

Minutes of the meeting of Westbere Parish Council held on Monday 21 February 2022 in Westbere Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Present: Parish Councillors:

Paul Glover (Chairman),
Sylvia Harlow (Vice Chairman),
Kathy Wilson and
Ken Dekker (for part of the meeting.)
Kent County Cllr Alan Marsh (for part of the meeting)
Clerk to the Council, Amanda Sparkes.
One member of the public (for part of the meeting).

128. Chairman's welcome

Cllr P Glover welcomed everyone to the meeting.

129. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were noted from Canterbury City Councillor Louise Harvey-Quirke, and Canterbury City Councillor Georgina Glover.

130. Vacancies on the council

There has been no interest in the three parish councillor vacancies on the council.

131. Update on Clerk vacancy

There have been two applications which will be discussed in confidential session at the end of the meeting.

132. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None, although Cllr Wilson explained that she has given up her voluntary role on the Canterbury District neighbourhood watch committee. She will continue as a volunteer for the police.

133. Minutes of the last meeting held 17 January 2022

Cllrs approved the Minutes as a true record of the meeting and the Chairman duly signed them.

134. Chairman's Report and Councillors' Reports

Cllr Paul Glover

Cllr P Glover commented that it had been a busy and successful month.

He had prepared and delivered 3 versions of a letter to Westbere and Sturry properties listed in the Openreach faster broadband project. His letters were tailored according to (i) just as a holding letter to those believed to have pledged; (ii) to properties not yet signed up; (iii) and Sturry residents within the project area. He said he believed the target is at 88%. The Clerk confirmed she had received two emails further to the letters.

Cllr P Glover commented that it would be good to have residents provide an email address for the parish council to have a database of residents' contacts, for the residents to receive messages about council business/updates. GDPR restrictions must be adhered to. The Clerk explained signing up to the website News Posts could be encouraged and she will prepare an article for the next newsletter. It was conceded that this won't work for all households as not everyone has email.

Some potholes and streetlights previously reported have been repaired since the last meeting.

The road sweeping has made a great difference. Cllr P Glover advised he would thank the CCC officer but also point out some missed areas.

Cllr Ken Dekker

Cllr Dekker had nothing to report.

Cllr Kathy Wilson

Cllr Wilson explained there had been issues with the cleaning of the hall floor, with complaints from the Yoga group. The hall committee held an extraordinary meeting last week. A resident helped with a problem with the cleaning machine and the issue appears to be resolved.

Cllr Wilson had received an enquiry about the ownership of the Bread and Cheese field in Bushy Hill Road from a resident wanting to seek a one off permission to access it for garden vegetation clearance. Enquiries were made but no answers found. Cllr Wilson will suggest to the resident that they do a land registry search.

Cllr Wilson advised that the village hall committee are holding a quiz on 02 April 2022 at 7pm in the village hall. Anyone interested in this should contact Kathy by email at Kathrynwilson365@gmail.com

Cllr Sylvia Harlow

Cllr Harlow had nothing to report.

135. Canterbury City Councillor, Cllr Georgina Glover report

Cllr Glover had given apologies but provided the following written report:

Policy Committee Recommendations – 21st February –

Budget Proposals for the 2022-23 Financial Year
Treasure Management Strategy,
Housing Revenue,
Capital Budget and
General Fund Revenue – all being discussed tonight
Council Tax for 2022-23
New revised Licensing Act
Council Pay Police
Appointment of External Auditors

Policy Committee – 25th January

Council Office Accommodation – recommendation to move to Whitefriars and dispose of the Military Road site

Council Update:-

1. Storm Eunice, Canenco followed the Dustbin crews and picked up rubbish to avoid bin spillage and any bins falling over or strewn across the highways.
2. Stagecoach stopped the bus services during the height of the storm on Friday.
3. All Canterbury City Council Car Parks were checked for damage and any danger to the public.
4. Some of the Council Housing Stock took a bounding but emergency crews from Mears were called.
5. The Beaney Museum had the busiest day for a long time with people seeking shelter and activities for family members – all provided and supported by Kent County Council Library staff.
6. Herne Bay Market was cancelled
7. Some meetings of the CC Council will continue to be held on line but this official expires on Tuesday, 22nd February when the Council will be meeting again.
8. Those sleeping on the High Street were encouraged to undertake emergency accommodation.

