



David Hayes
Chairman, Chilham Future Delivery Board
Vergers Lodge
Taylors Hill
Chilham
Kent
CT4 8BZ

5th September 2012

Dear Mr Hayes,

Chilham Village Square Improvements

We own and live in Chilham Castle. We feel strongly that our house is an integral part of Chilham village particularly because of its position looking straight across the square to St Mary's Church at the far end.

The whole village was originally built within Chilham Castle estate and only since the late 19th century did some of the houses around the square start to become separately owned. It was not until the lodge houses were built in the 1920's that the castle became completely independent from the square.

We have re-established the strong visual link between the castle and the church by replacing the castle's main gates so that visitors to the square can now see the castle and follow the sightline through the castle entrance to the church.

In the 21st century, this unique and historic village is visited by many tourists – around 15,500 between April and August 2012, about 7000 of whom were from overseas; what they find in the square, instead of a beautiful open space to complement the view of Chilham Castle, is a congested and dangerous car park. The many visitors to our open garden days and house tours very often query why such a beautiful space is so mis-used.

We find it rather sad that visitors cannot, because of the cars, take any good photographs of the square or enjoy an exceptionally beautiful and historic open space, especially as there is a huge free car park at the bottom of Taylors Hill.

This situation has been studied at length and the community has chosen the scheme which the Chilham's Future Delivery Board (CFDB) is pursuing and with which we completely agree.

Therefore we support the CFDB's pursuit of funding towards carrying out this scheme.

Yours sincerely,

Tessa & Stuart Wheeler

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