

BEKESBOURNE WITH PATRIBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th January 2022 at 7:30pm at Bekesbourne Recreation Ground Pavilion.

Minutes to be agreed at the Next meeting

Present: Parish Cllr Andrea Nicholson (Chairman)
Parish Cllr Graham Duplock
Parish Cllr Christine Sladden
Parish Cllr Joanne Watt
Parish Cllr David Sladden
Parish Cllr Christine Ash
Parish Cllr Emily Young
Mrs Nicola Purcell, Clerk to the Council

KCC Cllr Mike Sole

There were 28 members of the public present.

1. Receive apologies

Parish Cllr Mary Evans

2. Requests for DPI'S or dispensations relevant to this agenda (written or verbal)

Cllrs Watt and Duplock declared their involvement on the VHMC for item 9.

3. Agree Minutes for previous meetings

It was unanimously agreed that the minutes from the meeting held on 8th November 2021 were a true and accurate record. The Chair signed the minutes.

4. Deal with matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere.

None

5. County/City Councillor Reports

Received and circulated prior to the meeting

6. Planning

6.1 New Applications

Application No	Proposal	Location
CA/21/02787	Erection of 7 dwellings together with associated access, parking, landscaping, and ancillary works.	Rosary House, Aerodrome Road, Bekesbourne, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 5EX

David Taplin attended the meeting to discuss the proposal with residents. He discussed the offer of contributing £25k to the maintenance of the road, and the introduction of a temporary car park for residents to use to free up congestion on the road. Residents were against the proposed development and requested Parish Council Support to oppose the plans.

Comments: The Parish council have submitted comments objecting to the proposal as detailed in appendix A

CA//16/00600	<p>Hybrid planning application for urban extension of up to 4,000 dwellings; Full application; -140 dwellings; - vehicular/cycle/pedestrian access via New Dover Road; -internal vehicular/cycle/pedestrian routes; - drainage/utilities infrastructure; -public open space. Outline application with all Matters reserved except Access (excluding internal circulation); -Up to 3,860 dwellings; -Up to 70,000sqm employment floorspace; -Two primary schools; -Community Hub: shops, financial/professional services, food/drink outlets, business, residential institutions (care accommodation), residential, nonresidential institutions (medical/health services, creches, community centres & places of worship), assembly/leisure (indoor sports facilities) & petrol station; -Local Centre: shops, financial/professional services, food/drink outlets, business, residential, non-residential institutions (medical/health services, creches, community centres & places of worship) & assembly/leisure (indoor sports facilities); -Land reserved for potential relocation of the Kent & Canterbury Hospital(medical/health services) & energy centre; or if not required, business; -Park&Ride: 1,000 parking spaces & bus interchange facilities; , -public open space: parks, gardens, green corridors, amenity green space, play areas, semi natural/natural open space, 3outdoor sports pitches, associated community pavilions, 3allotments/community orchards, associated storage buildings, & civic spaces; , -vehicular access via A2: construction of replacement junction near Bridge & link road to New Dover Road; vehicular/cycle/pedestrian access via New Dover Road/Nackington Road/Pilgrims Way & bus-only access via Nackington Road; , -39cycle/pedestrian access via North Downs Way; , -internal 33 vehicular/cycle/pedestrian routes: green bridge for cyclists/pedestrians over New Dover Road; , - drainage/utilities infrastructure: wastewater treatment works, diversion of 132kV overhead electricity lines & removal of 7 pylons.</p>	<p>Land North And South Of New Dover Road, Canterbury, Extending North To Canterbury/Dover Railway Line, West To Nackington Road And South To A2</p>
<p>Comments: The Parish Council have submitted comments to object to this proposal as detailed in appendix B</p>		

6.2 Application Updates

Application No	Proposal	Location	Status
CA/21/02586	Two-storey side & rear extension following demolition of existing side & rear extension.	1 Yew Tree Cottages Bokesbourne Hill Bokesbourne Canterbury Kent CT4 5EE	GRANTED
CA/21/02453	Two-storey side & rear extension following demolition of existing side & rear extension.	The Homestead, Aerodrome Road, Bokesbourne, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 5EX	REFUSED
CA/21/02857	Application for prior notification for an Agricultural Building for use as seed storage.	Essentially Hops Chalkpit Farm Chalkpit Hill, Bokesbourne CT4 5EU	Awaiting Decision