9. NEWS ROOM this week:-

- a. Green gym opened at Kingsmead Field
- b. Changing Places toilet and upgrade of site is about to commence at Reculver.

- c. Afghan residents still in the Abbots Barton (23 Households)
- d. CANENCO have now purchased 2 New Liveried Mechanical Sweepers
- e. CANENCO are still recruiting for grounds team employment
- f. HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND announced on 10th February for residents who are struggling to pay their bills
- g. CCC is working with KCC for SOLAR PENELS – the website SOLAR TOGETHER WEBSITE – for help to purchase and fit High Quality Solar Panels.

Current Consultations include Natural Environment and Renewable energy opportunity Sites.

Westbere:-

During storm Eunice the village suffered some damage and the roads now look a little bedraggled but if we all do our bit, they will then look as they did following the CCC sweeping.

We were lucky in having only short spells with no electricity – other areas were not so lucky.

136. KCC Cllr Alan Marsh

KCC Cllr Alan Marsh explained that the recent consultation on whether to retain a booking system at the waste and recycling centres gave 49% of responses wanting the booking system kept as permanent, versus 42% against. The pre-booking has now been made permanent. There is difficulty for people without internet and there will be a wait. There are fears of this leading to increased fly-tipping. There will now be a telephone booking offer.

Many Hersden homes have been without power for up to 4 days after recent storms. Cllr Marsh reminded everyone that the easiest phone number to call in a power cut is 105.

Cllr Marsh explained he sits on the Regulation Committee. Westbere Parish Council confirmed its continued interest and support for the village green application submitted by the Two Fields Action Group to get the Two Fields registered as a village green, and the Clerk will confirm this by email to Cllr Marsh.

Cllr Marsh explained Full Council met last week – the meeting was held at the Detling showground to enable social distancing. There are pressures of staffing, with many staff members working from home, giving communication difficulties and delays. There is an idea to sell off County hall. The KCC element on council tax bills will rise between 81 pence to £1 per week for a Band D property.

137. Adjournment of the meeting

The Chairman changed the order of the agenda to enable resident Alison Evans to give an update on her organisation of an event to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Thanks were recorded to Alison who gave verbal permission to be named in these minutes.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Event Sunday 05 June 2022

Resident Alison Evans has been making real progress into planning a village event.

Sunday 05 June is the day the government are pushing for a Big Jubilee Lunch.

Alison has spoken to Anna and Mark at The Yew Tree who are happy to be involved and equally happy to supply food or for people to bring their own. They will use plastic cups to minimise damage.

She has a gentleman on board to be Master of Ceremonies and he has offered a PA system for the day.

Alison has also got a volunteer to make stocks for sponge throwing.

Ideas for games for children include a best crown competition and Pin the flag on the castle.

Alison suggests a tug of war for adults.

Alison suggests hiring games like Giant Jenga (for £30) and other funded items tbc.

A lady is offering a portable piano for an old fashioned sing song.

Alison has also recruited volunteers to decorate with bunting.

The village hall committee has offered trestle tables to go alongside the pub's tables.

Alison has given a survey to all households. This survey included questions such as will you attend, will you share food, bring your own or want the pub to cater for you, do you want to get involved and help prior to or on the day, have you any ideas for activities, etc.

Alison explained that there is a 33% return rate to the survey so far, with at least 100 people attending and lots of offers of help. The majority of people want to bring and share food (those with allergies or special dietary needs will bring their own.)

Alison and another resident are meeting with the Yew Tree rep on 24 February to go through ideas from residents and firm up ideas.

