

6. Public Consultation

- Plans to consult the public about refreshing the Parish Plan: A decision was taken to put this matter on hold for the current time in view of the more significant matters to be addressed by the village as a whole concerning ECDC's interest in building a much larger housing estate than originally proposed under the small affordable housing scheme.
- With regards to the small affordable housing scheme questionnaire that was circulated to the village last August, the Parish Council came to the conclusion that the results of the survey did not indicate there was a shortage of housing in the village. In simple terms, 25% of the public responded to the survey. Of that 25% - 90% said their accommodation was adequate. This left 10% who said their housing was not suitable for their needs (i.e. 2.5% of the village as a whole). Of that 2.5% only one household gave the reason that their house was too small for their needs. It was agreed that the situation has not changed since the last time such a survey was carried out in Ashley – i.e. there is no indication that more housing is needed. The Parish Council therefore voted unanimously that there was no justification to carry the expansion plan forward. Ashley is a small, conservation village and the overwhelming majority of its residents would appear to want to keep it that way.

7. ECDC Village Vision: Future Growth

ECDC Planning Dept. plan to publish a short questionnaire for the local community as part of their process for looking into future growth of villages. This questionnaire will ask key questions relating to priorities, housing needs, employment needs, what infrastructure/facilities should be protected and/or improved. They feel it is important to agree the content of the questionnaire with Parish Councils before it is published, and an example was provided for information. After perusal of the questionnaire it was agreed that some minor amendments could be usefully incorporated into the form as follows:

- Question 3: There should be an option for people to say they do not want to develop Ashley any further.
- Question 4: There should be an option to include minimal change or keeping the status quo.
- Question 9: Choice of Improvements to local infrastructure should include a road improvement scheme.

ECDC plans to publish the questionnaire for consultation purposes between 27th June and 18th July 2011 and have therefore requested our response by Friday 17th June. A communication will be sent reflecting the above views.

8. Liaison with Darley Studs Estates – Request for meeting by Strutt & Parker

Following a request by Strutt & Parker, land agents for Darley Estates, a meeting has been arranged at Ashley Hall between Strutt & Parker and members of the Parish Council on Tuesday 21st June 2011 at 7.00 p.m. regarding a proposal to develop approx 7.5 acres of land owned by Darley Estates.

9. Play Equipment for Older Children/Teenagers

A response from East Cambs Planning Officer confirmed that even if further housing was planned for the land containing the Recreation Ground, this land has strong protection under current planning provisions, making it very difficult to justify building on “public” land outside the village development envelope. However, there can be no guarantee that such development could never happen, and there is currently no alternative site to which the apparatus could be moved should the worst happen. It will therefore come down to how flexible the Cambs Community Foundation (CCF) are prepared to be on this point. The Parish Clerk has written to CCF setting out this latest information and their response is awaited.

10. Recreation Ground – Damage to car park barrier & removal of graffiti from play area bench.

- Peter Bridge reported that a lorry had reversed into the overhead car park barrier. Peter carried out a temporary repair but he feels the barrier may have to be replaced. If this proves to be the case, the cost may have to be met by the Parish. PB suggested that the most likely culprit was the dust cart which empties the recycling bins. CL has written to ECDC to ask them to investigate this.
- Graffiti on the bench has still to be dealt with.

11. Pavilion Trust: Cllr Mahony to report;

Cllr Mahony reported that a “watch and see” position was being taken with regards further vandalism to the windows of the pavilion. To replace the glass with toughened glass and install security lighting would be costly and would not necessarily deter a determined assailant. The problem has lessened in recent weeks.

12. Finance Matters:

a) to approve the following payments for May/June	£
• Lord Fairhaven Kirtling Estate (rent for Recreation Ground)	5.00
• Ashley Pavilion Trust – Room Hire (Apr-June 2011)	40.00
• East Cambs District Council (Admin costs – electoral process)	100.00
• Mrs JeanWinter – reimbursement of website hosting fees	23.99
• The Voluntary Network – Newmarket (donation) (S137)	25.00

Proposed by Cllr Parkes, Seconded by Cllr Spurling

b) to note the following late payments approved for Apr/May

• Suffolk Association Local Authorities (SALC) audit fee	166.80
• Play Safety Ltd (ROSPA) report	97.20
• CGM Cambridge – village grass cutting April/May	601.20

13. Planning Cases

Members noted the refusal by ECDC to grant permission for an Orangery with Roof Light at 29 Church Street Ashley (Case No. 11/00265/Ful)

14. Correspondence

A letter has been received from R.J. Humphries, Cheveley Parish Council Chairman, informing us that they had been advised that additional responsibilities are to be Beatty. As we have not officially been advised about the matters raised in the letter from Mr. Humphries, we will need to make further enquiries before coming to any decisions.

Action :Parish Clerk **to investigate**

15. The next Neighbourhood Panel Meeting is on Tuesday 28th June at the Ellesmere Centre at Stetchworth at 7.00pm.

16. Date of next meeting

This will take place on Monday 11th July, 2011

The meeting closed at 21.15 pm