

Aylesford Newsprint Application Is In!

As this edition of the Hotline goes to press, the outline application for this site has reached the Borough Co.

We hope it will be published on 24th October or soon after. It follows the scheme outlined at the last exhibition at Church Farm with the site being zoned mainly for commercial use, but with an area of 450 houses at the end of the site closest to Station Rd. Once the outline permission is granted, the site is likely to be sold on by the Administrators in view of its debts..



As a 'brown field' site with existing zoning for commercial uses, it falls within current Government planning policies which presume redevelopment will be allowed. We will need to work hard to make sure the details are correct though.

We have previously stressed details such as

- protecting the Ditton stream as a feature,
- improving the riverside path between New Hythe and Millhall, Aylesford,
- opening up Bellingham Way to Station Road, and providing a cycle way at the same time,
- providing a crossing point on Bellingham Way to Leybourne Park,
- retaining and improving access for the disabled and buggies on the Strood bound platform at New Hythe Station, and improving bus services by linking them to the station.

As with the Local Plan, the application may be viewed on the TMBC website. Please do send emails and letters to comment on the application and copy them to your local Councillors.

LOCAL COUNCILLORS ARE HERE FOR YOU
Anita and Tim are available every second Thursday of the month at **Larkfield Library, Martin Square.** between 4pm & 6pm - no appointment necessary

East Malling Conservation Group Local Plan - Opening Meeting

Friday 4th November 2016 at 8pm

The Malling School Assembly Hall

Open to all residents

Speaker David Thornewell

MP's and Local Cllrs invited



KCC LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN CONSULTATION

The LTP4 consultation document sets out KCC's key transport priorities and longer term transport objectives across the county and districts. This includes improvements on the A20 corridor between the A228 and the M20 Junction 5, but does not go into detail about what those improvements might be.

Trudy has asked for a box junction at the Morrisons crossroads and removal of on-street parking on New Hythe Lane near Laburnum Road.

There are significant hold ups at the A20 junctions with Hermitage Lane, Quarry Wood and Hall Rd made worse by new commercial development, and there's more to come.



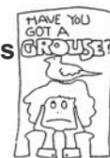
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Search for Larkfield Matters, and Tonbridge and Malling Liberal Democrats



Grumble Sheet

If you have any grumbles, ideas, or want to give us your views, please use this space.

Please return to:
Tonbridge and Malling Lib Dems
250, London Road, Leybourne,
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Please get in touch if you can help.

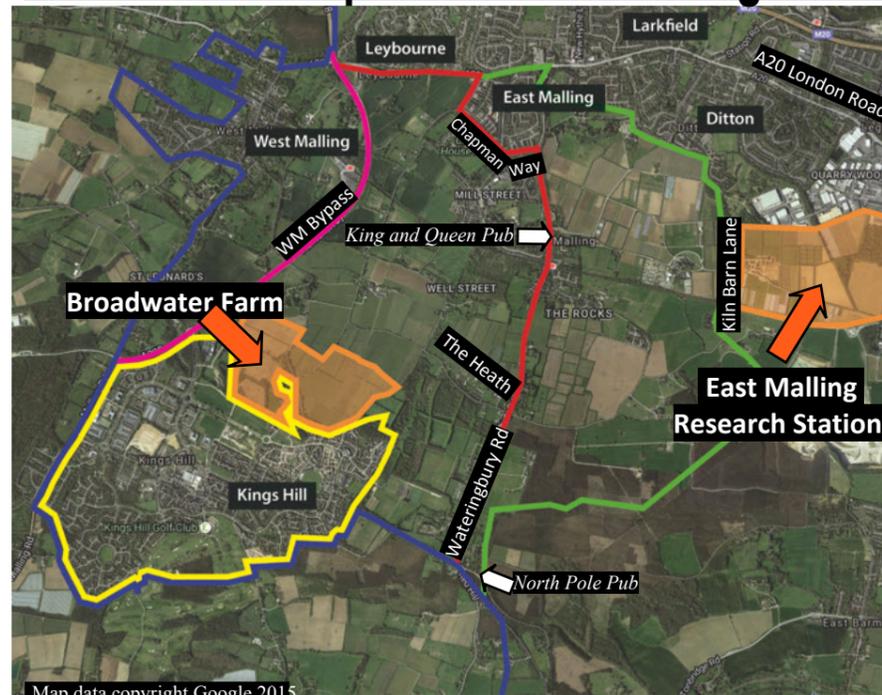
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Larkfield Hotline

