



chilham parish council

serving chilham, old wives lees and shottenden

PO Box 983, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 9EA Email: clerk@chilhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Mr D Stewart
St John's Lane
Canterbury
Kent
CT1 2QQ

15 December 2014

Dear David:

SUBJECT: STATION APPROACH DEVELOPMENT, CHILHAM

Thank you for meeting with Derrick Kennett and myself on 8th December. It was also good to have Mr Skelton join us and participate in the discussions.

As Derrick and I will be expected to report back to the next parish council meeting, I thought it would be useful if I set out in letter form the main issues considered together with views expressed.

I opened up by explaining that the latest published position of Chilham Parish Council (CPC) is that it believed that free parking would be available across all fifteen spaces for genuine rail users. However, it also acknowledges that Ashford Borough Council (ABC) has accepted your proposed management scheme as set out in your letter to them on 3rd December 2013. In so doing the local authority has agreed a way forward which will enable the developer to discharge condition 14 of planning permission 12/00051/AS.

An informal car parking arrangement has been in place since February 2013 on a free of charge basis. You informed ABC in December 2013, that through checks undertaken by Mr Skelton's staff, it was clear that a number of non-rail users were taking advantage of this facility. It is believed that those concerned are possibly local residents, employees of local businesses and other opportunistic individuals.

More recent observations submitted to CPC would support your argument. Derrick and I asked you and your client to establish a sign at the site which would make it absolutely clear that the car park is provided solely for genuine rail users. You agreed that you would give this proposal consideration. Such a move would I believe give genuine rail users an opportunity to park there, whereas currently they are forced to seek other locations because of the element of 'unauthorised parking'.

We discussed the introduction of double red lines and no parking signs on the eastern side of Station Approach. You informed us that these had been introduced by Southeastern and questions from CPC should be referred to that body.

It was noted that a notice board had been erected at the car park entrance very recently. At the end of last week, conditions relating to the operation of the car park for the future were displayed on that board and it would be appreciated if you would forward a copy of these to me.

Mr Skelton explained that it was his intention to introduce a management scheme in line with ABC's agreement. This would provide for 15 spaces, as now laid out, 10 of which would be chargeable for regular rail users and the remaining 5 to be let for free to infrequent rail users on a day basis through pre booking. You stated that the 10 season ticket spaces would be offered in the first instance to

residents of the parish of Chilham. However, if not taken up, then the operator reserved the right to let them to those living without the parish. Similarly, if the free spaces were not pre booked, then they would be let on a daily charge basis.

Mr Skelton explained the difficulties that he is experiencing with UK Power Networks in respect of electrical works required on site, including the necessary administrative arrangements. Derrick and I offered our assistance to work with your side on behalf of CPC in an effort to reach an end point which presents a reasonable outcome for all.

I referred to your costings for the required works and asked you to revisit these to ascertain whether they could be reduced and/or whether the time period for recovery could be extended say from ten to fifteen years. If the £430 proposed for an annual season ticket could be reduced, I believe that it would show a level of goodwill from developer to consumer.

I hope that my interpretation of our meeting is reasonable but if I have made any errors or omissions please let me know.

Sincerely,

Roy Lincoln
Parish Councillor