CA/21/02586	Two-storey side & rear extension following demolition of existing side & rear extension.	1 Yew Tree Cottages, Bekesbourne Hill, Bekesbourne, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 5EE	Awaiting Decision
CA/21/02067	Detached timber framed garage together with new access and driveway	Ebury Cottage, Station Road, Bekesbourne, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 5DD	Awaiting Decision

7. Highway Matters

7.1 Chalkpit Hill

The clerk received and circulated to councillors, several emails regarding the decision made at the previous meeting not to financially contribute to the installation of a footpath on the bend. (As detailed in section 10- under correspondence)

A few of the members of the public present expressed their disappointment verbally, and challenged the PC, encouraging them to reconsider. Councillor Sole informed attendees and Cllrs that any money available from KCC has now been allocated to other projects, so at this time the project will not happen but will remain on the radar as a potential future project. Cllr Ash reiterated the fact that KCC have done an excellent and prompt job of clearing the overgrowth when it was requested.

8. Finance Matters

8.1 Payment schedule

Details	Amount incl. VAT	Status
Clerk salary	As detailed on salary slip	PAID
Pkf Littlejohn	£240.00	PAID

Cllrs in agreement with the above. A bank reconciliation, and reserves sheet was also presented to councillors in advance of the meeting.

9. Village Hall Update

Cllr Duplock reported that the assigned architect had prepared tender packages before Christmas and 3 tenders have been returned. The totals shown are in excess of the allocated reserves, so the VHMC will be looking at grant options. Next stage: awaiting full report from the architect to present and discuss the tenders. The next VHMC meeting is Thursday 13th January 2022. Cllr Sole to send clerk details of KCC funding available for village halls.

10. Correspondence

Correspondence attached in Appendix C. No comments on specific emails as was discussed under item 7.1.

11. Jubilee Celebrations

Volunteers from the community have come forward to help organise the event. The clerk requested the presence of Cllrs for an initial meeting on Tuesday 18th Jan 2022 at 7:30pm. Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Watt and Cllr C. Sladden agreed to attend.

12. AOB (For information only)

Cllr C. Sladden suggested that the emergency plan is due an update.

- **Meeting ended at 8:59 PM** -

Signed..... (Chairperson)

Date

BEKESBOURNE WITH PATRIXBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Dr Andrea Nicholson Clerk: Mrs Nicola Purcell

Email: clerk.bwp@outlook.com

www.bekesbournewithpatrixbourne.co.uk

FAO: Kelly Tonkin

Planning Department
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury
Kent
CT11YW

Sent Via email to: planning@canterbury.gov.uk

19/01/2022

Application No: CA/21/02787

Proposal: Erection of 7 dwellings together with associated access, parking, landscaping and ancillary works.

Location: Rosary House, Aerodrome Road, Bekesbourne, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 5EX

Dear Ms Tonkin,

Bekesbourne with Patrixbourne Parish Council wish to strongly OBJECT to the above application based on the following concerns:

Safety concerns:

Aerodrome Road is a narrow, privately owned bridleway. It is an unlit unadopted road maintained by residents. Any development will see an increase in traffic and HGV's, reducing the safety for residents and other users of the road. The road already has a hazardous connection with Adisham Rd. Aerodrome road is a community where children play in the street, and their safety will be compromised by this development. By reason of its restricted width, lack of pedestrian facilities and streetlights, Aerodrome Road is unsuitable to serve this proposed development.

Access to the site:

Access to the proposed development is on a particularly narrow part of the road next to a bend. Large vehicles will create blockages and hold ups as they tried to negotiate their way in and out of the site. Access to the site for emergency vehicles and refuse lorries will be hazardous and severely restricted by the increase in movements on the already narrow road.

Lack of transport/amenities:

There is one bus to and from Canterbury a day- an already inadequate service for the current population in the area already, which will further feel the strain with a significant increase in population on the Aerodrome Road. There are little amenities in the local area to support the increase in population, and the nearest train station is circa 2km away.

Encroachment of the current Building Line:

A recent application in the Aerodrome Road was rejected by CCC because of its proximity to the building line on the site, this new development will in fact go beyond this building line and is approximately 150 metres from the previous application site.