October 2016



Local Plan Special - Larkfield fights to save its countryside



The Borough Council is suggesting extending the Green Belt, but only to West Malling by pass, shown in pink. This is not enough to protect the open countryside between Kings Hill, East Malling and Larkfield, keeping them separate. **Vote 1,2,3, and 4 in order of preference with 1 being your number 1 choice.**

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council has just published its next stage of consultation (called 'The Way Forward') of its Local Plan 2011-2031. You can read it on www.tmbc.gov.uk/localplanconsult

In our area, it proposes the **Martin Square Library** for redevelopment, and **two very large new estates of about 1,000 houses each, shown in ORANGE** on the map either side of East Malling.

One lies on the edge of Kings Hill, spreading into the southern fields of Broadwater Farm towards E and W Malling. The second covers the eastern end of East Malling Research Station from Kiln Barn Lane to Hermitage Lane and beyond to near the 20/20 roundabout.

The inside page gives more detail about the plan. But one of the Lib Dem's main aims is to get the Green Belt extended further to the east towards Maidstone, stopping Kings Hill merging with nearby villages. So we want your views on which green fields the Green Belt should cover.

WHERE SHOULD THE EDGE OF THE GREEN BELT SHOULD BE ?

OPTION ONE : BLUE LINE ON THE MAP

This is the existing Green Belt. It finishes on the London (left hand side) of West Malling.

OPTION TWO : PINK LINE ON THE MAP

This is the Borough Council's choice, extending eastward (right) to West Malling bypass, only protecting the fields between West Malling town and the bypass. This protects the Abbey, Banky Meadows, Hermitage Farm, Eden Farm, Manor Park, Lavenders and Orwell Spike.

OPTION THREE : RED LINE ON THE MAP

This would extend the Green Belt further east to Winterfield Lane, Chaucer Way, New Road, East Malling High Street, Chapel Street and Wateringbury Road. This would protect Forty Acre Field, Winterfield Farm, The Malling School, South Ward Playing Field, Broadwater Farm, the Heath and Well Street (including the Well Street stream where the Countryfile voles live).

OPTION FOUR : GREEN LINE ON THE MAP

This would extend the Green belt even further eastward, again to New Road, Ditton and Kiln Barn Lane, heading back through Oaken Wood to Wateringbury Road near the North Pole. This would include East Malling Research Station between New Road (EM) and Kiln Barn Lane, Sweets Lane and Paris Farm, extending south to Oaken Wood.

Please fill in this page & post it to **Tonbridge and Malling Lib Dems, 250 London Rd, Leybourne, ME9 5AU**
Or deliver it to **49, Betjeman Close, or 16B, The Ferns, Larkfield.**
We will pass your votes to the Borough Council.

Or you can vote for your preferred option online at www.eastmalling.org

Name.....Address.....email.....

Printed by Scarbutts, Ltd., London Rd. West Malling, ME19 5AN

Published by Tonbridge, Malling and Chatham Lib Dems, 49, Betjeman Close, Larkfield

Local Plan - How We Got Here

The story so far

Earlier this year, the Council called on people to submit sites for consideration and over 250 were put forward, including many in this Parish. These ranged from the whole of East Malling Research Station and the whole of Broadwater Farm to the site of Larkfield Library, Martin Square.

These sites were all assessed and now the Borough has published for consultation the Plan called "The Way Forward" which can be found online at.

www.tmbc.gov.uk/localplanconsult

A hard copy is available to view at the Parish Office at Church Farm, New Hythe Lane, at public libraries, and at the Borough offices at Kings Hill.

What does it say about our area?

With the Government pushing for more houses to be built land needs to be found in Tonbridge and Malling for an extra 6,500 houses by 2031. This is on top of existing permissions such as Peters Village, Wouldham where the newly opened bridge paved the way for 1,000 homes to be built, and phase 3 at Kings Hill where an extra 600 houses are still to be built.

As set out on the front page, two very large new estates are proposed of around 1,000 houses each; Kings Hill spreading beyond the airfield boundary northwards onto Broadwater Farm, and East Malling Research Station being developed east of Kiln Barn Lane and south of Ditton.

