

**Notes from the informal meeting held on 2 August 2022
at the Parsonage Place Site Office, Church Road**

Present: Rachel Gray (Vice Chair OPC)
Darrell Wilson – Bellway Homes
Darren – Walker Construction
Teresa Irving – Clerk to Downswood & Otham Parish Councils

Following the cancellation of the liaison meeting that was planned for today, Darrell kindly agreed to an impromptu meeting to discuss local issues.

Deringwood Drive

- A sweeper has been booked to clear away loose stones
- Damage caused to the layby is being repaired
- A suggestion to turf the mounded area close to the new layby - rather than sow grass seeds - was initially rejected due to maintenance issues with newly laid turf (particularly during the current dry spell). Following further discussion, it was agreed that seeds are unlikely to be successful as pedestrians will walk across the area, therefore turf will be considered for September. Darren to speak with resident(s) of Grampian who raised the issue.
- The new, taller street column has now been wired up (a complaint has been received that the light from this column will be detrimental). However, BH advised that the column is likely to be less invasive than previous columns and is understood to be fitted with a cowl.
- UK Power Network still to do connections, so the tarmac cannot be finished until these works are completed. Footpaths will be re-tarmacked after 16 August.

- **Dust.** Numerous complaints received regarding the level of dust. BH advised that water is sprayed on the unmade routes and is also sprayed on some of the tarmacked areas. A water cannon is available but this uses approx. 50 litres/min and the poor water pressure is inadequate for its use. (Regardless of the water pressure, it would not be eco-friendly during the current drought and SE Water has announced a hosepipe and sprinkler ban from 12 Aug).

A bigger water storage tank is now available on site with 10,000 gallons which means that the ground is now sprayed more often.

The poor water pressure also means that it takes 3 hours to fill a bowser, and half an hour to empty it.

All 6 dust monitoring stations register compliance to required levels

- Request for 'Stop' sign to replace 'Give Way' sign at Deringwood Drive/Church Road junction.

BH has no say regarding road signage – entirely down to KHS.

- KHS is providing new road signs for Church Road which will advise that the road is fully accessible to pedestrians/cyclists, with part access for vehicles to Squerries Oast only.
- The existing road closure signs are incorrect and should state there is no through road for **2 months, not 2 weeks**. (Downswood end of Church Rd will be closed until September, this will immediately be followed by works on the pinch point outside The Old Rectory). Works are not expected to be completed until November.
- Two residents of Grampian Way have asked for 2 further trees to be removed as they feel that they obscure sightlines when exiting the road.
- To mitigate the instruction by KCC to remove the hedge fronting the site, the hedge will require hard pruning on 8 August (road needs to be 5.5 m, with the hedge a minimum of 500mm from the kerb line). A new kerb will be installed to protect the hedgerow and remaining verge.

A small section of the hedge in front of the site was missed previously and will need to be removed to comply with the drawing. An ecologist has been booked to visit next Monday and Wednesday.

- Widening will take place on the left-hand side of Church Road when travelling towards Otham - up to Little Squerries – where widening will start on the right-hand side of the road.
- Trees adjacent to the kissing gate will need to be removed (tree by the church is still under discussion).
- Permission for the entrance to the churchyard is still awaited (from the church).

Additional matter regarding Bicknor Wood.

- Work on the ditch in White Horse Lane will require a road closure. (The closure was originally signed off for April but went back for redesign). The new design was signed off this week but, due to the amount of closures in the area, BH do not know when the closure will take place (this will need to be at the same time as the Gore Court closure). DW to make enquiries and update.
- 'No ball games'. Following a request by 4 residents to remove the NBG signs from an open space, it would appear that one sign was erected by a resident and the other sign(s) was/were put in place at the request of 3 residents. This has been left to the management company to resolve.

Meeting concluded at 11.15 am.