



BOXLEY PARISH COUNCIL
www.boxleyparishcouncil.org.uk

Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent. ME5 9RU
☎ 01634 861237 ☒ clerk@boxleyparishcouncil.org.uk

Clerk Mrs Pauline Bowdery **Assistant Clerk** Mrs Melanie Fooks

A G E N D A

To All Members of the Council, Press and Public

There will be a meeting of the **Environment Committee** on **Monday 10 October 2016 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade ME5 9RU** commencing at 7:30 pm when it is proposed to transact the following business:

- 1 **Apologies and absences** (7.30)
To receive and accept apologies for absence.
- 2 **Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying** (7.31)
Members are required to declare any interests, dispensations, predetermination or lobbying on items on this agenda. Members are reminded that changes to the Register of Interests should be notified to the Clerk.
- 3 **Minutes of the Meetings of 5th and 12th September 2016 - DECISION** (7.33)
To consider the minutes of the meetings and if in order to sign as a true record. (pages 3 -6)
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes** (7.35)
To receive any updates. See report (pages 3).
- To adjourn to allow members of the public to address the meeting** (7.43)
5. **Planning Applications for Consideration - DECISION** (7.53)
To receive and decide on responses to planning applications. See reports (3).
16/507009/TPO 9 Saracen Fields Boxley Kent ME5 9DG.
16/506571/OUT The Granary Court Lodge Farm The Street Boxley Kent.
16/506967/TPO 11 Greensands Boxley Kent ME5 9DQ.
16/506791/TPO 6 Sylvan Glade Walderslade Kent ME5 9PW
6. **Planning Decisions, Appeals and Appeals Decisions - INFORMATION** (8:00)
To receive any updates.
7. **Litter and flytipping** (8.04)
To receive an update on the situation. See report (pages 3-4).
8. **Highways and Byways - DECISION** (8:19)
 - 8.1 KCC Parish Highways Seminar. See report (page 4).
 - 8.2 Grovewood Drive North Crossing facility. To update members on any progress/contact.
 - 8.3 KCC Highway Tracker Survey. See report (page 4).
 - 8.4 Raised cushion outside of Kings Arms, Boxley Village. See report (pages 4-5).
 - 8.5 MBC dog bin removal programme. See report (pages 5-6).
9. **Maidstone Local Plan – DECISION** (8.33)
To receive a verbal update on the opening day submission at the Public Inquiry. See report (pages 6-7).

10. **Policy and Procedures - REVIEW** (8.40)
 10.1 Pre application discussions procedure (review) (page 8).
 10.2 Annual Competency report. See report (pages 8-9).
11. **Grounds Maintenance** (8.48)
 To decide any further action, a summary of the councillor responses to the questionnaire and further information will be forwarded on to member prior to the meeting.
12. **Budget 2017/2018** (9.03)
 12.1 To consider the draft budget (already supplied to members). Members are reminded that they need to inform the office of any projects they wish to be put considered, deadline November meeting.
 12.2 Cllr Dengate Timber Tops Play area seats and bins. See report (pages 9-10).
13. **Members Reports** (9.10)
 To receive any additional reports or notification of issues from members.
 13.1 Verbal report on the presentation concerning residential development (Binbury Park) on Detling Hill.
 13.2 Verbal report on the Gibraltar Farm Public Inquiry.
14. **Volunteer Groups - INFORMATION** (9.18)
 To receive any reports.
15. **Kent County Council Local Transport Plan 4: Delivering Growth without Gridlock 2016 – 2031 consultation. DECISION (October deadline)** (9.22)
 To consider what responses, if any, members wish to make. See report (pages 10-13).
16. **Matters for Information - INFORMATION** (9.30)
 To receive information.
17. **Next Meeting** (9.31)
 Next Environment Committee meeting 14 November 2016 at Beechen Hall commencing at 7:30pm. Items for the agenda must be with the parish office no later than 3 October.

