Wye with Hinshill
Parish Council Newsletter
Round Robin 42
February 2018

WYE3 Masterplan: its impact on our future

Crunch time approaches for WYE3 and for all of us who live in and around Wye, and who care about the village and its future.

Ashford Borough Council will soon open a four-week public consultation on the WYE3 Masterplan.

This will be your chance to influence Wye's future.

In 2016 Ashford Borough Council adopted the Wye Neighbourhood Plan after 94.7% of us voted in favour. The policies aim to manage the number of houses and the extra traffic in Wye, and to protect the village, the AONB countryside and wildlife from inappropriate development.

Telereal Trillium (TT) owns the 44 acre WYE3 site and has now written the WYE3 Masterplan, but this challenges the scale and type of development that we agreed in the Wye Neighbourhood Plan. TT has also revised its planning application 17/567/AS for the Wye College listed buildings.

To inform public debate the Parish Council will set out its position for Wye residents as soon as possible. Please look out for this information in the public library, noticeboards and for economy and speed, the parish e-newsletter.

Cllr Noel Ovenden
Chairman, Wye with Hinshill Parish Council

A new way to fund improvements to Wye Village Hall

Despite prodigious local fundraising efforts, and the generosity and support of so many residents, Stage 1 has exhausted most grant making bodies. Fundraising the whole £280,000 that is needed to complete Stage 2 presents the Wye Village Hall charity with an even tougher challenge.

Therefore, to soften the effect on residents the Parish Council has agreed, in principle, to take advantage of low fixed interest rates, and borrow a sum to allow the Village Hall to finish the project this year.

This new approach will not, repeat not, increase Wye’s precept in 2018-2019, nor in future years. Instead, Wye PC can use the money that it already puts aside to support the Village Halls each year, (as it has done every year for at least 20 years), and use it to repay a loan. Fortunately, the Parish Council can borrow capital at low rates from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), fixed for the life of the loan. This plan is subject to Government approval and public support.

Example: If Wye PC borrows £100,000 and repays this at 2.21% (PWLB rate for today), fixed for 15 years, then the annual repayments will be exactly £7,869.04, and cost 2p per day for a Band ‘D’ house.

First, residents need to weigh up the benefits of completing the Wye Village Hall Stage 2 in 2018, and be content that the Parish Council should borrow money to achieve this goal. If you need more information, or have any concerns about this plan, then please contact the new Parish Clerk.
Wye Parish Council provides residents with an increasing range of facilities and services from the parish precept.

- Manages Churchfield Green, the Recreation Ground and play areas as public open spaces.
- Mows and manages the churchyard as a public open space, on behalf of the Wye Parochial Church Council.
- Lets and manages over 100 allotments on Churchfield and Beanfield. Appoints a warden to oversee and promote allotments.
- Owns and maintains the public toilets by the Co-op. Has a very dedicated Village Cleaner to unlock and attend to them twice daily.
- Manages the New Burial Ground by the churchyard, and the services of a Burial Clerk, to maintain Wye’s statutory burial records.
- Sweeps Wye’s streets and pavements, clears autumn leaves, blocked drains and roadside grips, picks litter, deals with graffiti, fly-tipping and roadkill, trims hedges in the burial ground and alongside overgrown footpaths, and cleans signs.
- Makes daily safety checks and repairs to children’s play equipment, clears snow, grits pavements, mows allotment paths and prepares vacant plots to let.
- Promotes healthy social activities, walking, cycling and green tourism.
- Provides over a hundred public facilities and amenities, including The Jungle Adventure Play Area, Wye MUGA, bus shelters, seats, defibrillator, planters, parish notice boards, litter bins, dog waste bins and dog waste bags, (free to residents only).
- Reports planning breaches, public safety, environmental, and highway problems, inc. potholes, broken pavements faulty street lights, overgrown hedges, blocked drains, water and gas leaks.
- Reports crimes and liaises closely with Kent Police and the Community Warden on crime prevention measures to improve public safety and reduce criminal damage and anti-social behaviour.

The total increase of 4.47% will add 1p a day to the cost of Wye’s parish precept for a Band ‘D’ house.

Do you have more recycling and black bags than you need?
If so, the Parish Council needs them all please!
Even on a typical quiet winter morning, Cecil is collecting five bags of litter from around Wye.
Each year he needs well over a thousand more bags for leaves and litter, so your spare bags can save us all money.

Local leadership, representation and communications

Wye Parish Council
- Leads the Wye Neighbourhood Plan project. (This is now adopted ABC Development Plan policy, which aims to manage new development in line with residents’ majority views).
- Considers around 70 to 80 planning applications and appeals each year, and responds to ABC and KCC as a statutory consultee.
- Provides monthly reports in the Parish Magazine, maintains a website and distributes e-newsletters.
- Holds a monthly drop-in at Wye Farmers’ Market, to enable residents to raise queries and swap news.
- Communicates with outside organisations e.g. ABC, KCC, Telereal Trillium and Imperial College London, and promotes the interests of Wye residents.
- Organises the statutory Annual Parish Meeting, public meetings, exhibitions and surveys to raise awareness, enable informed public debate and encourage active involvement in community life.
- Acts as the sole trustee of the Children’s Playing Field Charity, which funds facilities for children and young people in Wye.
- Appoints trustees to help manage the Wye Almshouse Charity, The Lady Joanna Thornhill School Foundation, and Wye Village Hall charity.

Welcome news...
Mike West joins us as a new co-opted parish councillor.
Mike has a young family and he lives and works at Great Bromley Farm, Hinxhill. Mike also runs his own contracting business. He took a BSc. degree in Agricultural Business Management at Wye College.

Resources for Wye community groups and activities

Wye Parish Council
- Makes grants to underpin the work of the Wye Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity, and to maintain the churchyards in Wye and Hinxhill as attractive public spaces.
- Supports community organisations, and helps new projects to launch.
- Insures public events and activities e.g. the Christmas Street Party.
- Holds funds and grants on behalf of new local groups without bank accounts, to help them claim start-up and other grants.
- Bids for project grants and s.106 funds for new and improved facilities.
- Works with volunteers to manage costs, and provide better, targeted services that respond to local needs.
- Acts as the sole trustee of the Children’s Playing Field Charity, which funds facilities for children and young people in Wye.
- Appoints trustees to help manage the Wye Almshouse Charity, The Lady Joanna Thornhill School Foundation, and Wye Village Hall charity.

Wye Parish Council is a Living Wage employer

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