The plan does propose to extend the Green Belt eastwards as we have requested for many years, but only to West Malling bypass, protecting the historic town of West Malling.



The Larkfield Parish Walk on 5th September took in some of the sites under threat in Larkfield, East Malling & West Malling. Here's David Thornewell offering an insight into the next stages of the Local Plan process.



Residents walking at Broadwater Farm - one of the sites that could succumb to housing

PLEASE REPLY TO THE CONSULTATION

The developers are likely to promote their sites so if you disagree with their proposals you need to let TMBc know. The plan can be found online at www.tmbc.gov.uk/localplanconsult

The plan asks several questions including about the Green Belt. If you agree that extending the Green Belt is a good idea then please say so. But if you agree with us that it should extend further out to Watlingbury Rd or even beyond please say that too.

This stretch of the countryside with its two Conservation Areas, network of lanes and public paths, and many listed buildings, is a vital green lung separating Kings Hill from East and West Malling and Larkfield. Forty Acres on the western side of Winterfield Lane also offers an important green wedge.

Kings Hill was always promoted as a new community within the old airfield boundary, and it should not be expanded now to make our villages all part of an urban sprawl.

All this Talk about the Green Belt - It's Nothing New to Us

The Liberal Democrats in Malling have a long track record of listening to and working with local residents. We know that you value the green space and countryside in and around Larkfield because you have told us so in our regular Hotline surveys - and we agree with you.

We recognise a need for housing, but there is also a need to protect valuable open space to ensure a good quality of life for everyone and ensure that communities do not merge and lose their character and identity.

But this is not something new to us. As you can see from this 2015 Hotline, extending the Green Belt was top of our list of priorities at the last election.



Larkfield Hotline April 2015



COUNCIL TAX.. IS IT GOING UP OR DOWN?

Following cuts to Government grants, the Borough Council is withdrawing all money paid to parish councils for local open spaces, churchyards and similar costs.

Our Parish Council will lose around £50,000 and will need to put the Parish Council Tax UP to make up the loss.

However, at the same time, Tonbridge Town residents are to be made to pay the cost of these services in Tonbridge for the first time since 1974 when the Borough Council was formed. Tonbridge residents will pay a large increase in their Borough rate and this additional income means the Borough rate will go DOWN.

For most parishes, including East Malling and Larkfield, the two sums will balance once another and there should not be much change!

Martin Square Post Office Success!

Earlier this year, the Parish Council raised with the owners the issue of a permanent disabled access. The portable ramp they used needed two staff to carry it to the door. The PC were delighted to receive a positive response, followed by a planning application, proposing a ramp similar to the chemist. That has recently been passed and we now await Landlord's consent to be given to the scheme. This is a timely improvement and will hopefully be in place before the new Abbeyfield development is occupied.

ALL NIGHT LIGHTING - THE LATEST

KCC have been telling people they will not carry out repairs ahead of conversion to LED. However, they have now agreed to Trudy's request that they consider a repair wherever a light is in a particularly dangerous position or is specially needed by residents for security.

Anita and Tim reported more than 10 street lights in lighting all day. Most have been rectified but not all! They survey street lights from time to time to report defective lights but that may soon be a thing of the past. When all street lights have been changed to LEDs, each light will be automatically signal to central control that there is a fault.



LARKFIELD LIBRARY SUPPORTERS GROUP

Anita and Tim, along with Trudy, have met with KCC to explore the possibility of setting up a Supporters Group for Larkfield Library. We are unsure of the details as yet. However, if you are interested in being a part of this group, please contact us by email with your details and we will keep you in touch as it develops.

OUR LIBRARY IS A VITAL PART OF LARKFIELD

WE MUST FIGHT TO KEEP IT OPEN

Your support of our efforts are appreciated.

ALLOTMENT FOOTPATH CLEARED

Following complaints from residents and the Parish Council, the footpath between Kingfisher and Plover Rd by the allotments has now been cleared. Since KCC cutbacks, the school as owner of the hedge is expected to do the work from their own budgets.

All Street Lights in the Boro should be converted to LED by the end of November. All street lights will return to All Night Lighting after campaigners including Lib Dems forced a change of mind at KCC.



Anita and Tim on patrol!