In view of the confidential nature (personal details and data) on the Enforcement item about to be transacted, it is advisable that the public and press will be excluded from the meeting for the duration of or part of the item.

18. **Enforcement and Section 106 updates from MBC** (9.32)
 To receive any updates received. See report (page 13).

Pauline Bowdery

Pauline Bowdery
 Clerk to Boxley Parish Council

Date: 3 October 2016

In accordance with policy the meeting should close no later than 9:30pm but the Chairman has devolved powers to extend it by 30 minutes.

Items to be returned to agenda:

Minute 2893/4.11 TPO Cowbeck Wood Gleaming Wood Drive. Return in October 2016.

Legislation allows for meetings to be recorded by anyone attending. Persons intending to record or who have concerns about being recorded should please speak to the Clerk.

Supporting agenda papers for the Environment Committee Meeting 10 October 2016. The Chairman will assume that these have been read prior to the meeting. Councillors wishing to suggest changes to any policy or procedure document in this agenda should notify the office, in writing, at least three working days in advance of the meeting to allow details to be circulated at the meeting (or in advance if particularly contentious).

Item 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

- 4.1 Minute 2908/4.2 Installation of hard standing/apron at Boxley Road noticeboard. A site visit with a KCC contractor took place on Wednesday 14 September. A quotation has been received for carrying out the work and is priced at £1,700.00. At the site visit the Contractor indicated that the hard standing would need to be bigger than requested to achieve the outcome states. He also indicated that the installation could compromise the tree roots of the neighbouring tree which is very close to the notice board and post box. The Clerk has since spoken to the contractor to clarify the situation and in his opinion the tree will be undermined and if carried out could kill the tree. He is recommending a trial dig to find out where the roots are otherwise we could be in a position where work would start and not be able to finish. Having weighed up all the facts, the Clerk, is recommending not to proceed with this project.
- 4.2 Minute 2908/4.3 Inconsiderate parking Provender Way. As the parish office has not been able to obtain an update on the possible progress of this work the issue was escalated to Cllr Wendy Hinder.
- 4.3 Minute 2908/4.4 Grovewood Drive South yellow lines. KCC has advised the parish council that as there have been no accidents at the site and due to lack of funds this request will not be progressed unless the County Councillor or parish council pays for the project.
- 4.4 Minute 2908/4.5 Land to the rear of Tesco Grove Green. Work will be undertaken, when time allows, to contact the owners concerning maintenance.
- 4.5 Minute 2908/4.6 Litter/flytipping signs. MBC reports that the signs are on order.
- 4.6 Minute 2908/4.7 Flooding Boxley Road (near Longwood) and Brownlowe Copse. Response from KCC awaited. KCC chased for a response 05.09.2016 and 28.09.2016.
- 4.7 Any other matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda.

Item 5 Planning Applications for Consideration - DECISION

16/507009/TPO Tree Preservation Order to fell 2 no. Common Ash to ground level, prune back to boundary 1 no. Field Maple, prune back to boundary 1 no. Common Ash, to prune back to boundary 1 Field Maple and to cut back other vegetation growing over trees to boundary. 9 Saracen Fields Boxley Kent ME5 9DG. Deadline 14 October 2016

16/506571/OUT Outline application for one detached dwelling (All matters reserved for future consideration). The Granary Court Lodge Farm The Street Boxley Kent. Deadline 13 October 2016

16/506967/TPO Tree preservation order application to coppice 1 no. Sweet Chestnut by 95%. To prune to boundary line, removing up to 4m leaving a radial spread of 1m on 1 no. Hornbeam. 11 Greensands Boxley Kent ME5 9DQ Deadline 20 October 2016

16/506791/TPO Tree Preservation Order application to remove a limb of hornbeam, to reduce length of a branch on an oak tree and to cut back a domestic magnolia tree. 6 Sylvan Glade Walderslade Kent ME5 9PW. Deadline: 19 October 2016