Noise/Light Pollution:

The plans show a turning area; in close proximity to a neighbouring property. The noise, vibration and pollution from potentially large vehicles manoeuvring, day and night, are unacceptable especially when doors and windows are left open for ventilation.

The increase in buildings would also reduce natural light into neighbouring gardens/properties.

Detrimental effect to the area:

The site is designated Area of High Landscape Value. As a result, development should be considered in relation to the extent to which its location, scale, design and materials would impact on, or protect landscape character and enhance the future appearance of the designated landscape and its heritage and nature conservation interest. The development will be detrimental to the resident's way of life in the area.

Lack of affordable housing:

The proposed designs are not in the scope of affordable housing schemes. This could hinder local families wanting to buy homes in the village.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if your require anything further,
Kind regards,

Nicola Purcell
Parish Clerk and RFO

BEKESBOURNE WITH PATRIXBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Dr Andrea Nicholson **Clerk:** Mrs Nicola Purcell

Email: clerk.bwp@outlook.com

www.bekesbournewithpatrixbourne.co.uk

FAO: Joanne Dymowska

Planning Department
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury
Kent
CT11YW

Sent Via email to: planning@canterbury.gov.uk

20/01/2022

Application number: CA//16/00600

Proposal: Hybrid planning application for urban extension of up to 4,000 dwellings,;

Location: Land North And South Of New Dover Road, Canterbury, Extending North To Canterbury/Dover Railway Line, West To Nackington Road And South To A2

Dear Ms Dymowska,

Bekesbourne with Patrixbourne Parish Council write to continue to strongly OBJECT to the above planning application.

Our objections to this application lie with the road layout proposals and can be summarised as follows;

- Proper 4 way junction need

The new junction for the A2 is only a 3-way junction not the 4-way junction we believe is necessary. We have been told by the developers that a fourth exit onto the A2 towards Dover at the new junction is not possible due to the constraints of the electricity pylons to the west and the bridleway bridge to Renville to the east. Consideration should be given to heightening or lengthening the bridleway bridge to accommodate the 4th slip road. The creation of the 4th slip onto the proposed new junction would negate the need for any of the proposed road changes in our villages.

- Current slip to remain for local traffic only

The complete closure of the present off slip at Bridge will mean that vehicles destined for our villages, which would normally access Bekesbourne road at the current slip road at the end of the New Dover Road, will have to drive along the A2050 to Bridge, then through Bekesbourne Road (the triangle) to get back to the point that they would have been at before the slip was closed. This does not make sense and will create further congestion on these roads. In the event that the off slip from the A2 is closed, the roadway should be retained to give direct and safe access to our villages from Canterbury.

- Bekesbourne Road unsuitable for volume of traffic

The current proposals make Bekesbourne Road one way, east only, to accommodate the 378 per hour evening peak flow exiting from Canterbury in the Bekesbourne /Littlebourne directions – this represents 80% of evening traffic leaving Canterbury in a southerly direction over the expanded two way A2050 bridge. The developers estimate that around 3700 vehicles per day will be travelling along Bekesbourne Road in an easterly direction. (Their letter to our Chairman dated 29th February 2016) This large increase in traffic in the opposite direction along a road which is only 14 ft wide in places, with no pavement or lighting and with poor sight lines is unacceptable.

- Retention of HGV ban on Bekesbourne Road

One of the changes shown on the layout map is to the eastern end of Bekesbourne Road to allow HGV's to egress from the junction. This road currently has a weight restriction. The Parish Council and residents of this road fought long and hard to have this implemented, so to remove this restriction is totally unacceptable. It is a small stretch of road, which has six properties on it, and can barely take the strain of vehicles it accomodates at present.

- Congestion from proposed mini roundabout

The proposed new mini roundabout at the junction of Town Hill and Bridge High Street will result in congestion, during the morning peak times when all the traffic from the Bekesbourne/Littlebourne direction (Bekesbourne Road now being one way in the easterly direction) will be funnelled into Town Hill and down to meet the traffic from the Bridge direction travelling towards Canterbury. This will lead to a build-up of traffic travelling through Bridge in the Canterbury direction.

- Lack of final link – South Canterbury bypass

The whole transport plan for Canterbury is still missing a section which is to create a new South Canterbury Link Road to join up the A257 through Mountfield Park to the new A2 junction. The section from Sturry through Howe Barracks to the A257 has been identified but this final link is essential to alleviate a large number of traffic issues in Canterbury and the South Canterbury villages.

