

# OCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Notes from discussions held on

Tuesday 3 October 2017 at the Cricket Pavilion

Present: R Herbert, L Hogarth, D Thomas, B Thorne, L Fletcher (Clerk)

Apologies: J Page, S Figg (continued ill health), G Lee-Steere (received 4 Oct 17)

### 1. Parish magazine - Ockley, Oakwood Hill and Forest Green

RH had met with B Thomson to discuss the future of the magazine and the possibility of the parish council getting involved. Summary of discussions (circulated by e-mail) as follows:

- The church's current plan is to continue publishing the magazine for a further year and to continue to deliver it to about 400 subscribers in Ockley, Forest Green, Okewood Hill and Walliswood. Thereafter the likely Ockley link to Capel will change things.
- With advertising and subscription revenue, the magazine makes a positive contribution to church funds even allowing for the time and costs of editing/publishing.
- Delivering free to 800 homes in the 4 villages would cost £5500 and would render the publication insolvent (note that Ockley only has around 360 households).
- If the Parish Council were to become involved the church would be willing to change the structure of the magazine with the 'church' element being part of the magazine like other societies/events.
- It was felt that a more comprehensive events calendar could still be in the centre spread as this is where the magazine tends to open.
- The list of contacts, list of advertisers and ads are best at the front and back because these are set out for the year and are printed in advance.
- Inside the front cover could be a contents page.

The issue for us is that we presumably would not want or be able to fund free delivery outside the civil parish of Ockley. Or would we, in order to keep the villages together?

Comments received from DT:

- (a) I assume the cost of £ 5,500 is the total cost of publishing/printing 800 copies 12 times per year less the contribution made from advertising. I suspect that the cost of only providing copies for the civil parish of Ockley (i.e. around 360 copies) would not be that much cheaper when you take account of the reduced advertising revenue. So how would this be funded ? Another addition to the precept of that level might not be particularly welcome so perhaps we might think about whether the magazine could be produced in a cheaper style. Say like Capel.
- (b) I am worried about delivery. We are talking about a doubling of the present monthly distribution and the volunteers are not getting any younger. We would need a major drive to recruit a fairly large number of younger volunteers to make the project achievable.

- (c) If we go down this path then we should be thinking of beyond 2018. We don't yet know if we will have a parish office available with someone to co-ordinate the publication and distribution. We also (presumably) don't know whether Iain would be prepared to continue.

I think it would be a good idea to keep the villages together. Even if the Ecclesiastical Parish separates all the other activities in the village tend to involve all 4 villages – so we should try and find a way to achieve this.

Having taken all the above into consideration the following was agreed/noted:

- a) it was now too late for major change for 2018, although in the meantime perhaps less church information to be included in front pages
- b) if publication 'safe' for 2018 then possibly a new look could be gradually introduced in the third/fourth quarter of next year
- c) diary in the middle should include events from all villages as well as church calendar
- d) parish council to work with church representatives to ensure continuation of magazine as Ockley, OH, FG, Walliswood publication
- e) concern re. distribution - suggestion of central pick up points / pay PO to deliver
- f) apparently Abinger parish council also interested in getting involved - DT to discuss with R Doree
- g) RH to contact Barry Thomson to advise on the approach

## 2. Ockley station car park

RH and LF had attended a meeting of Capel parish council on 18 September 2017 to discuss Capel involvement with project - noted:

- a) Capel would not become involved if parking was to be free - it was felt that precept money could not be used to fund a car park which would be used for a small number of residents
- b) however would be interested in becoming involved if charge for parking to cover costs / small profit
- c) so parking company could administer parking on behalf of Ockley and Capel parish councils - machine/personnel to check

Agreed that RH to make enquiries regarding companies to undertake these responsibilities.

It was also noted that Abinger parish council were not interested in becoming involved in the project.

## 3. Infant education in the area

RH had circulated an e-mail informing councillors of the GOOD Ofsted report that the Scott-Broadwood Cof E Infant School (now based in Capel) had received following the inspection held in the Summer Term. He was to ask GL-S if a banner celebrating the 'good' Ofsted rating and publicising upcoming Open Days for the school could be put on The Green. There were no objections to this from those present.

The application for the registration of an Asset of Community Value at the Ockley school site had been submitted. It was noted that a letter and e-mail sent out to villagers had contained incorrect wording. DT had informed those responsible for the communication of the error which had not, to date, been corrected.

DT reported that there had been a lot of movement on the legal front regarding continuing education on the Ockley school site.

It was noted that numbers were so low at Elderslie Nursery School there was a strong possibility that the school would close.

#### 4. 2020 Consultancy - traffic feasibility report

A feasibility report for another village, prepared by 2020 Consultancy, had been circulated to all councillors. It was noted that if such a professional report was prepared for Ockley then it could be taken to SCC as a document to be considered / action to be taken to reduce the speed of traffic on the A29. There was also a speed camera option that could be considered.

It was agreed that the speed of the traffic travelling through the village had increased over the last year. There had been no police presence checking speed for some time. It was felt that SCC would not do anything pro-active due to budget restrictions.

BT stated that a camera system would have to rely on village volunteers. Cameras to be put up / moved by volunteers. It would have to be approved by the police. No information or costs had been obtained from the police.

LH asked whether a report from 2020 Consultancy could include such costings.

A Bunce from 2020 Consultancy had made several suggestions that may be incorporated into a report when he had spoken at the September meeting of the parish council. He had also said that for an additional fee a company could become involved who would check traffic speed by laying monitoring strips across the A29.

#### All present agreed:

- a) firm quote for report to be requested, with additional fee for traffic speed check 'strips'; subject to agreement from all councillors. E-mail to be circulated for agreement.
- b) e-mail to be sent to H Clack, SCCouncillor asking if there were any funds available to help with cost of report / if she had any advice on the matter.

#### 5. Play area at village hall (Aviva Grant Project)

DT had prepared an application for funding for a new slide at the play area. He had circulated details regarding choice of slides to be considered. All agreed that the green dinosaur was the preferred choice. DT to ask for support for the application in the parish magazine / village outlets: 'Can the green dinosaur come home!' He would submit the application to Aviva.