



# chilham parish council

serving chilham, old wives lees and shottenden

## PARISH QUESTION TIME 2019

### An Invitation from Cllr Paul Lulham, Chairman of Chilham Parish Council

Dear Parishioner,

Hello and welcome to our annual Parish Question Time exercise, where we as the Parish Council seek your views on our performance and priorities.

Writing this, I'm struggling to believe that my four-year term as Parish Council Chair is almost at an end. The time has flown by and I can honestly say that I've thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I've learnt a huge amount about Chilham, Old Wives Lees and Shottenden, met some truly inspiring and community-spirited people and, I hope, had a positive influence on local issues.

I'd like to take this opportunity, as always, to put on record my heartfelt thanks to all of the people who give up their time to organise local activities and events. From the Seniors Lunch Club, to the Parish News, the Christmas Tree and the Boot Fair, they're all run by volunteers who love this Parish and are at the very heart of our community.

I'd also like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors who have worked tirelessly over the past four years to represent local people and achieve the best outcomes for our small corner of Kent. It's been a pleasure working with all of you and I'm very grateful for your service and support.

Last but not least, I must thank the Parish Clerk, Geoff Dear, for being my right-hand man throughout my Chairmanship and for always going above and beyond to deliver Parish Council projects diligently and professionally. It is very much appreciated.

Looking back at the period since May 2015, it's clear to me that planning and development remain the greatest source of interest and concern to local residents. I'd like to think that the Parish Council has taken a mature and pragmatic approach to these issues, engaging constructively in the process of preparing a new Local Plan for Ashford with the full involvement of the community. The Plan has now been adopted by the Borough Council and, relatively speaking, allocates only minor residential development to our Parish. Now that an up-to-date Plan is in place, the Council is in a far stronger position to resist development proposals which fall outside of its scope.

The Parish Council has also taken steps to exert a greater influence in the planning process by commissioning a Conservation Area Management Plan (CAMP) for Chilham which, alongside a sister document for the remainder of the Parish, will be adopted by Ashford Borough Council as a material consideration in their future decision-making. We held a public consultation event on the emerging draft CAMP last year and will be organising a further event on the final draft document in the coming weeks.

Turning to other matters, we have fully refurbished Taylors Hill Toilets and the surrounding area for the benefit of local businesses and tourists, who contribute significantly to local employment. We have also played a leading role - both financially and through volunteer support - to the establishment of an annual summer event at Chilham Castle, which goes from strength to strength, as well a very well attended beacon lighting ceremony at The Mount in Old Wives Lees to mark the 100 year anniversary of Armistice Day last November. We hope to make greater use of The Mount for further community events in the future.

The Parish Council continues to support Chilham's Future Delivery Board to progress the regeneration of Chilham Square, which is now making significant progress, and will imminently sign a Funding Agreement with Ashford Borough Council, which will enable the long-awaited developer contributions from the Bagham Place site to be released and the associated projects at Chilham Parish Recreation Ground and Old Wives Lees Village Green to proceed.



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Working with our colleagues at Kent County Council, we will influence the forthcoming highway safety improvements that are to be made to the A252 between Chilham and Charing, to ensure they deliver maximum benefit. We will also lobby for the retention and improvement of local public transport services in the face of ever-dwindling local authority budgets.

In summary, it has been a busy four year term but, I hope you will agree, a productive one. I would be grateful if you could take the time to complete and return our questionnaire - either in hard copy or via our website - so that the new Council that is formed following the local elections in May can act upon your feedback and focus on the issues that matter to you most.

We have increased the number of drop-off points for completed questionnaires, which now include Old Wives Lees Village Hall letter box and Bramley Cottage, Soleshill Road, Shottenden as well as Chilham Post Office and Chilham Shop.

**After completing the questionnaire, please drop it into one of the drop off points by 6th April 2019.**

**The online version for those with internet access which can be accessed from the Parish Question Time 2019 page on our website at [www.chilhamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.chilhamparishcouncil.gov.uk) .**

If there are other initiatives that you think the Parish Council should be leading or supporting, please provide details in section 2 of the questionnaire. We are all volunteers and welcome the opportunity to add value to the work of other community organisations.

With best wishes for 2019.

*P. Lulham*

Paul Lulham, Chair, Chilham Parish Council, 1st March 2019

A few photographic memories of the last 4 years...



← Raising a flag for the Commonwealth in 2017.



← Parish Question Time exhibition in 2016.



← Community Clean Up in 2018.



← WW1 Beacon of Light in 2018.