KCC Cllr Alan Marsh has offered a Member grant of up to £800 towards the event. The parish council 2022-2023 budget made £200 provision for events and this will also be offered. Alison explained she has secured £500 sponsorship from Perry's on Island Road and she asked the Clerk to invoice for this on parish council letterheaded paper.

The parish council is to apply to Kent Highways for a road closure from 9am with the event to run from 12.30pm to 5.30pm. This requires a map and simple plan of the extent of the closure and an alternative route for traffic.

NB the deadline for the road closure application is *31 March 2022*.

KCC will supply two 'Road Closed' signs which have to be collected from Aylesford Highways Depot by prior appointment or the parish council may purchase alternatives such as a banner at [Road Closures \(streetparty.org.uk\)](http://RoadClosures.streetparty.org.uk)

The Clerk will write to indirectly and directly affected properties by the road closure inviting any comments by 15 March 2022.

Whilst Alison is now leading on this event, she has confirmed that the university student she spoke of at the January 2022 parish council meeting is happy to be involved in the background but she is actually away on the day.

As things firm up the Clerk to notify the parish council's insurance company of the event and will in conjunction with Alison complete a risk assessment for the event and its activities.

The resident, Cllr Marsh and Cllr Dekker left the meeting at this point. (8.05pm).
The meeting continued.

138. Planning

There is no update on the CCC Call for sites. Information is expected shortly.

RECEIVED the Clerk's notes of a CCC briefing for all Parish Councillors regarding Design and Community Planning held on 20 January 2022. These notes are appended to these Minutes.

CCC Press release 18 January 2022- CCC calls on ministers to suspend housing delivery sanctions

On Tuesday 18 January 2022, Canterbury City Council called on the government to temporarily suspend sanctions on councils that fail to hit the Housing Delivery Target (HDT) it imposes until life returns closer to normal.

On 14 January 2022, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, published the latest HDT results for councils in England.

Having delivered 65% of its target for new homes built over the period April 2018 to March 2021, Canterbury City Council is one of 51 councils across the country being punished. To avoid any sanction, the council needed to hit 75%.

Not hitting the target means the policies in the council's current Local Plan which restrict or control the supply of housing are now deemed out of date and councillors and officers must make decisions on planning applications in line with the "presumption in favour of sustainable development".

If the council says no to a speculative planning application, it is now more likely that a planning inspector will say yes and the council will pick up the costs of any appeal.

This will apply from 15 January 2022 and until such time as the government publishes results showing the council's delivery is back to 75% of our target.

Canterbury City Council Chief Executive Colin Carmichael said: "While we are confident we will get back to hitting 75% of our target quickly, it cannot be right to punish councils that are working hard to do what the government asks even when most of the levers councils need to pull are out of its control.

“Our rate of delivery has been affected by the impact of Covid-19 on the building trade, especially around the supply chain, and also on the economy more generally.

“The issue of water quality at Stodmarsh has prevented us from granting permissions on otherwise perfectly good sites. Plus a whole host of legal challenges have delayed development at our key strategic sites.

“Unless the government listens, this will now open the district up to speculative development which campaigners would never have envisaged nor intended.

“Indeed, we feared we might be in this position some months ago. While the government did cut councils some slack for the pandemic, it is not and was never enough.

“I wrote to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in October to point out we should not be punished locally for the factors affecting housing delivery that are out of our control, especially the effect of a lack of investment in sewage treatment in our district and agricultural practices on Stodmarsh.

“Add to this the fact it is largely developers that decide when to bring the diggers in after we have granted permission and they are driven by market forces.

“I also pointed to our previous track record on housing delivery since the Housing Delivery Test was introduced - between 117% and 87%.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Ben Fitter-Harding, said pulling together a Local Plan is too painful a process for its protections to be suspended in this way.