- Extent of the public highway

New concerns have been raised from the amended drawings, which appear to show private land from Bourne Corner, Waylands and St Stephens Cottage as public highway. Changes proposed would encroach on this land.

The rural parishes of South Canterbury call for the support of Canterbury City Council to ensure the road layout agreed is fit for purpose. There is only one opportunity to get it right so let's ensure it is.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require anything further.

Kind regards,

Nicola Purcell

Parish Clerk and RFO

Clerk report- January 2022

A very brief report this month as it has been the quiet festive season:

- Laptop purchased and reimbursed as agreed. All up and running well.
- Awaiting delivery of new mobile phone/sim card will issue number when it arrives this week.
- Awaiting order confirmation slip for noticeboard- I hope to have this delivered in next few weeks.
- Precept figure for 2022/23 has been sent to CCC and confirmed.
- Parish Council Facebook has been set up, a few finishing touches then that will go 'live'.
- As mentioned in our November meeting, I am working on the PC's standing orders and terms of reference- but I will defer the discussion of this matter until our next meeting.

Correspondence:

Email 1:

Please find attached our objection comments to the proposed large development opposite our house in Aerodrome Road.

We would be pleased if you would pass the attached to the relevant councilors for their consideration.

Thank you as always for your assistance.

(Comments to be discussed under planning section on agenda)

Email 2

I am aware that a petition has been gathering momentum within the parish for a footpath on the corner of Chalkpit Hill leading to Aerodrome Road. I have seen on the local Facebook groups that a Mathew Boarman is championing this petition.

I am in full support of the parish council **rejecting** this proposal as I believe that Kent County Council should be responsible for highway improvements if they are deemed necessary. I wonder who in the community benefits from a footpath which leads nowhere except the road they are trying to avoid?

Mr Boarman does make a valid point however, that the roads in the village can be exceptionally dangerous. In recent years traffic through the village has become very heavy at certain times; particularly due to the expansion of nearby villages; making Bekesbourne a "rat run" from Canterbury. An initiative to get the speed limits through the village reduced would be a better use of parish resources so that we could walk in **ALL** of the roads around the village not just the ones which only lead to the houses of very vocal tenants.

It would be very disappointing to have budgets taken away from existing projects (i.e.; village hall etc) to fund this Chalkpit Hill pavement. The village hall being the central point in the village is in dire need of refurbishment and I believe it was only a few years ago we were sent out a

questionnaire about the village hall in which we voted for a refurb? A refurbished village hall I hope would also have the means to create an extra income to supplement the parish? I hope any other remaining budget would also be put towards projects which are for the benefit of **ALL** the parish's residents, perhaps more recreation ground improvements? It would be a shame to see any increase in parish council tax contribution to pay for any misguided projects; such as Chalkpit Hill pavement; which regular council tax to KCC should already be paying for, such as highway improvements.

To conclude,

- I fully support the Parish Council decision to **reject** the proposal to contribute any money to a footpath on Chalkpit Hill.
- The speed of vehicles in the village as a whole, needs addressing, and this works as a viable compromise which benefits everybody in the villages, not just a select few.
- I would be disappointed to see any monies already allocated for existing projects that benefit the whole community, wasted on things which detract from village life, such as pavements.

Email 3:

Dear Nicola

I am writing as a resident and a former parish councillor to support the idea of a footpath at Chalk Pit Hill.

I see from the minutes of the last meeting that the Parish Council decided against contributing £7000 towards this project for which KCC have said they will pay the major cost. Mike Sole has also said this may only now be £6000 or maybe less as other funding may be available.

I believe that the Parish has enough funds for this project and the argument that it is not part of the village plan only stands up if these footpaths (to the zoo or School Lane) are feasible which they have not as yet proved to be.

As a resident of Bekesbourne Hill I have no personal axe to grind on this matter.

I would be grateful if you could pass these views on at the meeting on Monday.

Email 4:

Dear Parish Council,

I'm writing to express my disappointment and concern in the recent decision not to back and fund the creation of a foot path from the Bekesbourne Aerodrome area round the Chalkpit Hill corner. (Ref, PC Minutes November 2021). This would benefit the highest concentration of population in the Parish and it's the most dangerous area of road in either of the villages.

