

ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

KCC PROW SITE MEETING – 18<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2016, 10:30am

ER185 & ER25 (PIMLICO WAY) and ER122 (THE BULLRUN)

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**Present:** Parish Councillors: Neil Burrows, Den Barnard, Anthony Barrier, Susan Lees, Fiona MacAskill and Geoff Hillier. Clerk: Angela Miller  
KCC PROW Officer: Andrew Hutchinson

**Apologies:** Parish Councillor: Peter Smith

The site meeting began at 11am to discuss the emergency temporary closures of BOATS ER25, ER185 and ER122 and options available going forward.

Cllr Burrows gave a brief historical depiction of Pimlico Way and about how originally there would have been a deep flint base to the track. Mr Hutchinson referred to problems with other byways in Kent and reiterated KCC's obligation to keep surfaces in a fit state for all users entitled to use them. He explained that although KCC do have some funds they don't have sufficient funds to address everything they need to do across the county.

He went on to describe that currently there is a £3m backlog of surfacing work throughout Kent and they have approximately £300k per year to spend on this type of work. Discussion followed about aspects of litigation and Mr Hutchinson said that sometimes it is unavoidable to close routes to eliminate the risk of claims against KCC and that it is usually a last resort.

The Parish Councillors questioned Mr Hutchinson on options available regarding resurfacing the routes and he confirmed that he has met with KCC's contractor today. He has asked for two quotes; one to blade the surface to remove the ruts, re-grade it and resurface and the second to infill the ruts with recycled type 1 materials. He will be provided with these costs in a week's time.

Mr Hutchinson said that bringing in any material at this stage would always be a benefit as it can be incorporated later on in more substantial repairs. He is open to the idea of undertaking interim repairs to enable the byways to be reopened. Traffic Regulation Orders are a lengthy process and very costly in terms of allocating resources. It is also very difficult to police routes that are closed with TRO's and sometimes users will ignore closures regardless.

Other options such as seasonal closures, permit schemes and also video cameras were discussed and also the disadvantages they pose. Without any legislative changes it is very difficult to address the issue with any force. Local supplies of materials and labour were discussed and Mr Hutchinson said that he would be happy with that approach as long as KCC inspected the repairs and were happy that standards were met. By addressing the repairs in this way would not negate KCC of their ongoing responsibilities.

The Parish Council walked the length of Pimlico Way together with Mr Hutchinson and he pointed out areas of the byway that would be pretty simple and quick to fix. Discussions followed about prioritising the work to enable some of the routes to be opened as soon as possible.

The section of Pimlico Way that comes out at Colfir Farm was looked at. It has a flint stone base, which has only rutted through with earth and is built up in some sections. Andrew Hutchinson considers the earth could be bladed back to the original base and indicated that his present budget could meet the costs. This would enable the whole of ER185 to be opened quickly.

Talks then commenced onto issues with The Bullrun and Mr Hutchinson confirmed he had visited the byway earlier that morning together with KCC's contractor and again identified some areas that would be straightforward to reinstate.

Mr Hutchinson said that once he returns from annual leave he will be in possession of the figures and will know a bit more.

Signed (Chairman) .....

Date .....