

Note of Charing Heath/Charing Heath Road residents' meeting

April 11th 2019.

35 members of the public were present.

Proposed speed limits

Following the speed surveys carried out in January, Kent Highways have agreed to progress a 30 mph speed limit for Channing Heath and a 40mph limit for Charing Heath Road between Wind Hill and Coppins corner. The Parish Council will have to pay or find the money, estimated at £12,500. There was a lot of discussion about the pros and cons of the limits. Votes at the end showed a majority of those present in favour of both the limits for Charing Heath and Charing Heath Road but some against. (Charing Heath: 11 for, 4 against with 3 people unable to come to the meeting asking to vote in favour. Charing Heath Road: 8 for, 2 against. Each household was asked only to vote once hence total votes were less than the number of people attending.) More formal consultations of residents will need to be carried out later.

Greenway

The proposal for the Greenway - all weather footpath and cycleway between Charing and Charing Heath was outlined. There was clear support for this. It is now high priority in ABC's cycling strategy. The first stage is to have the route properly assessed.

Sand Quarry

Richard Ford from Brett told the meeting that finally all the preliminary legal and other agreements and Highways approvals were in place regarding the cutting of Tile Lodge road and the tunnel for the conveyor to be put through. Work will start in July with TL road closed for 5 weeks during the summer holidays. Quarrying will then start in September. There was some discussion about forming a residents' liaison group to meet periodically and channel any issue to Brett. RF urged residents to report any problem to them as soon as noticed so it could be tackled. (Update: Brett started work mid-May on preparing the farm access tracks to the quarry.)

CCTV

Following last year's survey showing that residents wanted CCTV and that a majority were prepared to see the precept (Parish Council element of Council Tax) rise to enable this, the Parish Council is actively investigating options including that of having a system which can be linked into the Ashford monitoring centre. One camera will be placed in Charing Heath to monitor the Playing Fields and Playgrounds. It will be necessary to connect to a power supply and this may enable power to be taken to the changing rooms on the playing field.

Neighbourhood Plan

It is hoped that the first formal draft of the Neighbourhood Plan – known as the Regulation 14 version – will be published during the summer for wide consultation.

Charing Heath Road

During the evening the question of overhanging hedges and muddy verges on Charing Heath Road (between Charing Heath and Coppins Corner) was raised. It was clear that this is a big issue for many residents. Problems were reported during the few days that TL Road had been closed during works on the A20 with resulting concerns over what will happen during the 5 week closure in the school holidays. It is the responsibility of landowners to cut hedges - if people think private landowners are not keeping hedges in trim to the detriment of the roadway please contact the parish council (cpclerk@charingkent.org; 01233 713599) and the clerk can write to them. The parish council will take the general point up with Highways. However specific problems with overhanging hedges and verges that are the responsibility of Highways can be reported via KCC's on-line portal <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>