Item 7 Litter and flytipping- DECISION

All members were asked to assess the needs of their area and supply details to the parish office by 4 October. The returns will be collated and a summary provided before or at the meeting. The Community Payback organisation has been contacted about the possibility of using their teams and

a response is currently awaited. Feedback from a parish council that uses this scheme is that it works much better if a councillor welcomes the group and coordinates with the supervisor prior to that day's work starting. If available further information will be provided at the meeting. For members information, within 24 hours of the last litter review on Walderslade Woods Road, so after an MBC litter pick, a volunteer went out and in 3.5 hours (over 2 days) she cleared 5 full bags of rubbish from the Impton Lane to the Wildfell Close junctions. MBC street cleansing were informed that the previous litter picks must have been substandard and the volunteer was assured that the information was taken seriously. A volunteer has been identified for Walderslade Woods Rd and a litter pick will be undertaken at least weekly.

Enclosed for committee members, available on request to other members, are examples of letters for a letter drop, posters and invitations to a litter pick.

Item 8 Highways and Byeways- DECISION

8.1 Parish/Highway Seminar 27th October 2016 at Oakwood House, Maidstone in the John Wigan Room.

8.3 To identify a councillor to undertake the survey or delegate the work to the office. KCC Highway Tracker Survey (E-mail 19.09.2016)" *KCC would welcome your feedback on the highways and transportation service that is delivered in your community. There are a number of ways you can complete the survey, each of which should be returned to iain.norman@kent.gov.uk. There is a survey attached, or you can complete the questionnaire which is at the bottom of this email, or if you wish to complete a paper copy, then please contact Iain and he will arrange for a copy to be sent out to you. The closing date for the survey is Friday 25th November 2016".*

8.4 Boxley Village cushion outside Kings Arms. Report from Cllr Clarke

Report to Councillors regarding traffic calming cushion outside the Kings Arms pub in Boxley

Summary: Residents are concerned about flooding following heavy rain and would like BPC support to find an appropriate remedy.

Following a site visit and meeting with an affected resident Boxley, the following point was raised.

The resident (and other residents who live opposite the pub), raised serious concerns regarding water run-off from the road.

During heavy or prolonged rainfall, flash flooding occurs and water overflows the gutters outside the Kings Arms pub on The Street, Boxley.

It runs off the road at the point where the traffic calming cushion starts, across the car park, leaving silt and debris, along The Green and over the lip at the top of the drive of Parsonage Farm, flowing down the drive and forming large puddles.

The owner feels it is only a matter of time and a very heavy storm before water comes into the house.

Evidence of this issue can be seen by the large amounts of gravel being washed down the drive. After each incident the gravel must be raked back up the drive and periodically the owner has to buy another ton of gravel to replace that washed away.

The run off affects the neighbouring property, Watercress Cottage, where water pools in the garden during periods of heavy rain and properties further along the same lane.

I understand the parish council has been made aware of this problem over the years with photographic evidence provided.

This concern has also been voiced and reported to the committee previously by the owner of The Granary, a property further along the same lane.

Attached to this report are photographs of the latest incident in June of this year, showing debris on the car park swept down the hill by the rain and the scoured patches on the drive of Parsonage Farm where gravel has been washed down towards the house.

Heavy rainfall over a short time, leading to the road flooding has become more of an issue in the past few years and looks unlikely to change.

However, the flooding cannot be put down to nature but instead to design and was not an issue prior to the installation of the large calming cushion outside the pub.

Conclusion: This is a serious problem and of great concern to the residents involved.

It has been a problem for many years and there is no indication that it will ever be solved without significant effort.

Three points were made to rectify the problem:

a) A simple remedy may be to run a shallow half-drain alongside the road, providing a proper channel for the run-off down the main road and into the drains (provided they are properly maintained!).

b) The source of the silt, stones and other debris should be found and dealt with.

c) However, the best solution might be the removal of the cushion which, to date, has done little to help calm the traffic through the village.

