

Community Enhancement Group

Meeting on Monday 11th November 2019 , 7.30pm @ SPC Office

Members present: J. Buller, C. Bowden, H. Miller, A Sharp.

Apologies: P. Riordan, J. Perry, (S. Lain-Rose, Z. Rawlinson, L. Brice?)

Members standing down: S. Forward, T. Thomas.

The group began by reiterating their purpose (terms of reference) which is to do the groundwork on various projects that are proposed, to give clear information to the full council to enable councillors to make decisions about proposals made on those various projects.

This group enables a full and frank discussion to take place which, due to time constraints, is not always possible in the main council meeting.

The group is connected to aspects of the village that can't be addressed by the other working groups (Employment Group, Finance and Strategy, Communications Group and the NPR Group).

Due to the current situation the members present proposed new acting chair – A Sharp – Agreed.

Parade Planters C. B.

The council approved the proposed design for 8 X 6foot square planters. Due to supply issues of 6 foot sleepers these will now be 8 foot square. There was some discussion about whether this has now been started yet. CB will contact PR (Riordan) to check the current progress.

The hope is that this has been started as per the specifications approved in the full council meeting ready for the next stage – installation!

Update:

With a recent donation we have the approximate sum of £900 to spend on the parade planters councillors Spearink and Bowden have agreed on the final design. Council Spearink has purchased the timbers from Homeleights who gave us preferential prices, he is kindly staining and preparing the oak beams. We are hoping to start installing on the 30th Nov.

Market street Station Road planter

PR agreed previously to check with the residents that they would like a permanent planter there. AS to ask PR.

Update:

Cllr Riordan met with Susan Laporte from KCC and she has agreed to put in some bollards and has given us permission to put planters in between.

Christmas Tree at the parade

There had been some FB discussion about Christmas trees on the parade but no clear communication. JB will ask at the Free Church as that is where she heard about it.

The current known plan is to put lights in the tree nearest the library, when the Street Christmas lights go up.

Update:

The office is organising risk assessments. Corals kindly said we can utilise their power supply so it is hoped that the lights can be installed on the 30th November dependant on weather.

Chapel Lane Lights

The group noted the letter that has been sent by a resident to residents of Chapel Lane.

We note with interest that he seems to be under the impression that SPC have "100k" to donate to Jubilee football ground; the reality is SPC have agreed to support their application for 106 money.

The group support the Parish Council's decision that was originally made years ago (not sure how many – 5?) when KCC made it clear they would not adopt or maintain the lights in Chapel Lane. SPC agreed to maintain them until such time that they became defunct. An electrical engineer has now condemned them leaving SPC with the bill to decommission them. We hope at the proposed

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meeting with residents that they acknowledge the temporary stay of execution SPC facilitated and the regret that this has now ended.

Wimpey Field

Recent letter from HML by Melanie Johnson she says Taylor Wimpey (TW) asked HML to write asking SPC to notify village residents about which drives on the Bartons are private. Clerk MW has responded to HML so we await a response from TW – (MW).

Agreed we need clear drawings to show all the various public and private paths and roads – CB
And to ask the clerk to gather together / create a concise dossier of information CB JB MW

Update:

It's suggested that the Greener Staplehurst Group is the best group to take over control of the Wimpey Field in relation to all maintenance and nature issues; however, they would not take on issues such as gates and entrances. This will be on the next agenda for the group which would then go forward for agreement at full council.

Memorial Bench

Proposed to position it at the top of McCabe close or the Station. Group felt a bench would be good in both places, but the Memorial bench would look particularly good at the station area as it is a public area that is well used. There is also the connection already at the station with the WW2 plaque in the ticket office. AS will ask Silke about the church area and what if any issues there are there.

Update

All Saints Church has passed a resolution (before Silke's time in Staplehurst) that they will not permit the introduction of new benches in the "old old part" of the churchyard and the "old new part" of the churchyard (beyond the wall). The reason being is that there are enough benches for people to sit on. Each bench takes the space of about eight burial or ashes plots. They try to maximise service to the community by using every possible space for burials and in so doing keep the churchyard open. Once a churchyard is full it will need to close and all burials would have to be transferred to the nearest cemetery.

We have given permission for a bench in the new part at the bottom of the churchyard (Kent Wildlife Trust area). That area had no bench and the bench is in a place where we can't bury ashes or else. "In regard to the application ... for a sculpture in shape of a bench to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1(last year), we have not heard back. His application requires a faculty (the fee has to be paid for by the applicant) and permission from the Commissioner General.

Meeting finished at 9pm

Next meeting Monday 9th December 2019 @7.30pm, SPC Office