While driving my car I have had numerous near misses with pedestrians on this corner. I have long since abandoned walking around this corner myself because of road safety concerns. Just a couple of weeks ago I was going round that bend in my car and there was a pedestrian in the road, I couldn't go around him as a van was coming the other way. The reason he was not injured or killed is because I was doing around 10mph and I could stop. Had I been driving at the speed limit (40mph) it would have been an entirely different outcome.

There are numerous benefits of installing this first phase of a footpath, additional footpaths and other road safety measures.

- Road Safety
 - It's dangerous to walk in the road. I personally am too scared to. I would not allow my children to. So instead, we use the car even for short trips.
 - We see groups of people of all ages, sometimes with pushchairs sharing space with fast moving traffic.
 - Chalkpit Hill - The bend by Essentially Hops is particularly dangerous. This is an accident waiting to happen.
- Health
 - Encouraging people to walk about more brings numerous health benefits, both physical and mental.
 - It also improves the air quality.
- Community
 - When people walk about, they stop and say hello, have chats – this builds a sense of community and combats loneliness
 - Being connected in a community helps us feel like we belong and this has a big impact on our own individual happiness
- Access to facilities
 - We have a beautiful recreation ground. However, for many of the parishioners it's too dangerous to walk there and if you drive then you can't park.
 - Ideally children should be able to get to the rec. on their own, as they are allowed increasing degrees of freedom. However, I can't see myself allowing them to make this perilous journey until they are too old to be interested in the playground.

There was a petition of over 100 signatures, unprecedented in my memory of local governance. The PC has a mandate to represent local people and as such this petition must be acted upon, as a higher priority than other activities such as the village hall renovations where no petition was made.

Since the petition it's members of the community that have pushed the project forward; liaised with KCC to confirm the feasibility, produce the design and secured over 75% of the funding. All that remains is for the PC to get behind the community and fund the remaining amount, which is now only £6k I believe (considering the £1k contribution from Mike Sole).

The fact that nearly all the work so far in developing the footpath project has been completed between KCC and local members of the community should not influence the judgment of the PC, there is still opportunity for the PC to support the community here.

Please would the PC reconsider their decision to not fund this footpath.

Please would the PC recognise the huge benefits, the greatly discounted cost, and provide commitment to fund and support the delivery of this footpath.

Best regards

(Emails 5-9 were previously circulated in December:)

Email 5

Dear Nicola and Parish Councillors,

Regarding the footpath along Chalkpit Hill which was recently cleared back by KCC. I was disappointed to read in the minutes from the last PC meeting that the PC has decided not to support KCC's partial funding of further work with a relatively small amount of money from their coffers. I understand that KCC proposed to allocate £23,000 to these works, with BwP PC being asked to fund a mere £7000. The road at this point is lethal, there may not have been a serious accident as yet, but surely that is not a reason for failing to push this forward. A large proportion of Bekesbourne village live in the Aerodrome area, and regularly use the Chalkpit Farm facilities, walk to the station or just go for a walk, we certainly do, and a decent footpath would be really helpful. I walked down to Chalkpit Farm earlier today to attend the carol singing, and parts of the informal cut back have turned very muddy already, however I would rather be muddy than walk in the road!

I understand from the minutes that other footpaths/pavements in the area have been requested in the past, but as it appears that both the Bifrons Hill/Station Road stretch and Bekesbourne Lane would involve costly purchase of land, and I do not believe any significant progress has been made on the ideas. Chalkpit Hill is another matter. The land is already owned by KCC, up to the (broken down) wire fencing, their Schemes Project Manager thought that a footpath, with PC support, would be a good scheme.

A large sum of money has been allocated to the Village Hall improvement, and I believe a heat pump has been considered for the heating element. Heat pumps, to be efficient, require very high standard of insulation, and unless this has been costed in, installing a heat pump would be a waste of money. If a gas installation went ahead, that would be cheaper and the saving could be put towards the partial finding of the footpath, which would be of much benefit to the community as well as visitors/walkers to the area.

I hope you will consider my points and reconsider your refusal to spend our precept money on residents' safety.

