

WPC NEWS

We attended Wrotham School recently to hear a presentation on the expansion and new facilities being planned for the school. It will be a 3-year project that will build substantial new facilities in current open areas while maintaining business as usual in terms of education and access. The new buildings will use PV power generation and heat pump technology to produce low carbon buildings which are highly insulated and very energy efficient. A very complex proposition and something that was clear had been given immense thought.

The current access/egress arrangements are chaotic and halt the A227 daily. The proposal looks afresh at the whole design and does produce some innovative ideas.

There is no finalised planning application at present and an hour's overview is not enough to come to any firm conclusions. My preliminary thoughts are that considerable planning is going into a complex and difficult set of problems, both in terms of the transitional build and the final result.

We have some interesting plans for enhancing the design and facilitates of a partially pedestrianised village square but have dropped the proposal for a bus shelter on the square, due to KCC Highways opposition to moving the bus stop, on highway safety grounds.

We need a new storage facility for Alfred the Grit and around 8 tonnes of ice salt and various trailers. A small barn would be ideal, and any suggestions would be welcome.

There is currently an upsurge in anti-social behaviour from some specific village locations. This is a problem that is difficult for Parish Councils to deal with because we have no statutory rights to information from the police, social housing providers, or Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council who have elected representatives and are responsible. However, we are endeavouring to punch above our weight and exert influence currently.

Clarion Housing have arranged a public meeting to provide an update on the demolition and future of St George's Court on Thursday 3rd August at 7.00pm at St George's Hall and would welcome the community to attend.

I was very impressed with the Wrotham in Bloom event, and I think it demonstrates everything that is good in Wrotham as a vibrant village community. Although it provided the focus of an event in terms of a weekend of wonderful floral displays in the church and the Rose & Crown Barn, it adds far more to the whole village centre. It provided an opportunity for High Street residents and businesses alike to dress their premises in wonderful hanging baskets and containers of flowers that are beautiful throughout the summer. Well done to the hard-working organisers.

WPC has submitted our extensive planning response to Moto including a Highways Impact Assessment, a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and a letter from our barrister to frame the various responses in terms of case law. TMBC Planning is expected to make a decision by the 21st August.

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