

## IWADE LOCALISM LIVE PROJECT

### NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2013

<u>Present:</u>	Swale Borough Council:	Borough Cllr. Gerry Lewin, Borough Cllr. Ben Stokes Graeme Tuff and Sophie Taylor
	Iwade Parish Council:	Cllr. James Hunt, Cllr. Matt Gale, Cllr. Stephen Plumb Cllr. Les Mitchell, Lynda Fisher (Clerk)
	KCC Community Warden:	Nick Mayatt
<u>Visitors:</u>	Countrystyle Group:	James Nixon
	Fgs Agri Limited:	Mark White

Borough Cllr. Ben Stokes introduced James Nixon (Countrystyle) and Mark White (Agri), who gave an interesting presentation on recycling and how they work closely with the Borough Council's Environmental Health Officers; touching on the problem with odours and the new methods the firm has put in place to reduce this nuisance. Mark also outlined the work involved in the spreading of slurry, the use it is put to and how they pre-warn nearby residents when this is being spread.

Ben thanked the gentlemen for their presentation and moved into the main meeting.

1. Housing - Borough Cllr. Gerry Lewin advised that the revised version of Bearing Fruits is out to consultation and in general terms it gives a better position for Iwade. He hopes that all Iwade residents are writing to express their views to Swale Borough Council. There is, however, a sting in the tail in that the Government required all authorities to have Local Plans which are NPPF compliant by March of this year. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) required other things which were not anticipated, such as a 5 year housing policy. The NPPF is a condensed document (5000 pages into 50) which has caused some confusion. At the present time Swale does not have a compliant Plan and it therefore remains possible for applicants to come forward with planning applications for developments which only have to satisfy the tests of the NPPF.

In terms of more detail on Iwade, on Monday Cllr. Lewin met with the Head of Services and spoke to Officers and asked whether there had been any fishing application by developers for this area outside Bearing Fruits, and has been given the answer that there is not any at this stage. The Council normally has pre-planning application discussions to try and solve as many problems as possible.

Parish Cllr. Stephen Plumb asked what is the shortest time period that a Local Plan can be adopted? Cllr. Lewin responded that the consultation period has been reduced from 8 weeks to 6, which comes out to the end of the year/early part of next year, followed by submission to the Planning Inspector we could be looking at the first quarter of 2014.

Parish Cllr. James Hunt mentioned that the Parish Council met with Ward Homes last December and as far as he is aware they are ready to put an application in at any time. Also Crest Nicholson is looking at a site adjacent to Pond Farm. He mentioned that he is aware that the School is going to expand and if Ward Homes put in the planning application they will be able to advertise that there will be spaces at the School, which will add support to building more houses.

2. The old Barn – Members of the Parish Council had the opportunity to look inside the Grade II listed building last week; this is still owned by Wards Homes but will be handed over to the ownership of Swale Borough Council. It needs some internal fixtures and fittings, but the Parish Council and PCC are keen to take the building over for community use on a suggested 125 year lease from Swale Borough Council. The PCC meets on the 26<sup>th</sup> September and it will also be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> October.

There was a query over woodworm; Borough Cllr. Stokes to get in touch with Ward Homes to investigate whether this has been treated.

3. New Village Hall – The Parish Council had a meeting with Jim Wilson and Paul Osborne; the outcome from the meeting was that there is no problem planning wise and long as Graeme Tuff is agreeable. The Parish Council are still waiting to hear from Persimmon as to whether they are in agreement to a hall being built on the proposed site.

Graeme Tuff commented that in light of the loss of open space, he needs more reasons to say 'yes' to the hall being located on the site adjacent to the Medical Centre, e.g. use for certain activities (perhaps Badminton Court) for sport.

4. Any other Matters Arising – Borough Cllr. Lewin mentioned parking issues in the village; he is going to have a look at this sometime in October; he asked Borough Cllr. Stokes to make a note of the date.

Parish Cllr. Hunt referred to the school and to the '10 Point Plan'; the school is at Item 14 and this will impact on the top 10 items.

It was agreed to organise a further meeting of the Iwade Localism Live Project group.

The meeting closed at 11.55 a.m.