

Public Transport

A meeting was held on 05.11.09 at Arriva H.Q. with Robert Patterson, Business Development Manager (ARRIVA) and Clare Allen, Transport Planner (Transport Integration – A division of KCC Commercial Services) to answer the questions in the survey as follows:



✓ **PT1 More buses evenings and weekends** - Further funding to extend the current service is not available.

✓ **PT2 Inform families about £50 young person bus pass** (Kent Freedom Pass).

This was dealt with through the survey and schools. Full details can be found on the following link. www.kent.gov.uk/roads_and_transport/getting_around/public_transport_initiatives/kent_freedom_pass.aspx

✓ **PT3 North South bus route** - Any kind of Hoppa Bus would be greater than 6ft 6in in width and therefore be unable to legally cross the bridge. Also there is no funding available for any new bus route.

✓ **PT4 Bus shelters** are the responsibility of the Parish Council. Investigations found that paths in the Village are too narrow to accommodate Bus Shelters.

✓ **PT5 Seek to increase public transport funding** - Over the whole of Kent, in the last financial year, KCC spent approx Seven million on funding non commercial routes. £797,000 was spent in the Maidstone area.

£205,000 of this was spent on routes 23 and 26 alone. It was felt it would be highly unlikely that the Village would get any further funding for Public Transport.

✓ **PT6 Link doctors surgeries and bus times** - The Maidstone Kent Carrier is a fully accessible dial a ride service, taking you from your front door to any place within the Maidstone Borough area. It can help those who find public transport difficult to access or those who have regular appointments to attend but find bus timetables are not suitable. This service is operated by Streamline with financial help from KCC and Maidstone Borough Council. Membership is £5 per annum with a small fee payable for each journey. You are eligible to join if:

- You have a medical condition that makes travelling on conventional public transport difficult
- You live in a rural area more than 500metres from a conventional bus route

For more information please ring 01622 605349 or 01622 750044
See CS 10 for information on VAM (Voluntary Action Maidstone).

Environment

✓ **E1 Litter& E2 Hedgerows and Verges** - The Parish Council have arranged an ongoing programme of hedgerow and verge tidying which includes additional litter picking as a result of the survey.



✓ **E3 Enhance allotments** - When the survey was sent out for completion, only three allotments were in use. Today we are delighted to inform you that all 36 are taken. It would seem that a large number of villagers did not know the allotments existed prior to the Survey. There is now a waiting list if you would like to add your name contact Mrs Beasley on ??????????????????????.

✓ **E4 Community Orchards** - Linked to V1 as we await the implementation of a feasibility study

✓ **E5 Monitoring housing** - Development Notifications appear in the EFPC Agenda's



Communication

✓ **C01 Communication** - We are currently using the Downs Mail, The Grapevine and E.F. website to inform villagers. See below.

✓ **C02** As a direct result of the survey, the East Farleigh website is now in use. The address is www.eastfarleighpc.kentparishes.gov.uk it was set up by Jamie Shelford to whom we are most grateful and is currently edited by Christine Jenner, Clerk to East Farleigh Parish Council



✓ **C03 Notice boards** - These are currently under review with EFPC.



East Farleigh Village Plan Update

3 June 2010



Update on The Village Plan Proposals published in May 2009

A year on we thought we would share with you our achievements thus far. Implemented proposals are marked with a red tick

Community Spirit and Facilities

✓ **CS1 Village summer fete** - FLAG are kindly organising the Village Summer Fete once again this year with backing from the Parish Council. Date 26.06.10 - Time 2-5pm - Place E.F. Recreation Ground.



✓ **CS2 Christmas Fair** - An action group is required for this proposal.

✓ **CS3 Wine tasting** - In the survey in which Villagers participated, a number of you expressed interest in a Wine Tasting evening. One was held some time ago and whilst everyone who attended enjoyed the event, numbers were not sufficient to warrant making it a regular event.

✓ **CS4 Art Expo** - An Art & Crafts Festival is to take place at Walnut Tree in Forge Lane on 24th July 2010 at midday until 8pm. There will be many different kinds of exhibitors and a BBQ will be available all day.

✓ **CS5 Facility/Shop for milk, stamps and papers.** - The Bull Public House kindly piloted the selling of stamps and milk to the community as requested in the survey but unfortunately it has not been utilised by the Village. Our thanks go to Jan & John for their efforts but this facility will no longer be available.

✓ **CS6 Use of station bldg as a café or village facility** - An action group is required for this proposal.

✓ **CS7 Improve recreation Ground** - Also as a direct result of comments made in the survey, improvements were made to the Recreation Ground in Vicarage Lane. The Parish Council agreed to purchase a picnic bench and organise the cutting back of trees and vegetation to encourage greater use of the area.