8.5 MBC dog bin removal programme. Update from MBC

Council Owned Dog Bin Removal Programme:

As from the 3rd October 2016, Maidstone Borough Council will commence its programme to remove all council owned dog waste bins located across the borough. The decision to remove our dog bins was agreed in July of this year by the Communities, Housing and Environment Committee in order to provide the council with a more efficient way to collect dog waste and provide substantial financial savings.

The council, in line with current approaches and waste disposal guidelines, will adopt a purely co-mingle approach to the disposal of all litter, meaning that both dog waste (bagged) and general litter will be disposed of together.

Five stages of removal of dog waste bins

The programme of removal of the dog waste bins will take place over five stages as listed below and will take approximately 6 weeks to complete all five stages.

Stage 1: *Each ward to be visited in turn to create a list of proposed new locations for co-mingled bins. Clerk's note: Cllr Dengate has identified that the current dog waste bin at Timber Tops area needs relocating to beside one of the footpaths.*

Stage 2: *Details of proposed locations from Stage 1 to be provided.*

All ward members, parishes and known relevant groups to provide feedback, suggest preferred locations of the co-mingled bin.

Opportunity for parishes to claim any dog bin not belonging to the Council.

Stage 3: *Installation of new co-mingled bins in agreed locations.*

Stage 4: *Removal of all council dog waste bins*

Stage 5: *Monitor bins and review feedback.*

Ward Groups and date to start initial consultation

Five working groups have been created with work starting at differing times as listed below. By adopting a phased approach it is anticipated that all consultation and works will be completed before Christmas 2016.

Boxley Parish Council is in Group 4 with work starting 24 October.

Clerk's note. A list of existing bins has been requested.

Working with you:

Each ward will be given the opportunity to liaise with us as part of their initial 2-week consultation at Stage 2 of the programme.

During this time, we would ask that all feedback as to the proposed location of the new co-mingled bin or preferred location be discussed. As only an additional 70 co-mingled bins will be sited, we believe that the key to the programme's success is securing the correct location within the ward for the bin. Your opinion and advice in this matter will be crucial and so we look forward to hearing from you.

Full schedules of the planned work and further information will be shared with you on an individual basis so we may respond to your unique needs and requirements. We look forward to working with you.

Item 9 Maidstone Local Plan

Maidstone Local Plan Public Inquiry. The Examination opened on Tuesday 4 October in the Council Chamber, Maidstone Town Hall, Middle Row, Maidstone ME14 1TF.

The examination is open to the public and if any members choose to attend the opening session which starts at 10.00 with the Inspector's Opening Statement and the MBC's Opening Statement they are welcome to supply a report to go out to members via e-mail.

The Parish Council's submission will be made on Tuesday 11 October, 10.00 – 17.00, Session 4 Environmental Constraints.

Maidstone Borough Local Plan Examination - Draft Programme (C)			
Week 1			
Tues 4 Oct 2016	10:00-13:00 14:00-17:00	Session 1A Session 1B	Inspector's Opening Statement Council's Opening Statement Legal & Procedural Matters Housing Needs (1)
Wed 5 Oct 2016	10:00-13:00 14:00-17:00	Session 2A Session 2B	Housing Needs (2) Housing Policies DM11-DM15
Thur 6 Oct 2016	10:00-13:00 14:00-17:00	Session 3A Session 3B	Transport Modelling Seminar Alternative Strategic Development
Week 2			
Tues 11 Oct 2016	10:00-17:00	Session 4	Environmental Constraints
Wed 12 Oct 2016	10:00-13:00 14:00-17:00	Session 5A Session 5	Housing Supply SE Maidstone Strategic Development
Thur 13 Oct 2016	10:00-13:00 14:00-17:00	Session 6A Session 6B	Maidstone & 'Other Urban Area' Housing Larger Villages Housing Development
Week 3			
Tues 8 Nov 2016	10:00-13:00 14:00-17:00	Session 7A Session 7B	Rural Service Centres Smaller Villages & The Countryside
Wed 9 Nov 2016	10:00-17:00	Session 8	Employment Policies & Allocations
Thur 10 Nov 2016	10:00-17:00	Session 9	Retail and Mixed Development
Week 4			
Tues 15 Nov 2016	10:00-13:00 14:00-17:00	Session 10A Session 10B	Yalding Reps & Similar Issues Gypsies, Travellers and Show people
Wed 16 Nov 2016	10:00-17:00	Session 11	Development Management Policies
Thur 17 Nov 2016	10:00-17:00	Session 12	Transport and Infrastructure
Week 5			
Tues 29 Nov 2016	10:00-17:00	Session 13	Alternative Sites
Wed 30 Nov 2016	10:00-17:00	Session 14	Alternative Sites
Thur 1 Dec 2016	10:00-13:00 14:00-17:00	Session 15A Session 15B	Implementation & Monitoring Closing Session
Week 6			
Tues 6 Dec	10:00-17:00	Session 16	Reserve
Wed 7 Dec	10:00-17:00	Session 17	Reserve
Thur 8 Dec	10:00-17:00	Session 18	Reserve

