 7.30 p.m. at Hartley Library, Ash Road.**

Yours sincerely

Julie Hoad
Proper Officer

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive Members' declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

(WHITE)

To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Highways Committee held on 24th January 2008 as a correct record. (Annexed).

4. Springcroft

To receive a report on progress to resolve the flooding problems in Springcroft.

Background document

E mail dated 17th February 2008 from resident of Springcroft to KHS

Letter dated 12th March 2008 from HPC to KHS

5. Parking at Cherry Trees

At the last meeting of the Highways Committee it was resolved that,

“(1) clarification be sought on whether the West Kent Division of Kent Highway Services had adopted a policy preventing right angled and 45 degree parking, (2) a safety audit be undertaken of the pedestrian and vehicle movement outside the shops at Cherry Trees, (3) the Police and Parking Enforcement Officer be informed of the problems associated with parking outside the Cherry Tree shops and asked to attend site to deal with any obstructions or illegal parking, respectively.”

To date no response has been forthcoming from Kent Highway Services in respect of (1) above.

The Police and the Parking Enforcement Officer have been informed of the problems associated with the parking outside the shops. The Community Warden has also been informed of the problems, although he has no powers to deal with the matter. The PCSO has attended the site and moved vehicles on. Notices produced by the North Kent Traffic Management Unit asking residents committing an offence to park more considerately have been given to the West Police with a view to producing their own notice for distribution.

Furthermore the Council approved at its meeting held on 11th February 2008 the Committee's recommendation that arrangements be made for a sign to be installed at the entrance to the car park. Arrangements are in hand for the purchase of a "CUSTOMER PARKING" sign and the residents of 23 Cherry Trees have been contacted to enquire whether they would have objection to a replacement sign being fitted to their boundary wall at the entrance to the car park.

The Committee is requested to note the reports and consider what further action could be taken to improve the parking arrangements outside the shops. The Committee may wish to consider what action could be taken to improve the environment around the shops which continues to attract criticism from residents.

6. Bus Shelter

(GREEN)

At the last meeting of the Highways Committee it was resolved that , (1) residents in the immediate vicinity of the lay-by at Wellfield be invited to comment on the proposal to site a bus shelter at this location and, (2) designs and costings of various styles of bus shelter be circulated to Members of the Highways Committee for comment.

Twenty four letters were sent to residents in the immediate vicinity of the lay-by at Wellfield. Five responses have been received, all of which have objected to the proposal to site a bus shelter at the lay-by mainly on the grounds that it could attract antisocial behaviour from youths. There have been no letters of support from residents.

The Planning Authority has advised that providing the bus shelter is constructed on land owned or maintained by the Parish Council or the Highways Authority, does not exceed 4 metres in height or 200 cubic metres in capacity, then planning consent will not be required. The Highways Authority has confirmed that the site for the proposed bus shelter is on land owned by the Highways Authority.

Kent Highway Services has inspected the proposed site and has commented that the bus shelter would have to be sited on the grass verge in front of the brick wall with a cantilevered roof to at least 0.5 from the face of the kerb on the tarmac footway.

Catalogues of various bus shelters will be available for Members at the meeting.

The Committee is requested to consider the above report and agree a course of action.

Background documents

Letter dated 29th January 2008 from Kent Highways Services, Mr A Jiwaji

Letter dated 22nd January 2008 from Kent Highway Services, Mrs A Reynolds

E mail dated 4th February 2008 from Sevenoaks District Council, Planning Technician DC North Team

Letter dated 18th February 2008 from resident of Wellfield

Letter dated 15th February 2008 from resident of Wellfield

Letter dated 16th February 2008 from resident of Wellfield

Letter dated 1st February 2008 from resident of Wellfield

E mail dated 3rd February 2008 from resident of Wellfield

7. Bus Services

(YELLOW)

At the last meeting of the Highways Committee it was resolved that the local Member of Parliament be contacted to enquire over progress to install electronic signage at the bus stops in Hartley.

The Committee is requested to consider the response received from the local Member of Parliament. (Annexed)

Background document

Letter dated 15th February 2008 from Member of Parliament for Dartford, Dr H Stoate

8. Cycle route - Ash Road

(BLUE)

At the last meeting of the Highways Committee it was resolved that further advice on shared cycle/footpath routes be sought from Sustran and the Cyclist Touring Club.

The Committee is requested to consider advice received from the Cyclist Touring Club's Campaign & Policy Information Co-ordinator. (Annexed)

Background documents

E mail dated 13th February 2008 from CTC

9. Interactive Speed Sign – Ash Road

To receive a report on the commissioning of the interactive speed sign.

Background documents

E mail dated 16th February 2008 from Chairman of Highways Committee to Kent Highway Services

10. Gorsewood Road – Tunnel

At the last meeting of the Highways Committee concerns expressed by a resident attending a recent Members Surgery about issues relating to the condition of the footpath and the subway under the railway line at the end of Gorsewood Road were considered by Members.

The issues included; (1) insufficient and inadequate lighting in the subway, (2) lack of handrails next to the steps leading to the subway, (3) new kissing gate to the north of the subway regularly left open, (4) tarmac path approaching the subway from the south covered in mud and (5) subway dirty and in need of a cleaning.

