

Kingsnorth Parish Wish List, further development of wish list.

Introduction

A Kingsnorth Parish Wish List was sent to Ashford Borough Council in December 2003. The wish list was compiled after consulting 44 organisations in the village and its contents have since been confirmed by a questionnaire sent to every household in the parish (see table 1) The following updated list has been produced to emphasise the strong opinions held by the residents of Kingsnorth (and Stubbs Cross) and to counter the various proposals for the further development of Ashford by Urban Initiatives. These proposals ignore the future development agreed in the Adopted Local Plan, local and government guidelines as set out and confirmed recently in RPG9. The problems of access to the M20 and the firmly held policy of no development in the flood plain.

We are confident that better options can be which address all these problems and also take account of the opinions of Kingsnorth Parishioners as set out below. We urge Ashford Borough Council to act to prove that the opinions revealed by the questionnaires about Ashford Borough Council and Consultation are wrong

Open Space Policy

- A very high percentage (76%) were in favour of extending the existing buffer zone. There were also proposals that the buffer zone should link up with surrounding wild life areas.
- Opinions were divided as to who should manage the buffer zone, 58% were for the Parish Council, 39% were for the Borough Council. No one requested a Borough/Parish /residents partnership.
- 94% considered that the flood plain should not be built on and that it should be designated Public Open Space.
- 88% want all designated open space to be adopted in the LDF and that it should be so designated in perpetuity.
- There were also requests for smaller local open spaces to be provided and it is suggested that in the design code all residents be within sight of some green space.

- There was support for suitable facilities for teenagers, and that these should be both indoor and outdoor. (79%,74%,69%). However these facilities need not be for the exclusive use of teenagers.
- 74% and 81% supported more parks and play areas.
- Footpaths linking estates and residential areas with the open countryside were called for. In certain areas pavements were also thought to be essential, Stubbs Cross and Pound Lane were quoted.

Design of Estates

- There was strong support for all developers to appoint an estate based representative to deal with ongoing problems during continuing construction.
- Further development of the Park Farm Recreation Centre was only supported by about 50% of respondents, 20% against, 30% not sure. In contrast 83% thought that there should be communal facilities such as community halls specific to each community.
- Provision of retail and leisure facilities were supported (97%,71%) but another superstore was voted against by 92% with only 4% in favour..
- It was considered by 94% and 89% that traffic calming is badly needed, only 6% and 8% were against. It was also considered that speed limits should be strictly enforced.
- Separation of employment from housing was supported by 79%.

Affordable homes

- There was agreement that more affordable homes should be provided, with 79% and 70% in favour, and that some of these homes should go to key workers.
- Affordable homes for the elderly were supported (79%,70% for) but not in “ghettos”

Design of Houses

- 90% were in favour of water efficient measures in all homes.
- Restricted parking spaces were approx 50% for and 50% against.
- 80% were of the opinion that all new development should be in keeping with the existing village character, and not more than 2 storeys high, though a few up to 3 storeys were acceptable.
- New medical facilities were given 100% support.

Education

- Half considered that a secondary school should be provided and 30% considered that facilities for pre-school children with special needs should be catered for.

Crime prevention

- 86% were prepared to support a crime prevention scheme but only 37% were prepared to contribute through the Parish Precept.

Consultation

- 90% thought they should be consulted by the Borough Council about proposals for development in the Parish, but only 25% were convinced that the Borough Council would take any notice of their views. Whereas 35% were sure that the Borough Council would take no notice of their views.
- 60% thought the Parish Council should have an office in the Parish.
- 81% said they were aware of local activities through the local press or the parish website.

The following groups, all based in the Parish of Kingsnorth were sent the initial questionnaire:

Kingsnorth Village Society	Kingsnorth Gardeners club
Kingsnorth Parochial Church Council	Kingsnorth Village Hall, trustees
Kingsnorth Recreation Centre	Kingsnorth Medical Centre
Kingsnorth Veterinary Centre	Little Acorns Play Group
Kingsnorth Parish Councillors	Kingsnorth W I
Furley Park Primary School	Singleton Football Club
Stubbs Cross W I	Stubbs Cross Post Office
Stubbs Cross Art Group	Men's Breakfast Group
Kingsnorth Senior Citizens	Friendly Club
Park Farm Recreation Centre, Trustees	Queens Head Pub
Park Farm Rangers	Kingsnorth Primary School
Ark Drama Youth Group	Brisley Farm Residents Association
Medodists Youth Group	Salvation Army Captain's Group
Kingsnorth Bell Ringers	Rainbows
Brownies	Beavers
Cubs	Scouts
Folk Dance Group	Ashford Town Football Club
Old Stacians Cricket Club	Ashford Twin Club
Bowls Group	Busy time Preschool- group
Crusaders	Park Farm Neighbourhood watch
Brisley Farm Neighbourhood watch	Park Farm Children's Karate Club
Homelands golf Club	

A response rate of 74% was achieved from these organisations and the results are listed in Table 1 as the 1st questionnaire. The original wish list for Kingsnorth Parish was based on these responses.

TABLE 1

		1 st QUESTIONNAIRE			2 nd QUESTIONNAIRE		
		YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
1	The existing green corridor around the village should be extended	76	15	9	76	11	13
2	Open spaces should be managed by the Borough Council	39	45	21	39	45	21
3	Open spaces should be managed by the Parish Council	58	21	24	58	28	14
4	Is there adequate hard/soft landscaping in you area	41	38	21	48	34	18
5	More open space should be developed for teenage recreation	79	9	12	69	19	12
6	More footpaths linking areas in the parish need to be provided to allow pedestrians safe access to al parts of the Parish	91	3	6	72	16	12
7	All land designated as open space in the LDF should remain as such for ever	88	6	6	87	9	4
8	Is there need to further develop the Recreation Centre	53	18	29	49	21	30
9	There should be further recreation facilities on each new development	-	-	-	83	11	7
10	There should be further development of parks and play areas	74	15	12	81	11	9
11	More affordable homes should be provided on new developments	79	3	18	70	16	14
12	Should a proportion affordable homes be reserved for employees in essential services	64	18	18	86	25	7
13	Should affordable homes be made available for elderly residents?	79	6	15	73	12	14
14	In view of the planned expansion of Ashford, should the flood plain be kept free of development and be designated as public open space	94	6	0	93	4	3
15	At some time in the future will a sports hall or the equivalent be needed in the parish	-	-	-	73	13	14
16	Provision should be made for medical facilities	100	0	0	90	4	6
17	Provision for retail and leisure facilities must be included in our village plan	97	3	0	71	20	9
18	Do you feel there is a need for public toilets in the Parish?	-	-	-	49	37	14
19	Employment sites/commercial units should be located in separate area to homes	79	6	12	77	13	10