The Programme may be subject to changes which will be published on the Examination website: <http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/residents/planning/local-plan/examination>

* Finishing times are estimated. When 2 sessions are programmed on the same day, the start of the 2nd session may be postponed if it proves necessary to extend the 1st session into the afternoon.

* 8 August 2016

Item 10 Policy and Procedures - DECISION

10.1 Pre Application discussions with the Boxley Parish Council Environment Committee (review).

- Intending applicants who attend having given no notice, will be allowed up to 3 minutes to address members. This is Parish Council policy and the meeting will be adjourned to allow this. Once reconvened the applicant is unable to contribute unless asked a direct question by the Chairman or committee member.
- Where sufficient advance notice has been given, details of the proposed application will be included on the agenda, but the same 3-minute rule will normally apply.
- If it is a request from or on behalf of a development company or if it is large-scale development then an agenda item may be included to allow fuller discussion between the developer and councillors.
- The would-be applicant may submit a draft plan to allow members to consider the proposal; and, with prior arrangement, also use the Parish Council's projector if they wish to show photographs etc. to help their explanation.
- Members can ask questions to help the potential applicant resolve any concerns they may have, such as, for example, additional traffic, access and egress to the site, design, loss of privacy to neighbours, etc. Members are, however, asked to refrain from discussing in depth issues that would be the responsibility of the MBC Planning Department. For example, they can ask for sympathetic materials but will not normally discuss the exact materials that they would wish to see.
- Members will then be asked, where possible, to restrict their comments to one brief succinct statement about the proposed application. Where possible members are to refrain from repeating concerns already stated by other members. The Chairman will then sum up the exchange.
- **Members will not be able to state whether they would support the proposed application.** The Parish Council's policy is that such a decision can only be taken when a formal planning application is received from the MBC Planning Department for comment.
- NOTE: The Council has a policy that members will not take into account the personal circumstances behind a planning application. Councillors will work to the Planning Material document produced by the parish office.

10.2 Annual competency review.

The Clerk is tasked with undertaking an audit of the working of the parish council's committees and councillors are also encouraged to take a few moments to reflect on the previous work of their committee. The purpose of the audit is to highlight any strengths, good working practices, weaknesses and/or poor working practices with an aim to improve the procedures and the way the committee works. Councillors are also welcome to make any comments/suggestions.

Clerk's report: This committee often has very long and complicated agenda. With in-depth consultations, Local Plan etc. the balance and commitment of its members is what makes it work. Generally, the committee works very well with decisions made in good time to meet deadlines etc. Where a weakness has been identified action points have been suggested.