✓ **CS8 Make recreation ground available to the school** - An action group is required for this proposal.

✓ **CS9 Afternoon Clubs** - It would appear that many Villagers did not realise that there are many clubs available within East Farleigh. Contact details are available at the back of the Plan.

✓ **CS10 Encourage voluntary car scheme** - VAM (Voluntary Action Maidstone) have a division which covers transport in East Farleigh and the Maidstone Borough area. They would love to hear from Villagers who either need transport or are thinking of becoming a volunteer driver. If you are over 60 and wish to register to use this service please ring 01622 756662 between 9am and 4pm Mon - Fri. If you wish to volunteer as a driver, please ring the same number and ask to speak to Shelagh Durbridge or John Williams. There is a mileage charge of 40p per mile for all journeys plus a booking fee of £2.50. For short journeys there is a minimum charge of £5.

Or see website www.vam-online.org.uk/abouttransport.asp See PT 6 for information on the Kent Carrier.

✓ **CS11 The Supermarket Bus** referred to is called the S8 and is provided free by Sainsbury's in partnership with Arriva. It runs every

Thursday from the top of Gallants Lane (Route 89 Bus Stop) pick up is at 09.49 arriving 10.25 at Sainsbury's Larkfield. The return journey leaves at 12.10. We hope this information will enable more Villagers to make use of this service. For more information or to check on journey times, please contact the store on 01634 283600.

✓ **CS12 - CS15 inclusive Youth** - All facilities mentioned in these proposals can be found within a few miles of East Farleigh.

Addendum - A Farmers Market was held at The Bull and was a huge success despite the awful weather, Our thanks go to Jo Britcher for organising this and it is planned to hold them quarterly.

Village Centre

V1 Create centre with Village Green

- We have formally asked the Parish Council by letter, sent in April 2010, to go ahead with the feasibility study for which they have been quoted. This will then enable us to come back to the community, share the findings and ask for feedback as stated in the question asked at the exhibition held on 31st Jan and 1st Feb 2009.



V2 Retain and preserve Old School Hall

as a facility for the Village - In a letter sent during April 2010 we asked the Parochial Church Council to reconsider its decision to sell the venue, as the community would clearly like to retain the facility for the Village. (96 asked us to investigate further and 3 were against)

✓ **V6 Facility for milk, stamps and snacks.** - see CS 5 above

Traffic

✓ **T1 Review road signage** - Currently under Kent Highways review

✓ **T2 More footpaths** - FLAG welcomed land owner Mr Richard Carpenter to officially open the footpath in Forge Lane on 24th April 2010 after many years of fundraising. Over 100 Villagers gathered at The Walnut Tree for Champagne and Canapés prior to walking the new path. It was a beautiful spring afternoon which was followed by a party in the Primary School in Vicarage Lane. We as a group have great admiration on their achievement and offer our congratulations to them.

Additionally improvements to the footpath along the south side of Heath Road are to go ahead. The footpath between The Horseshoes and Vicarage Lane has been completed. Our thanks go to the Parish Council for funding this work.



✓ **T3 Speed Watch** - This continues at various points within the Village with cautions being issued to those motorists exceeding limits. Any one wishing to volunteer with this should contact Peter Beasley on 07709 592079



✓ **T4 Bridge** - Kent Highways have advised the Parish Council that issues of HGV's in rural areas are to be dealt with on a countywide basis. A strategy will be incorporated in a new Local Transport Plan for Kent. If you observe any abuse of the bridge, you can report it to, Clerk to East Farleigh Parish Council, Christine Jenner email address eastfarleighpc@googlemail.com

✓ **T5 Potholes** - Following the harsh winter many potholes have occurred and the council are dealing with the problem on an on going basis. You can report faults direct to Kent Highways online at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/khsfaults/> or to eastfarleighpc@googlemail.com

✓ **T6 New River crossing and South bypass** - It is highly unlikely in the current financial climate.

✓ **T7 School Parking** - Whilst we hope that there has been some improvement in the issue, with the opening of the footpath in Forge Lane we recognise that further work needs to be carried out to fully resolve the problem. We hope that in the future this might be incorporated into any Village Green plan.

✓ **T8 Traffic Speed** - Speedwatch continues regularly. Also currently under Kent Highways review.



✓ **T9 Resolve and prevent flooding of highways** - The flooding problem in Workhouse Lane has now been resolved by Kent Highways after successful lobbying by the Parish Council.

✓ **T10 Involving expertise to investigate speed limits and safety of junctions and traffic calming**

✓ **T11 Gateway entrances to the Village and**

✓ **T12 Maidstone south bypass** - When numbers allow, action groups for all of these items could be formed to lobby authorities to put these proposals on their agenda.

