



## **BIDDENDEN DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONNAIRE**

This Questionnaire is being circulated to all residents of the village. Its purpose is to find out how you feel about community benefits for the village as a whole.

### **Background**

Government Policy is focused on forcing housing development in Kent and throughout the South East of England. Ashford Borough Council is having to comply with this policy by providing development sites both in towns and rural areas.

As you know this process has been ongoing since 2013 and has been on every Parish Council agenda since then. Information days have been held in the village hall on several occasions and open meetings held with the Parish Council.

Ashford Borough Council are proposing that 40-45 houses are built on a site in North Street and this forms part of the draft local plan. Biddenden Parish Council has formally responded to this stating that 20-25 houses would be more acceptable.

A second draft of this plan is due in December, so any alterations that the village feels are necessary have to be put to Ashford Borough Council by Mid-November.

### **Time is short.**

### **The Future and Your contribution to the Village's Response**

It is Ashford Borough Council's policy that housing development will proceed within the village to meet these perceived housing needs. In view of this the Parish Council, together with Neil Bell (Biddenden's Borough Councillor), believe that it is imperative to obtain as much benefit for the village as a whole.

To do this we need to formulate our **response**.

The position is that the North Street landowner and developer would be willing to offer a substantial benefit towards the building of a new Community or Village Hall, to be built on Parish Council land nearer to the village centre, but that this benefit would need to be used within a limited time scale or it could be forfeited.

Possible Community Benefits could be:

- 1) A new Community building or Village Hall. This to be sited near to the existing sports facilities to provide a hall for Village events eg weddings, parties, dances, films.... together with smaller rooms for club meetings, library, club meetings, social gatherings, doctors consulting room, indoor sports, and school use, hire of pop up shops.....etc

- 2) Cycle Way – perhaps to allow future connections to other villages/ towns. This would be a major development in cost and time and so would maybe be more appropriate for long term consideration.
- 3) A New Primary School. This would be a major development and out of the scope of this type of benefit. Kent County Council has no plans to rebuild the school. In addition, bearing in mind that there have been recent senior personnel changes at the school, it may be more sensible to look at this with a view to the NEXT iteration of the local plan and for the school to spend the interim formalising its requirements.
- 4) Any other ideas....

#### **Basis for Benefits from Development.**

- 1) Must be realistic in terms of cost. There would be a finite sum of money which would come from the development and this would have to be used within a time frame of 5 years
- 2) Must benefit a large section of the village population and be available for all to use

The Parish Council Working Group formed at the extraordinary meeting held in August has had talks with Neil Bell, Ashford Borough Council Planning Department Head of Planning, Headcorn Doctors, and the developers and landowner of the North Street site.

We need to decide if the village wishes to take up the offer being made in order that it can be included within the local plan.

Can we please ask that your response is returned to us by **1<sup>st</sup> November 2016.**

Please place your responses to this questionnaire in the boxes provided in the post-office or send them electronically to [clerk@biddenden.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@biddenden.gov.uk).



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This Questionnaire is being circulated to all residents of the village. Its purpose is to find out how you feel about community benefits for the village as a whole.

**Question 1**

What major community benefits would you like to see in the village?

Please write in here.....

**Question 2**

Do you think that the village would benefit from a new Community Hall along the lines of the Smarden Charter Hall, Headcorn village Hall, Bethersden village Hall, Benenden Village Hall, Egerton village Hall etc?

YES  NO  NOT SURE

**Question 3**

Would you like to see a new hall built on the existing site or would the Jubilee Meadow ( between the school & the sports club car park ) be the favoured site.

ON EXISTING SITE  JUBILEE MEADOW  NEITHER   
(Between School & Sports Club)

**Question 4**

What facilities would you like to see at a new hall? eg. extensive car parking, easy pedestrian access from the Sissinghurst Road area, toilets, meeting rooms, a stage, drop in centre, other....

CAR PARKING  PEDESTRIAN ACCESS FROM SISSINGHURST RD   
TOILETS  MEETING ROOMS   
A STAGE  DROP-IN CENTRE

OTHER (Please write in here.....

..... **Please turn over**

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**Question 5**

Could a new hall be used by the Primary School?

YES

NO

**Question 6**

What different uses could a new hall be put to? Eg. Indoor sports, film shows, drama productions, farmers market, heritage centre, pilates, exercise classes etc

Indoor Sports	<input type="checkbox"/>	Farmers Market	<input type="checkbox"/>
Film Shows	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heritage Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drama	<input type="checkbox"/>	Doctors Consulting Room	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pilates/Exercise Classes	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Other (please write in here).....  
.....  
.....

**Your Name and/or Address**

(Please complete to avoid duplication of responses. This information will not be published).

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**PLEASE RETURN BY 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER TO BE INCLUDED IN COMMENTS FOR THE LOCAL PLAN**

Place your response in the boxes provided at the post-office or send them electronically to [clerk@biddenden.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@biddenden.gov.uk).