## QUESTIONNAIRE

<p><b>A questionnaire will be delivered to each household with more copies available in Chilham Post Office. &lt;&lt;&lt;&lt;An online version can be completed via the Parish Question Time 2019 page on our website.&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;</b></p>				
Which part of the parish do you live in ?		Chilham	Old Wives Lees	Shottenden
<p><b>1. LOOKING BACK OVER THE LAST FOUR YEAR TERM</b></p>				
<p>Council's Strategic Plan objectives, drawn from the results of Parish Question Time 2016, are listed below followed by a summary of key achievements in [BRACKETS].  <b>Please assess Council's performance by choosing Good, Don't Know or Poor for each objective.</b></p>				
<p><b>1.1 MATTERS FOR WHICH THE COUNCIL IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE</b></p>				
a) Refurbishment of Taylors Hill Toilets: Scope, plan and implement a refurbishment project to be completed by March 2018. [COMPLETED JUNE 2017]	Good	Don't Know	Poor	
b) Community Engagement: Conduct an engagement event in March each year to review its Strategic Plan, report on progress made and update it as a result of this engagement. [CONDUCTED EVERY YEAR SINCE 2016]	Good	Don't Know	Poor	
c) Communication with parishioners: Communicate through parish noticeboards, website, emails to parish contacts, monthly items in Chilham Parish News and the quarterly newsletter PC Tips. [COUNCIL POLICY THROUGHOUT THIS TERM]	Good	Don't Know	Poor	
<p><b>1.2. MATTERS WHICH THE COUNCIL WILL WORK IN PARTNERSHIP TO ACHIEVE</b></p>				
a) Allocation of Section 106 monies from the Bagham Place development: Work in partnership with Ashford Borough Council (ABC) and scheme promoters to maximise the benefits to parishioners from the monies available from the Bagham Place development. [ALL MONIES ALLOCATED – WAITING TRANSFER FROM ABC]	Good	Don't Know	Poor	
b) The Chilham Square Project: Work with Chilham's Future Development Board (CFDB) and push for firm cost estimates and funding streams to be identified before March 2018, and an annual report for consideration at the March council meeting each year. [COSTS ESTIMATED, SURVEY COMPLETED, PROJECT MANAGER APPOINTED]	Good	Don't Know	Poor	
c) Promoting tourism in the parish: Work in partnership with local organisations to establish the feasibility of an annual summer event in the parish. [CHILHAM CHASE & CHILL, COMMONWEALTH FLAG DAY NOW REGULAR EVENTS]	Good	Don't Know	Poor	
d) Improving quality of life in the parish: Strengthen relationships with local organisations with the aim of enhancing the benefits they provide in the parish and work in partnership with the borough and county councils where Council can add value to specific services that they provide (eg vegetation clearance, cleaning signs). [APPROX £10,000 GRANTED TO LOCAL PROJECTS, REGULAR COMMUNITY LITTER PICKS]	Good	Don't Know	Poor	
<p><b>1.3 MATTERS ON WHICH THE COUNCIL WILL INFLUENCE OTHER BODIES</b></p>				
a) Planning policy: Forge good working relationships with the borough council and strengthen relationships with neighbouring parish councils. (Significant parts of the parish are protected by the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding National Beauty and Great Stour flood plains. A combination of these environment constraints and improved working relationships can put Council in a good position to positively influence local planning policy.) [CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN IN PROGRESS]	Good	Don't Know	Poor	
b) Crime Prevention Measures: Engage with local neighbourhood watch schemes to identify schemes with the potential of improving crime prevention in the parish. [REGULAR DIALOGUE WITH KENT POLICE AND COMMUNITY WARDEN]	Good	Don't Know	Poor	
c) Road Safety: Engage with Kent Highways to ensure the crash cluster study underway in response to increased road traffic incidents on main roads in the parish identifies suitable solutions. [SCHEME FOR A252 PLANNED BY KENT HIGHWAYS]	Good	Don't Know	Poor	



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## 2. LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT FOUR YEAR TERM

Please indicate which Strategic Plan objectives should be retained for the next 4 year term.

**Please respond Yes, Don't Know or No to each objective.**

### 2.1 MATTERS FOR WHICH THE COUNCIL IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE

a) Community Engagement	Yes	Don't Know	No
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b) Communication with parishioners:	Yes	Don't Know	No
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### 2.2 MATTERS WHICH THE COUNCIL WILL WORK IN PARTNERSHIP TO ACHIEVE

a) The Chilham Square Project	Yes	Don't Know	No
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b) Promoting tourism in the parish	Yes	Don't Know	No
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c) Improving quality of life in the parish	Yes	Don't Know	No
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### 2.3 MATTERS ON WHICH THE COUNCIL WILL INFLUENCE OTHER BODIES

a) Planning policy	Yes	Don't Know	No
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b) Crime Prevention Measures	Yes	Don't Know	No
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c) Road Safety	Yes	Don't Know	No
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Please list any other objectives you think Council should include in its Strategic Plan.

**Please enter your details (in block capitals) in the boxes below**

Name:

Signature:

Address:

Post Code:

**If you would like to be added to our list of parish contacts interested in receiving information that the parish council considers would be of interest to them with regard to life in the parish, please provide your email address here:**

**Are you interested in joining in volunteer activities to improve life in the parish ?**

**YES / NO**

**Chilham Parish Council (March 2019)**