

Aylesford Parish Council

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT MAY 2014

Highlights for 2013/2014 include:-

Footways & Lighting Matters

- General Highway Report
Aylesford Parish Council (APC) have been consulted on the plans for parking restrictions in Aylesford – Elm Walk, The Oaks and the Avenue; Blue Bell Hill – Barling Close, Robin Hood Lane and Maidstone Road; Eccles – Bull Lane; Walderslade – Hurst Hill, Tunbury Avenue and Woodbury Road.
- Eccles Highway Matters
Following a consultation with local residents, the preferred location of a new zebra crossing, adjacent to the new pedestrian access to the Recreation Ground, is to be presented to Kent Highways
- Blue Bell Hill Highway Matters
A new Jubilee Bench has been reinstated in the layby opposite the Lower Bell PH.
An additional and more visible traffic light for stationary traffic on the northern exit from the village has been installed.
- Aylesford Highway Matters
The installation of lighting on the Old Aylesford Bridge is in the final stages of investigation.
Remedial works to prevent flooding is planned to be completed shortly in Hall Road/Station Road, opposite the Brassey Centre and Sedley Close
- Public Footpaths
Discussions have taken place with Kent PROW and ramblers regarding the re-establishment of the Allington to Aylesford Towpath.
The Aylesford Circular Walks leaflets have been reprinted.
- Lighting
The Kent Highways Safe and Sensible Street Lighting Scheme where street lights are turned off during the early hours of the morning has come in for a significant amount of criticism. Representations are being made to Kent Highways.
Upgraded Teapot Lane lights will shortly be adopted by Kent Highways
Upgraded Bull Lane, Eccles lights require further work before Kent Highways will accept them for adoption
- Car Parks
Eccles Car Park – negotiations with Trenport’s solicitors continue.
APC is in negotiation with TMBC regarding increasing the size of the Aylesford car park.

Recreation & Amenities Matters

- Recreation Facilities
Aylesford Football Club, Holtwood Football Club, Aylesford Rugby Club, Meridian Football Club and Real 60 Football Club regularly use the council’s recreation facilities during the football & rugby seasons. Aylesford Netball Club also uses the hard court playing facilities at Ferryfield.
A tree survey of all the council’s sites has been undertaken. A schedule of works is being prepared

- Ferryfield
The council have agreed that this recreation ground is designated as a formal sports area with a secondary use for large events such as the Aylesford Festival, circuses and funfairs.
The MUGA was officially opened on 21st December. A concrete path and car park improvements are planned.
The trim trail is being reinstated and works may well be completed by the time this report is published.
- Forstal Road Recreation Ground
The refurbished public toilet is now open during daylight hours.
- Allotments
The Belgrave Street rear access road has had surface improvements.
- Eccles Recreation Ground
Investigations are under way for replacing the Skateboard Park.
New items of toddler play equipment have been installed as has a replacement bench.
Replacement planters for the clock tower were purchased and put in place.
- Tunbury Recreation Ground, Changing Rooms & Car Park
An additional tarmac path around the edge of the ground has been laid.
Two new benches and a replacement piece of outdoor gym equipment, a "Skier", have been installed.
Two new items of toddler play equipment ("Turnstile" & "Happy Hedgehog") have also been installed.
Artificial grass has been laid next to the Contour Slide
- Yoakley Land
Additional fencing has been installed around the flooded area and a substantial amount of tree work done
- Podkin Meadow
The tarmac surfacing of the Robin Hood Lane footpath to the entrance of the meadow has been completed
Although unfortunately the standard of work was not entirely satisfactory. Remedial work planned
The Andrew Flindell memorial bench has been installed.
Entrance boulders installed after the traveller invasion have been repositioned to allow for grass cutting. A height barrier is to be installed in addition to the two lockable posts already in place
- Christmas Lighting
Two additional lamp post decorations for Cage Hill were obtained
Three more trees in Blue Bell Hill were decorated with lights. The impressive display was commented upon by many residents.
- TMBC Summer Playscheme
The council supported the scheme again this year.

Finally, thanks go to all members of the committee for their support throughout the year and particularly to Cllr Michael Base, Vice-Chairman of the ESC Committee.

*Cllr Nigel Tiller
Chairman
ESC Committee
May 2014*