Strengths:

- Procedures' and working practices are fit for purpose and regularly reviewed.
- Members are open to suggestions for change, open to constructive criticism, willing to improve

- where they identify need and also willing to set a high standard and strive to reach it.
- Councillors are kind and respectful of each other and of their colleagues' views and work well as a team.
- When decisions have to be taken out of meeting members understand.
- Members attempt to attend relevant training and work hard to keep up-to-date on changes to planning legislation etc.
- members are extremely welcoming to guests and members of the public wishing to talk to them.

Weakness:

- Members in responding to e-mails that relate to a committee wide decision must remember to do a reply all so that everyone involved in a decision can see what is going on. **Action: Don't just reply to the office if it is a group decision or discussion.**
- Members, who try to be fair to members of the public addressing them, should be aware that all questions must go through the Chairman and once the meeting is reconvened they should not encourage or facilitate the member of public to further contribute unless permission is given by the Chairman to ask the question. Sometimes when the meeting is adjourned to allow someone to address the committee getting back into formal committee decision mode is made difficult if a councillor talks directly to the visitor as it can often result in two meetings being undertaken. **Action: Chairman to ensure questions are directed to the chair, councillors support Chairman by asking all questions via the chair, councillors to attempt not to be drawn into side conversations with the visitor.**

Clerk's comment: Committee chairmen are encouraged to pass on suggestions, be they from themselves or from members, about how the office support and service to their committee may be improved or enhanced.

Item 12. Budget 2017/2018 – consideration/DECISION

12.2 Cllr Dengate Timber Tops Play area seats and bins.

Project title or description of project: Timber Tops, Lords Wood Additional Seating to Toddler Play Area

Project applicant/leader: Cllr Paul Dengate

Date: 16/08/2016

Details: I recently visiting Timber Tops, Lords Wood Play Park that has recently been refurbished by MBC it became apparent that there was insufficient seating for parents that were supervising their children. They instead were sitting on the swings and or the see saw thus acting as a barrier to younger children who were apprehensive to approach. This was further exasperated by the fact that there were also a number of older youths sitting on the apparatus (this is being addressed in a separate project request).

Currently there is one bench in the park with no bin facility which is close to one of the two entrance gates. I would like the Parish Council to consider funding one possibly two additional benches at the opposite side of the park along with a refuse bin. Ideally these benches would need to be mounted on a concrete apron to preserve the base and avoid grass/weeds growing under to ensure there continued use.

As this is adding value to the park I don't consider there is a need to obtain public consultation, however it would be prudent to canvas the immediate properties as providing such facilities could be seen as encouraging older youths to gather and subsequently be perceived as being an anti-social gathering. Even considering the potential problem I would actively encourage member to see beyond that to ensure that we actively encourage as many parents and toddlers to visit this valuable resource, one that has been long overdue.

There is no time frame associated with this request, although it would be a shame not to actively encourage parents to visit with their children. Discussions of the proposed application has taken place with Cllr Matthew Radcliffe-Godfrey who would support the application.

Budget being applied for:

I would appreciate it if the Parish office can obtain a quotation for:

- Consultation with MBC to establish the viability of undertaking such a proposal, prior to obtaining costs. *Clerk's note: MBC would welcome more seating and bins. They will however require a site meeting concerning location.*
- One/two benches. *Note: Depending on style and materials robust benches can cost from £900 - £1,500 each. Previously the parish council has purchased green oak seats but advice has been received that chestnut is as durable and cheaper. A local firm can produce seats/benches from chestnut sourced from the North Downs and details are awaited. Members need to indicate the style and number of seats or picnic seat they wish to have to obtain a more accurate cost and whether they wish to use chestnut instead of oak.*
- One/two concrete hard standing aprons. *Note: the cost for installation into a concrete base will be in the region of £200 per seat.*
- One refuse bin located between the two benches or next to one and appropriate fixings, *Note: Robust bin costs range from £290 to £380 depending on style, The cost of a concrete base is in the region of £100.*
- Details relating to the ongoing upkeep and maintenance of the proposed benches and the emptying of the refuse bin. *Note: Maintenance and insurance of any seating will be the responsibility of BPC (the current maintenance schedule for oiling seats is every two years). Bins will be emptied by MBC and this should be weekly, bins should be insured by BPC.*

Clerk's note. If a budget is approved it is suggested that it would progress the project if members consider delegating decision powers to Cllr Dengate and the Clerk/Asst Clerk. Using commonsense anything out of the ordinary would be reported back to the committee.