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of these matters to enable Members of the Committee to visit the subway. The Committee is requested to give this matter due consideration.

11. Parking Restrictions

At the last meeting of the Highways Committee it was resolved that a progress report be obtained on the implementation of parking restrictions in Hartley, as set out in a letter dated 23rd November 2006 from the Senior Traffic and Parking Engineer at Sevenoaks District Council. A response is awaited.

Background documents

Letter dated 23rd November 2006 from the Senior Traffic and Parking Engineer at Sevenoaks District Council

Letter dated 7th February 2008 from Hartley Parish Council to Senior Traffic and Parking Engineer at Sevenoaks District Council

12. Highway matters

To receive any reports from Councillors on issues and concerns regarding highways within the parish.

At the last meeting of the Highways Committee it was resolved that enquiries be made with the landowner/s of the access road off Church Road leading to The Parade, to establish whether they had any plans to fill the pothole near the “Bottle and Basket”. The Council has been informed that the owners of the “Bottle and Basket” are responsible for the maintenance of the access road in front of the shop and the residential property next door, but they do not intend to carry out any repairs as the presence of the pothole slows down vehicles approaching The Parade.

Since drafting the above report the pothole has since been filled with tarmac by parties unknown

13. Condition of the pavements (CREAM)

To consider a letter of complaint from a resident of Cherry Trees about the condition of the pavements in Hartley. (Annexed).

Background documents

Letter dated 15th February 2008 from a resident of Cherry Trees

14. Stack Lane

The Council has received a suggestion from the Council's footpath representative that due consideration should be given to the creation of a footpath through the centre of Stack Lane, extending from Ash Road to the properties known as High Gables and Chantry Cottage.

15. Satellite navigation systems

Many satellite navigation systems direct traffic along Castle Hill, which is too narrow and totally unsuitable for delivery vehicles. The Committee is requested to consider how this may be rectified.

16. Kent County Council Draft Permit Scheme

The Parish Council has been invited to comment on Kent County Council's Draft Permit Scheme. Permit schemes provide a new way to manage activities in the public highway and to improve the Highways Authorities ability to minimise disruption from street and highway works. Permit schemes provide an alternative to the “notification system” so that instead of informing a street authority about its intention to carry out works in the area, a utility company will need to book time on the highway through a permit. The permit scheme extends to Kent County Council, its partners and agents, for its own works.

The document may be viewed on [http://www.kent.gov.uk/NR/ronlyres/6E40B143-CDD5-43D2-A777-4F4BAC757815/\)/TheKentScheme.pdf](http://www.kent.gov.uk/NR/ronlyres/6E40B143-CDD5-43D2-A777-4F4BAC757815/)/TheKentScheme.pdf)

A table showing the main

17. Dartford River crossing tolls (ORANGE)

To consider a report on changes to Dartford River crossing tolls. An extract from Dr Stoate's website outlining the detail of the scheme is attached for the Committee's attention.

Background document

[Extract from Dr Stoate's website](#)

18. Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board

(BLUE)

To receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board held on 12th December 2007. (Annexed).

Background document

Minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board held on 12th December 2007

19. Kent County Council's repair allocations for highway assets

(GREEN)

To receive and note Kent County Council's proposed 08/09 repair allocations for highways assets.

Background document

Proposed 2008/09 repairs allocations for highway assets

20. Parish Spreadsheet

(WHITE)

To receive and note the parish spreadsheet received by the Council on 29th February 2008. A copy of the spreadsheet with the Council's comments and any new items returned to KHS on 10th March 2008 is attached for the Committee's attention.

Background document

Parish spreadsheet returned to KHS on 10th March 2008

21. Date of the next meeting.

Public Question Time

A period of 15 minutes will be set aside to receive any queries or concerns raised by members of the public.

List of circulated documents

1. Minutes of the meeting of the Highway Committee held on 24th January 2008 (WHITE)
2. Letter dated 18th February 2008 from resident of Wellfield (GREEN)
3. Letter dated 15th February 2008 from resident of Wellfield (GREEN)
4. Letter dated 16th February 2008 from resident of Wellfield (GREEN)
5. Letter dated 1st February 2008 from resident of Wellfield (GREEN)
6. E mail dated 3rd February 2008 from resident of Wellfield (GREEN)
7. Letter dated 15th February 2008 from Member of Parliament for Dartford, Dr H Stoate (YELLOW)
8. E mail dated 13th February 2008 from CTC (BLUE)
9. Letter dated 15th February 2008 from a resident of Cherry Trees (CREAM)
10. Extract from Dr Stoate's website in respect of changes to the Dartford River crossing tolls (ORANGE)
11. Minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board held on 12th December 2007 (BLUE)
12. Proposed 2008/09 repairs allocations for highway assets (GREEN)
13. Parish spreadsheet returned to KHS on 10th March 2008 (WHITE)

Committee Membership

Cllr Mr J Gaywood (ex officio)
Cllr Mr S Granger
Cllr Mr J Minns
Cllr Mr D Brazier (co-opted)

Cllr Mr D Graeme
Cllr Mr M Harris (ex officio)
Cllr Mr V Sewell