He said: “We have made it very clear that we recognise the fact more people than ever need housing and we have worked hard to pull together Local Plans that are designed to deliver while trying to balance the need to protect as much open space as we can, delivering crucial pieces of key infrastructure to improve people’s quality of life and to create jobs.

“Each plan goes through extensive public consultation and throws up all sorts of painful, difficult and controversial choices that force the crop of councillors at the time to make very difficult decisions.

Those decisions are necessary to deliver the housing targets that central government imposes on us all.

“To be punished by our Local Plan ceasing to hold any sway is unfair and unjust when so much is out of our control.”

Notes of a Meeting with Bretts and local parish councils (Fordwich, Sturry and Westbere) and other lease holders on the Westbere Lakes/Fordwich site held via zoom on 25 January 2022

Invited Nigel Fisher from Bretts , Sturry PC representatives, Fordwich TC representatives, Westbere PC representatives, CCC Councillors, Canoewild, Sailing Club, Model Railway club, Football club.

Present: Nigel Fisher (Bretts), Cllr Sue Thompson (Fordwich), Cllr Ann Davies (Sturry), Cllr Georgina Glover (CCC), Cllr Paul Glover (Westbere), Andrew (CanoeWild),

Unfortunately, some invitees could not attend via zoom and this will be addressed in advance next time - Ann Davies offered to set up the next meeting via zoom as she has a business account TBA/AD

It was our pleasure to be able to sit down with Nigel Fisher from Bretts to have an informal discussion about the Brett Site now that it is not being used for production by Bretts.

Nigel stated that Bretts had previously looked at the site for some residential and holiday let accommodation but had decided that this wouldn’t work because of the nutrient issues with the River Stour.

They are now looking at certain low-level employment and minor units for starter businesses. They do not have a full vision for the future at the moment. A large proportion of the land is SSSI. They are in communication with Natural England who would not want whole area opened up for public access.

There are various leisure activities on the site; Canoewild, Sailing Club , Model railway and Football. They are keen to ensure that it remains gated, the gates are locked in the evening and at weekends and they do not want this to change at the moment. If there was further use for leisure activities and amenities Bretts would not want to run any of these, they would have to be run independently and thought must be given to this. The parking arrangement that Canoewild tested on the Brett site last year had a very positive effect on the parking issues within Fordwich.

Ann Davies spoke to confirm that the site was important to the 3 parishes and we appreciated being kept in the

loop as much as possible if there was a change of ownership or governance on the land.

The meeting ended after 40 minutes but it was decided the interested parties would like to meet again especially with those who were unable to attend and keep a line of communication open with Bretts. Ann Davies to set next meeting.

Cllr P Glover explained that the next joint meeting is now scheduled for 08 March in Fordwich, venue tbc, and he will attend.

New applications:

None this month.

View and comment on applications online at <https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/planningsearch>

Notifications:

*CA/20/00088 - Kemp Hall, 31 Westbere Lane, Westbere, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 0HH
Proposed single-storey outbuilding with extension of existing vehicular access together with conversion of the existing listed outbuilding to ancillary living accommodation.*

And

*CA/20/00089 - Kemp Hall, 31 Westbere Lane, Westbere, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 0HH
Application for listed building consent for external and internal alterations including replacement of existing and installation of new windows, replacement of existing garage doors with brickwork to form ancillary living accommodation, together with proposed detached single-storey outbuilding.*

TO NOTE these applications were Withdrawn.

This neighbouring application was GRANTED on the weekly list dated 14 February 2022:

CA/21/01059 – Hoplands Farm, Island Road, Hersden

Application for approval of reserved matters GRANTED relating to layout, scale, appearance, and landscaping for the erection of two units comprising 400sqm foodstore, 327sqm convenience retail and 150sqm dentist with associated parking and landscaping, pursuant to outline planning permission CA//16/00404/OUT.