Item 15 Kent County Council Local Transport Plan 4: Delivering Growth without Gridlock 2016 – 2031 consultation.

Kent County Council Local Transport Plan 4: Delivering Growth without Gridlock 2016 – 2031 consultation.

Clerks briefing note 11 August 2016.

Clerk's Introduction.

The consultation draft is www.kent.gov.uk/localtransportplan and the consultation will run until 30 October 2016. Based on the feedback received KCC will develop the final version of LTP4 in late 2016, with the aim to launch in early 2017.

The consultation document has general and then specific sections dealing with the countywide issues and then the various areas of Kent. This briefing note has been produced to focus on the impact on Boxley Parish and only refers to countywide issues if the Clerk considers there is a direct impact on the parish. If members wish to have more generalised briefing note then there is time, before the deadline, to produce such a document.

Using previously agreed Environment Committee responses and discussions on issues relating to transport impact the Clerk has prepared the briefing note and highlighted possible issues that members may wish to discuss. Where the Clerk considers that members may wish to make a response a comment is made in a greyed textbox.

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Extract. Explanation from consultation document What is the Local Transport Plan?

We have a statutory duty under the Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008, to produce a LTP for the administrative county of Kent. This strategy clearly identifies our transport priorities for the county, as well as emphasising to national Government and the South East Local Enterprise Partnership¹ (SELEP) the investment required to support growth. The LTP is informed by national and local policies and strategies, and is delivered through supporting strategies, policies and action plans, as summarised in Figure 1.

The SELEP is a business-led, public/private body set up to drive economic growth in the South East. In partnership with business groups, Kent County Council, Medway Council and the district councils form the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership (KMEP). As part of a federated SELEP, KMEP has been integral in producing the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), which includes the transport schemes required to support growth. The SEP forms the basis of bids for Government funding through the SELEP, including the Local Growth Fund (LGF).

The Kent and Medway Growth and Infrastructure Framework² (GIF) provides the evidence base for LTP4. It has identified the scale of growth expected in Kent in the coming years and therefore what infrastructure investment is required to support it and to help grow the Kent economy. We will work closely with all Local Authorities both within and neighbouring Kent to plan our future transport needs, and work with the districts to identify better ways of working.

LTP4 sets out our policies to deliver strategic outcomes for transport and is accompanied by a series of implementation plans for our funding streams and a methodology for prioritising funding. It details our key transport priorities and our longer term transport objectives. With this plan we have a clear, evidenced basis from which to bid for funding and deliver infrastructure to support housing and economic growth. LTP4 is designed to deliver 'Growth without Gridlock'.

Extract. Funding will be allocated as follows:

Outcome	ITP budget allocation (once CRM budget has been top sliced)
Economic growth and minimised congestion	40%
Affordable and accessible door-to-door journeys	15%
Safer travel	15% (in addition to top slicing for safety critical schemes)
Enhanced environment	15%
Better health and wellbeing	15%

Extract. New Lower Thames Crossing

We are clear that a new Lower Thames Crossing, to the east of Gravesend, is required to unlock growth, improve journey time reliability, improve network resilience, and enable opportunities for regeneration. In the 2016 consultation, our response was adamant that the Western Southern Link should be chosen and that with careful route alignment and tunnelling, the environmental and heritage impacts could be substantially minimised. **As part of the project to deliver the new Lower Thames Crossing the A229 between M2 Junction 3 and M20 Junction 6 should be upgraded (what has previously been called Option C 'variant') along with improvements to the A249 as another link between the two motorways and the upgrades identified for 'bifurcation of port**

¹ The SELEP has been established to drive economic growth in Kent, East Sussex, Essex, Medway, Southend and Thurrock. See: <http://www.southeastlep.com/>

² Kent and Medway Growth and Infrastructure Framework, September 2015. Available at: www.kent.gov.uk/gif

traffic' set out in the next section [Clerk's bolding. Bifurcation means the splitting of 'port' traffic between the M2 and M20].

