

# CHILHAM SQUARE

## Community Engagement Exercise

### First Scheme Development Workshop

7pm, Thursday 17 June, Chilham Castle

#### Briefing Note

Thank you for volunteering as a community representative for the scheme development workshops. In order to prepare you for the first workshop we want to acquaint you with the workshop objective and agenda in advance.

#### Workshop Objective

The objective of the first scheme development workshop is to *commence the process of sieving and reconciling statutory stakeholder and community aspirations to yield a set of practical and achievable design parameters associated with a single buildable scheme*. Further workshops will continue the process began at the first workshop.

#### Open Workshop Conclusions

Issues and aspirations were ranked in the following order:

- 1) PARKING - control of some type, with Taylor's Hill Car Park being an integral part of any solution
- 2) MOVEMENT - needs addressing to ensure the simple and safe movement, particularly pedestrians
- 3) GUIDANCE - signs required to clarify routes and location of parking
- 4) ATMOSPHERE, APPEARANCE & USE - whatever is done needs to be simple, in-keeping with historic character, protective of building and castle-church views and flexible enough to allow community use

The voting exercise revealed ...

- a clear case against treating the Square as a pure through route or completely pedestrianising it
- a clear case for a substantial but not "draconian" reduction in parking provision in the Square
- strong support for retaining school drop-off/pick-up activity in the Square
- very strong support for seating plus space and electrical supply for special events - greenery was not quite as popular - lighting and special features were very definitely not popular
- a clear case for minimal or low-level traffic delineation and public space features and keeping parking out of the sight line between the church and castle
- maintaining sight lines down side streets had support, but not nearly as strong as keeping Square building frontages and the church-castle sight line clear

## Preparation

In preparation for the meeting, representatives are asked to ...

- review the material concerning aspirations and design parameters in the briefing note sent out for the open workshop material
- think about possible Square arrangements that respect the aspirations and priorities expressed in the open meeting, particularly locations and spaces allocated to parking and seating or left open and clear to retain valuable views
- think about the details, materials and finishes that would respect the strongly expressed opinion that whatever is done needs to be simple, in-keeping with historic character and flexible enough to allow community use

A simple scaled plan of the Square accompanies this briefing note. It includes typical car, lorry and parking bay outlines in the top left hand corner. Please use it to explore possible parking arrangements. Extracts from Kent's "Vehicle Parking Standards" provide understanding concerning roadway and aisle standards.

We would like to thank those who have already submitted layout proposals.

Representatives must also be prepared to discuss and debate measures to really improve safety and security in Taylor's Hill Car Park.

## Agenda

The agenda for the evening follows ...

1. INTRODUCTION
  - Introductions, "housekeeping" issues, ...
2. BRIEF RECAP ON OPEN WORKSHOP
  - Problems and issues, aspirations, etc. ... focusing on open meeting conclusions and giving statutory stakeholders the opportunity to comment on and add to community aspirations
3. TAYLOR'S HILL CAR PARK PROPOSALS
  - Overview of Kent County Council Members Fund proposals for entrance to Taylor's Hill off A252
4. KENT HIGHWAYS PRESENTATION
  - Outlining KHS's role and interests and highlighting issues that will play a particular role in identifying a workable scheme
  - Opportunity for attendees to question KHS and clarify points
5. GROUP EXERCISE
  - Aspirations and design parameters
  - Translating aspirations into scheme arrangements and details
  - Developing possible layouts, identifying and categorising design challenges and conflicts
  - Safety and security in Taylor's Hill Car Park
6. GROUP FEEDBACK
  - Feedback on group work, focusing on layout "sticking points"
  - Exploring solutions together
7. CASE STUDIES
  - What others have done in comparable situations
  - Useful insights, positive and negative, for Chilham
8. AVAILABLE & NEEDED INFORMATION
  - Traffic flows (vehicles and pedestrians) and parking activity
9. CONCLUDING MATTERS & MEETING CLOSURE
  - General (opportunity for additional comments)
  - Next workshop