Email 6:

Obviously I am disappointed at this response and would make the following comments:

1. I had understood that the Chalkpit Bend Footpath was listed as the first priority on the Road Improvement Plan as agreed in the Parish Council Meeting 13th September and detailed in those minutes. Has a mistake been made(?) as what other order is being referred to in the minutes of the PC November meeting?
2. The footpath scheme is judged as viable especially as the land is owned by KCC and does not require the land purchase costs that are entailed with the other areas mentioned as examples in the minutes (attached for Mike Sole). On a cost and timing basis it would seem to have a high chance of receiving KCC support in a bidding process.

3. The Parish Council would appear to have the funds available for a contribution - £185k as at 31/03/21 in the PC Accounts. Perhaps you could put these points to the PC, who may recall in the March 21 Zoom meeting I specifically asked if they supported this proposal with no objections.

Email 7:

I email to note our concern re. the lack of development of the Chalkpit Hill footpath. The road is a small but fast road- with little room for anyone who is walking either individually or with family members, young children or pets, let alone pushchairs or wheelchairs. The corner is extremely dangerous and I believe both community safety and footpaths are a duty of a PC. As that PC, you will know that Chalk Pit Farm corner is listed as first priority on the Highways Improvement Plan updated Sept 21 and that the work can be progressed rapidly as the land is owned by KentCC and has been assessed as feasible by the same. Looking at your accounts, you appear to have sufficient unallocated funds in their accounts to contribute the £5-£7k requested by KentCC. The safety and care of your community is surely more important over and above other schemes mentioned as 'first on the list' which are more costly and will take longer as they require land purchases. I am disappointed to note that although mentioned by the PC as being requested for some time, KentCC do not have any record of being asked to progress a feasibility study for these schemes . The current verge arrangement is a temporary solution and does not create a safe and green environment in which the residents and visitors of Bekesbourne can use comfortably to support greener travel to work (walk to trainline), family walks, runners, visiting of local eateries.

Email 8:

Regarding the footpath along Chalkpit Hill which was recently cleared back by KCC. I was disappointed to read in the minutes from the last PC meeting that the PC has decided not to support KCC's partial funding of further work with a relatively small amount of money from their coffers. I understand that KCC proposed to allocate £23,000 to these works, with BwP PC being asked to fund a mere £7000. The road at this point is lethal, there may not have been a serious accident as yet, but surely that is not a reason for failing to push this forward. A large proportion of Bekesbourne village live in the Aerodrome area, and regularly use the Chalkpit Farm facilities, walk to the station or just go for a walk, we certainly do, and a decent footpath would be really helpful. I walked down to Chalkpit Farm earlier today to attend the carol singing, and parts of the informal cut back have turned very muddy already, however I would rather be muddy than walk in the road! I understand from the minutes that other footpaths/pavements in the area have been requested in the past, but as it appears that both the Bifrons Hill/Station Road stretch and Bekesbourne Lane would involve costly purchase of land, and I do not believe any significant progress has been made on the ideas. Chalkpit Hill is another matter. The land is already owned by KCC, up to the (broken down) wire fencing, their Schemes Project Manager thought that a footpath, with PC support, would be a good scheme. A large sum of money has been allocated to the Village Hall improvement, and I believe a heat pump has been considered for the heating element. Heat pumps, to be efficient, require very high standard of insulation, and unless this has been costed in, installing a heat pump would be a waste of money. If a gas installation went ahead, that would be cheaper and the saving could be put towards the partial

finding of the footpath, which would be of much benefit to the community as well as visitors/walkers to the area.

Email 9:

(from KCC Cllr M.Sole) Are you able to confirm the parish council position on the footpath proposal please? I understand, please correct me if I am wrong, that the parish council does not wish to contribute towards the project, which means that it will not be actioned? Unfortunately, KCC are very unlikely to fully fund any Highway Improvement Projects. With 16 parishes in my division I get to see how all of these parishes are getting on with achieving the goals set out in their HIPs. Those who have seen improvements are those who have either spent reserves or raised the precept to fund them. I'd agree with the sentiment that KCC should be funding these, but they are not obliged to do any more than maintain things as they are, and if we want to see improvements in the parishes, unfortunately the parishes will have to contribute. I have raised the matter of HIP funding at KCC and have an ally in the Conservative Party who is helping to push this too. If this is successful, we may get more money in the budget and be able to achieve more, but the principle of parish council contribution is unlikely to change. As a KCC councillor I have access to £10,000 grant per annum to be spent on community and highway projects. I have already allocated much of this but I would be able to chip in £1,000 towards the footpath project if it helped?