Village Green application to KCC for the Two Fields site

The Sturry and Westbere Two Fields Action Group submitted an application for the Two Fields to be designated a Village Green to KCC at County Hall on 08 November 2019. The application was heard at a virtual meeting of the KCC Regulation Committee Member Panel on 24 February 2021. The next stage was a Public Inquiry about whether a trigger event has occurred which would render the application for registration as a village green invalid. The Action Group has advised that The Inspector concluded **‘there is no trigger event’** however reached that decision based on reasons of his own – after rejecting most of the arguments put forward by all the parties involved. The Inspector recognised the importance of his decision and acknowledged that there is now ‘a clear risk of challenge to any decision KCC makes on the trigger question’.

Further comments were then invited, before the matter was then referred back to the County Council's Regulation Committee Member Panel for decision on 02 December 2021 at County Hall.

The Member Panel Meeting met only to consider the question of the ‘trigger event’ — in order to determine whether or not the Application may go forward to the next stage (i.e. proceed to Public Inquiry.) They decided that no trigger event had occurred.

Winckworth Sherwood solicitors acting on behalf of Bellway Homes then sent a detailed pre-action protocol letter sent to Kent County Council on 22 December 2021 challenging the KCC Member Panel decision. (Westbere Parish Council was sent a copy of this letter and any resident wishing to see the detail may contact the Clerk.)

The County Council has not yet made a final decision in respect of the application to register the land as a town or village green. Accordingly, Bellway’s solicitors stated it is able to reconsider its decision that a trigger event has not taken place. They argued that KCC should reconsider it and in the light of a fresh determination that a trigger event has taken place it should take no further action in respect of the application; and, in particular, should not refer it to a public inquiry.

KCC wrote on 14 January 2022 rejecting the claim.

On 25 January 2022 Winckworth Sherwood Solicitors lodged a claim for Judicial Review brought by their clients Bellway Homes Ltd against the Kent County Council Regulation Committee Member Panel decision on 02 December 2021 to accept the advice of the Inspector that no trigger event had occurred in respect of the site.

139. Use of Section 101 since the last meeting – None.

140. Parish Council banking arrangements:

NOTED further ID documents for Cllr P. Glover were sent to Unity Trust bank on 02 February 2022. The Clerk explained the mandate has been delayed as Unity has been inundated with new account opening requests since HSBC started charging a monthly fee and per transaction charge in December 2021 for clubs and charities including parish council accounts.

141. Finance

The payments listed on Appendix 3 were noted.

RECEIVED the bank statements and bank reconciliation for January 2022 and RESOLVED the signature of a councillor other than the Chairman thereon.

Damage to Church wall pillar

NOTED that a pillar of the Church wall suffered vehicle damage on 15 January 2022. One quote for the pillar to be repaired/rebuilt has been received. As the pillar is not in imminent danger of collapse Cllrs resolved to await the second quotation and revisit this at the next meeting.

To commission a climbing Tree Inspection

The last tree inspection of all trees in the churchyards was carried out in February 2020. T41 A Western red Cedar on one boundary in the Church yard opposite the church, recorded "A large historical wound was noted and inspected:- the wound is 30 cm wide and runs the last two thirds to the top of the tree originally assumed to be a tear out from the top, but upon closer inspection scorch marks can be seen in the minor cavity within this wound, therefore could only have been a lightning strike many years ago and there are slight signs of soft rot setting in. This is only the beginning, the tree has many years of life, and I *recommend this tree is re-inspected in 24 months as this is located in a public church yard.*"

Cllr Harlow proposed, Cllr Wilson seconded and Cllr P Glover agreed and the Clerk was asked to commission a climbing inspection again for T41.

CCC Capital grant 2022-2023

TO NOTE that the CCC Community Committee has resolved to fund the Westbere Parish Council capital grant of £155.00 to replace the green salt bin. The capital grant budget will form part of the budget that is presented to Council in February for approval and assuming that there are no unforeseen circumstances, a funding agreement for signature will be issued to the Clerk in March so that the funding is in the parish council's bank account in April 2022.

