

Notes from meeting with National Trust and residents – Wednesday 19th July 2pm at the Lighthouse

Present : For NT – Jon Barker; Nina (Lighthouse Manager)

For PC – Clerk, Brenda Paul, Rebecca Simcox, Jennie Harris

For residents – Aiden Denton (Lighthouse Road Assoc); Tony Harding (South Foreland Roads Assoc); David Desbrow (Goodwin Road); Brian McGeary (resident and volunteer for NT); Greg O'Brien (South Foreland Roads Assoc); Peter and Barbara Wells (Foreland Road); Tracey and Geoff Purchase (Seaview Road); Peter Killin (South Foreland Roads Assoc)

- Jon Barker stated that previous meeting held with PC re road repairs and possible alternative routes in the Valley – all interested parties here today to discuss.
- Nina – NT want to get roads to a level for staff/volunteers to get to the Lighthouse with minimum damage to vehicles. Also there is a need to ensure that emergency vehicles have appropriate access.
- Brenda Paul – stated that Highways Officer had advised in last few days that roads are considered to be “unadopted roads not maintainable at public expense”.
- Greg O'Brien – “what are organisations trying to achieve”. South Foreland Roads Association feel they are being kept uninformed. Read out typed statement (copy attached). Preferred route for all Lighthouse traffic would be Lighthouse Road.
- Aiden Denton – no objections re access for emergency/service vehicles using Lighthouse Road. He advised that earlier today the first meeting of the “Gridlock” team had met – last 5-6 years in the village had seen greatly increase traffic causing problems.
- Aiden Denton – mentioned use of Google/website for Lighthouse – asked if the postcode could be changed to that of the Langdon Cliff site for the NT – Jon will investigate. Jon reiterated that they do not want to see visitor traffic at the Lighthouse.
- Peter Killin – NT has put in tea rooms and holiday accommodation on the Lighthouse site which had increased traffic. Jon advised that NT bought Lighthouse at the end of the 1980's - PC at that stage wrote to NT asking that they did not provide public parking at Lighthouse. Peter asked if access from Reach Road could be used. Jon advised that NT is not the land owner and does not have a right of way over this route.
- Aiden Denton – can NT actively deter traffic to Lighthouse.
- On questioning by Peter Killin, Jon Barker advised that core volunteer shift at the Lighthouse is 11-4.
- Greg O'Brien – stated that Lighthouse Road is not part of the village green.
- Aiden Denton – if long term parking solution could be found, including approach to local farm owners, would NT be receptive.
- Jennie Harris – almost all of the “top end” of the village is a “private” road. The whole village is now swamped by cars. Could it be established how many cars come to the Valley and/or the

Lighthouse.

- Tony Harding – stated that he believes unofficial car park on Seaview Road should be deemed off-roading. Also area where vehicles park alongside the trees outside the entrance to the Lighthouse. Jennie Harris advised she felt it important this area at Seaview Road is useful for Valley volunteers and also for infirm visitors.
- Brenda Paul – could a visit be made to Kent Highways office at Maidstone to determine all roads. Aiden Denton felt this may not be relevant to the problem.
- Proposal made for official car park off Reach Road – Jon Barker stated this could be very expensive and the NT does not have the ability to write a blank cheque. Jon advised that conversations had been undertaken over many years but could not divulge any information.
- Tracey Purchase – does not want to see any more traffic on any village road and stated that she saw the idea of NT car park off Reach Road as the only solution. Jon stated that all parties are aware of the problems but solutions are needed.
- Jon Barker – NT continuing to pay for car repairs for staff/volunteers is not sustainable.
- Nina – all parties need to be on the same page. NT always encourages visitors to park at Langdon, then walk to Lighthouse. NT has an obligation for health and safety to visitors. Any other car park would only increase problems.
- Peter Killin – tea rooms and holiday accommodation has already encouraged further traffic to the Valley.
- Nina – lots of cars in the Valley in general, with camper vans etc – NOT for the Lighthouse.
- Peter Killin – what is NT's "wish solution".
- Jennie Harris – asked for guesstimate of cars coming to the Lighthouse – Greg O'Brien advised that he often has around 6 or 7 cars daily asking for directions to the Lighthouse.
- Jennie Harris – bigger and better signage may be a good first step re access etc.
- Nina – raised question of central bollard I access roads but it was felt this could be complex and may require local electricity supply if it were to be automated. Majority of those present were in favour of an approach being made re permanent car park off Reach Road.
- Brenda Paul asked re previous proposal of some gates being installed on roads – Greg O'Brien advised this would likely be objected to but may be reconsidered.
- Brenda Paul asked that question of better signage be placed on next PC agenda.
- Tony Harding again raised question of parking area on Seaview Road – JO Barker advised that many SSSI's have unofficial car parking areas.
- Brenda Paul and Jon Barker asked that all residents be informed of nature of today's meeting.
- Nina – stressed that all possible solutions need to be considered.

- Aiden Denton – Lighthouse Road residents plan to install a gated entrance just beyond entrance to this road, also putting up signage stating no access to the Lighthouse.

Meeting concluded at 3.39 pm