

REPORT FROM CHILHAMS FUTURE DELIVERY BOARD

17 parishioners attended the first Scheme Development Workshop in Chilham Castle on 17th June together with representatives from Ashford Borough Council, Kent County Council, Kent Highways, Kent Police, South East Coast Ambulance Service and Ashford Access and started the process of sieving and reconciling statutory stakeholder and community aspirations for the Square. A briefing note including the agenda and a Square Plan was issued to them prior to the meeting with instructions to help them prepare for the workshop.

The workshop was chaired by an independent chairman and run by an urban design consultant from Halcrow Ltd.

The meeting record of the Open Workshop held on 27th May, that included the ranking of aspirations and results of the voting exercise, was agreed with just one amendment.

Kent Highways gave a presentation outlining the issues to be considered when developing a scheme and advised the meeting to consider safety for all users and seek a versatile use of self-enforcing space. They also described the Members Highway Fund proposals to improve signage and create gateways with breakouts at both entrances to the village centre (at the bottom of Taylor's Hill and by the Woolpack).

The meeting then split into 3 groups to develop possible layouts reflecting community aspirations, focusing on identifying and categorising design challenges and conflicts.

2 of the 3 groups came up with outline plans for the Square with most but not all agreeing on less than 30 parking spaces and pedestrian-safe areas. There was quite a difference in views in the third group but suggested solutions included ensuring unobstructed traffic flow, encouraging use of Taylors Hill car park, delineating parking using material changes rather than lines and leaving space for pedestrian ways.

Ashford Borough Council pointed out that security in Taylor's Hill Car Park varies depending on human presence. It was also suggested that there was a distinction between daytime and evening parking requirements in the Square. During the daytime short-stay parking requirements should perhaps be given priority. In the evening long-stay provision for residents should perhaps be given priority.

The same attendees will be invited to a second Scheme Development Workshop on 8th July to continue working towards identifying a buildable scheme reflecting community aspirations and interests.

CFDB will continue to provide updates on their project via their website, Parish News, local press and village noticeboards (including the CFDB noticeboard outside Chilham Post Office).

Documentation relating to the workshops can be downloaded from the CFDB website or borrowed from Chilham Post Office.

Chilham's Future Delivery Board
July 2010