Extract. To deliver bifurcation, the following upgrades are required:

- M2 Junction 7 (Brenley Corner) improvements to improve capacity and provide free-flow between the M2 and A2.
- Dualling sections of single carriageway on the A2 north of Dover along Jubilee Way to Whitfield and near Lydden.
- M20 Junction 7 improvements to provide ease of access between the A249 and M20.
- M2 Junction 5 Stockbury improvements to provide free-flow between the M2 and A249.

Clerks comment: members will have noted that there is no specific mention of the A229 being upgraded. Do members wish to make a comment on this?

Extract. A Solution to Operation Stack

Clerks comment: funding has been identified for this work.

Extract. Provision for Overnight Lorry Parking

Kent has a high demand for lorry parking spaces because of its connectivity to continental Europe attracting high volumes of cross-Channel freight. We are developing a strategy for a network of small lorry parks at suitable locations across Kent and a partnership approach with the Districts and the Police to address enforcement. The proposed Operation Stack Lorry Area adjacent to the M20 at Stanford should be integrated with this overall strategy. This strategy should also include improved management of freight traffic through Kent utilising technology to direct HGVs to parking sites and available cross Channel services, i.e. 'ticketing' flexibility between Eurotunnel and ferry operators to ensure optimum fluidity of freight movement.

Combined with a multi-agency approach to enforcement, the provision of additional lorry parking capacity will reduce antisocial behaviour on the public highway, including littering. This will also reduce unsafe lorry parking, such as vehicles overhanging laybys, and so improve road safety.

Clerks comment: do members wish to make a comment on this?

Extract. Maidstone transport priorities

Clerks comment: two schemes of been identified.

Funding from development - M20 Junction 7 improvements.

Possible future Schemes - Bearsted Road corridor capacity improvements.

Extract. Medway transport priorities

Transport infrastructure requirements to support growth in Medway are also explored in the GIF, with key schemes being:

- A289 Four Elms to Medway Tunnel improvements,
- Improvements to the A229 corridor between Maidstone and Medway [Clerks bolding],**
- Strood and Chatham Town Centre Improvements,
- Public Transport Improvements through the Medway Integrated Transport Project,

- Rail improvements at Strood and Chatham Stations,
- Tackling congestion hotspots along the A2 corridor through Medway, Improved cycling facilities throughout Medway.

Clerk comment: with junction 3 of the M2 within Medway district it would be easy for the problems to be overlooked by KCC.

The Medway transport priorities map does not, unlike the KCC maps, show if funding is available or would be found through other sources.

Do members wish to make a comment on this?

Item 18 Enforcement and Section 106 updates from MBC

When chasing MBC for an update on an outstanding enforcement issue the Clerk was notified *"Any intended enforcement action with regards to this or any other site cannot be disclosed as this information is classed as confidential and any disclosure would have the potential to compromise an investigation being conducted. This matter is being looked into by the Planning Enforcement Section and should a Notice be issued by the Council then the Parish Council will be notified of this"*.

When this was queried, the previous agreement with MBC being that updates would be issued if a parish council kept the information confidential, the following response was received.

"This matter has been discussed with my line manager, unfortunately the information that can be provided is limited but please note that at this current time The Council Planning Department is considering the appropriate action in relation to this site, however no formal decision has been taken regarding how this matter will be progressed. Once a decision has been made then the Parish Council will be notified of this".

Without MBC being willing to engage with the parish council in any depth the parish council will be notified the issue is being investigated and then a decision, which is quasi legal.

Guidance is sought as to whether members wish the situation to be raised with Maidstone KALC.