

GROUP 1 PROPOSAL FORM

Parking Arrangement & Provision

We believe that the aim of any proposed change should be to maximise the utility of the space in relation to the people who live in the whole parish. The everyday needs of those wishing to access local services should take priority, not development of “an award winning scheme” as has been mentioned. We also believe that the danger of a number of these proposals is that by significantly reducing levels of parking in the square below the numbers we recommend will affect the ability of key local services, such as the primary school and post office in particular, to survive and that every effort to maintain these services at their present level should be made.

The present situation of unregulated and chaotic parking has been created by the refusal of the parish council to replace the lines removed by resurfacing which were in place before 2005, and our focus is that we would like to at least see these lines replaced in order to restore a semblance of order and proper organisation to parking in the area.

Pedestrian & Vehicular Movement

We assess that by properly delineating a central parking area and formally designation of a one way system around the square, the potential for road traffic accidents will be reduced (although as stands there are no actual evidence of this being an issue in the first place). In order to ensure that access for emergency services will be maintained, we believe this is another good reason for proper delineation of parking spaces to take place. We feel as a group that plans to turn the centre of the square into a through road which have been put forward will represent a significant safety issue so near a primary school, as this will inevitably lead to a increase in traffic speeds with the associated risks that may bring.

Views & Aesthetics

It is believed that views and aesthetics will not be significantly changed by any of the proposals submitted, and that our proposals will also maintain the unique character of the space. This does not significantly impact the drive of our proposal of prioritising the utility and everyday function as a parking area for visitors to the village, which it must also remember it has been for a least the last 50 years. This issue we view as very much secondary to the practical use of the space.

Possible Implementation Issues (cost, disruption, etc.)

We strongly believe that the suggestions we are putting forward are not only the most pragmatic in terms of everyday utilisation of the space by all the residents of the parish, but also in these times of budget austerity these are the only proposals which will not significantly impact the parish precept or lead to major ongoing maintenance costs. The mixture of cost and utility must also include the fact that our proposals are drawn from the Jacobs report, which was produced by the professional team engaged by Kent Highway services (who are the owners of the square), and as such no additional project costs are required to be met in generating a formal proposal for implementation (as this has already taken place). The other projects proposed will require significant planning and project work to implement, which will inevitably have to be met from the public purse in some way.

Our aim is to minimise the cost of the project to improve the square and its potential disruption any development work may cause to the local community. Additionally we believe that there may be a negative impact (in some potential sources) on the future available budgets for Chilham may impact our ability as a community to bid for public money in order to meet other potential costs and projects (signage, other potential road marking schemes, council maintenance and repair throughout the Parish, as all the available funding in the various implantation and maintenance costs will have to be poured into the square and its immediately surrounding area, to the detriment of the parish as a whole.

Taylor’s Hill Car Park

In its present form without significant investment in security measures (focusing on after dark), delineation and the safety concerns relating to the road connecting Taylors hill with the square, this issue is considered outside the scope of this proposal (particularly in light of the reduction in funding available for capital projects for Ashford Borough Council (ABC) and Kent Highway Services (KHS)