142. State of the village

Latest updates:

- i) NOTED the Clerk has reported the overgrown footpath from Pennington Close to Bushy Hill Road and KCC Highways raised a job on 08 February 2022 to "side out" and widen the footpath from Avondale Villa to Bushy Hill Road, within 28 days.
- ii) NOTED the Clerk has reported some carriageway erosion of the road alongside the village green in Church Lane and KCC Highways have confirmed this will be addressed.
- iii) Sweeping of the roads:
NOTED CCC advised that due to the type of road the sweepers were only attending as and when needed. Canenco has now added this road to their four weekly schedule and a sweeper attended on 08 February 2022.
Cllr P Glover had obtained a quotation for an additional sweep but councillors resolved that with the new information from CCC about routine sweeps this will not be pursued at this time. The Clerk commented that this avoids a double taxation issue too.

143. **Clerk report**

NOTED that the Clerk completed the Cabinet Office CDDO Domain Management team's survey on the gov.uk domain name security on 07 February 2022.

NOTED the Clerk has updated and reviewed the council's ICO Model Publication Scheme and this has been updated on the parish council's website.

NOTED that the Clerk has done an updated coronavirus risk assessment for February 2022.

144. TO CONSIDER any new residents that a Westbere Parish plan may be delivered to.
None this month.

145. **Parish Charter between CCC and the parish councils**

A consultation draft of the revised Parish Charter between Canterbury City Council and the parishes has been circulated. Canterbury City Council will also be consulting its officers and Members who will also no doubt have comments. So, things might still change. When both tiers of government have made their observations, the "round table" will reconvene to write the draft - to then go forward for ratification by the city council and Canterbury KALC.

Once ratified it will be adopted and applied for 12 months during which time the benefit of experience can be applied and amendments made once agreed by both tiers.

The Charter will be reviewed within 12 months of the next administration coming into power at the city council.

The Planning function is not yet included in the Charter - but it will be. All the joint work in this area has gone to the Head of Planning for input and comment and will be revisited in the New Year.

Cllrs were broadly supportive of the document and had no comments. The Clerk will feedback to the Secretary of the Canterbury area KALC.

146. **Change of March parish council meeting date**

NOTED that the March 2022 parish council meeting date has been changed from 21 March 2022 to 28 March 2022.

147. **Annual Electors Meeting 2022**

The Annual Electors Meeting must be held between 01 March and 01 June each year. A provisional date of Monday 23 May 2022 was agreed, and will be confirmed at the next meeting, once the outcome of recruitment/appointment of a new clerk is known.

As no members of the public were present there was no requirement to make a resolution to go into confidential session and the meeting continued although by its nature is confidentially minuted here.

148. **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: Staffing matters: to discuss recruitment of a new Clerk**

KALC has been advertising the position on their vacancies page since 19 October 2021. Since the February meeting there have been two candidates putting themselves forward. These were discussed and it was agreed to invite both to a face to face early evening interview.

At the last meeting, Cllr Dekker proposed and all councillors agreed that the Clerk's hours would be increased from 40 per month to 10 per week with effect from 01 April 2022 or when a new Clerk starts if prior to that. A calculation of the costs for this increase in hours was presented and discussed, and Cllr Wilson proposed, Cllr Harlow seconded and Cllr P Glover was in agreement that this be ratified.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

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Signed: Cllr Paul Glover, Chairman

Date:

Please note these Minutes remain as draft Minutes until they are approved by the parish council at their next parish council meeting

Next Meeting dates for 2022: Third Monday of each month except no meeting in August and December – 28 March, 18 April, 16 May, 20 June, 18 July, 19 September, 17 October, 21 November 2022

Notes from the CCC Design and Community Planning briefing for parish councils held virtually on 20 January 2022 from 5.30pm to 7pm

Led by

Karen Britton, CCC Planning manager, Development and Engagement
Stevie Andrews, CCC Planning manager, Development Management (planning applications)

What is good design?

Good design has moved up the government's agenda, with development not just about buildings now. The emphasis is now on

- Creating "Beautiful places"
- Creating healthy communities with open spaces
- Effective community engagement - and more early on

The emphasis is on granting planning permission for well-designed development and refuse planning permission for poor quality schemes. CCC welcome this.

What is CCC doing?

A new team and restructure in March 2021 sees planning policy and the Canterbury District Local Plan split away from Planning. This was done to respond to the new national planning agenda. There is strong expertise in-house including heritage, enforcement, architect officers. There is also experience of writing Masterplans and Design Briefs.

To meet the government's challenge, additional resources will be needed. There is a government emphasis on Design and Design Codes (explained more later).

CCC is maintaining a heritage focus to manage and enhance the existing environment.

For new communities, CCC is working on master planning and design codes, for existing and future strategic sites. Officers are looking at how sites might work together.

New policies are being developed for the new Canterbury District Local Plan.

CCC continues to investigate reported planning breaches (enforcement). Over the past 12 months there have been 1350 reported planning breaches.

An RTPI award-winning Heritage Strategy for the district exists. Heritage attracts visitors and brings in income.

Heritage is a theme running through CCC strategies and initiatives and activities of external organisations.

Canterbury District Design Panel

In October 2021, CCC set up a new, independent, Canterbury District Design Panel with Design South East. This consists of 21 members in and out of Kent with a range of expertise. The Panel provides skills and advice to CCC on applications and to applicants. CCC use the Panel for pre application advice for Sites over 50 homes or over 5,000 sq metres in size, and at CCC discretion for locations deemed sensitive.

Ongoing CCC initiatives

- Shopfront Design Guide – now available on the CCC website.
- Funding bids – Levelling Up funding from the government for different projects relating to regeneration and economy – CCC is looking at bids for Canterbury and Herne Bay for

public realm improvements.

- Heritage and Climate change guidance is being worked on, for example, to re-use heritage rather than demolish it.
- There is also partnership working with other organisations.

Next work projects

1. National RTPI Design Code pilot project

CCC did bid to be a pilot but the government awarded to a private company.

What are Design Codes?

They are a set of criteria to develop a site

Used on strategic bigger sites

Developers in tandem with the local authority set out design codes, eg. Landscaping, play areas, transportation.

These then get adopted as part of the planning application permission so if the site is sold on the codes move to the new developer or housebuilder.

The government is talking about moving forward with Street Level Design Codes.

2. Design Protocol - To set out what is expected from developers.

3. Kent Design Guide

This was developed by Kent County Council and which CCC was consulted on.

4. Town Centre Strategies

These will go wider than just being planning related – to create vision, partnerships and interventions. The CCC team will do bits of research and will provide evidence for the Canterbury District Local Plan.

Community planning update

Some communities are currently working on Neighbourhood Plans (Bridge, Chartham, Fordwich and Thanington.)

Some communities are considering Design Codes.

What's coming next?

More planning changes....

Will CCC need to start zoning the district?

Will street votes be part of the new planning bill? For example, if a whole street agrees with an application, it can get planning permission. This would speed the planning process up.

How can parish councils get involved?

1. Design Panel

If within the site parameters (over 50 homes or over 5,000 sq metres in size) a parish council can be invited to join the Design Panel to hear and give thoughts on any online presentation and comments.

2. Design workshops/charrettes (Charettes is another name for workshop and a French derived, and like a showcase of work and ideas).

3. Planning applications and sites

Early parish council and community engagement to get the best outcomes.

4. Neighbourhood Plans and Design Codes

5. Take part in the Canterbury District Local Plan consultation and other council consultations

Other

CCC is reviewing the Canterbury conservation area with Purcells Consultants. It is anticipated that this will go to a CCC committee in April and then go out to public consultation.

CCC is looking at KCC taking over the CCC archaeology function – KCC do already do this elsewhere in Kent.