

Pluckley Parish Council

Annual Report for 2003 - 2004

Pluckley Parish Council has pleasure in presenting a report of its activities for the year 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004.

You are invited...

Once a year, parishes must hold a public meeting sometime between 1 March and 1 June. All electors in the parish are entitled to speak and vote. This year the Annual Parish Assembly is on Monday 19 April at 8pm in Pluckley Village Hall.

As well as hearing reports from village clubs, there is the chance to comment on the proposed speed management scheme for Pluckley.
[see centre pages]



The Wealden Wheels Transport Initiative

This is a joint venture between Kent Play Clubs and the parishes of Charing, Egerton, Pluckley, and Smarden and is open to any club/organisation/group within these villages on payment of an annual subscription of £10. The scheme operates on a self-drive basis with a single charge of 80 pence per mile inclusive, which includes fuel and insurance.

The vehicle is a Ford Tourneo, which is based on the well-proven Transit chassis. It is diesel powered and comes with safety features including ABS brakes, reverse safety alarm, and extra grab handles for easier access. It has eight seats plus the driver and can be driven on a car licence entitlement. You will however have to be 25 or over with a clean licence to drive it. The vehicle is fully carpeted, has luxury seating with armrests, and air conditioning. Seat belts are fitted to all seats and there is a small boot area with easy access at the rear. It is more like a mini coach than a bus.

Kevin Parry is the co-ordinator and can be contacted on 01233 713613 or 07969 791816.

The vehicle will be on hand for the Annual Parish Assembly to take anyone without their own transport to the meeting – just telephone Kevin by noon on Monday 19 April.

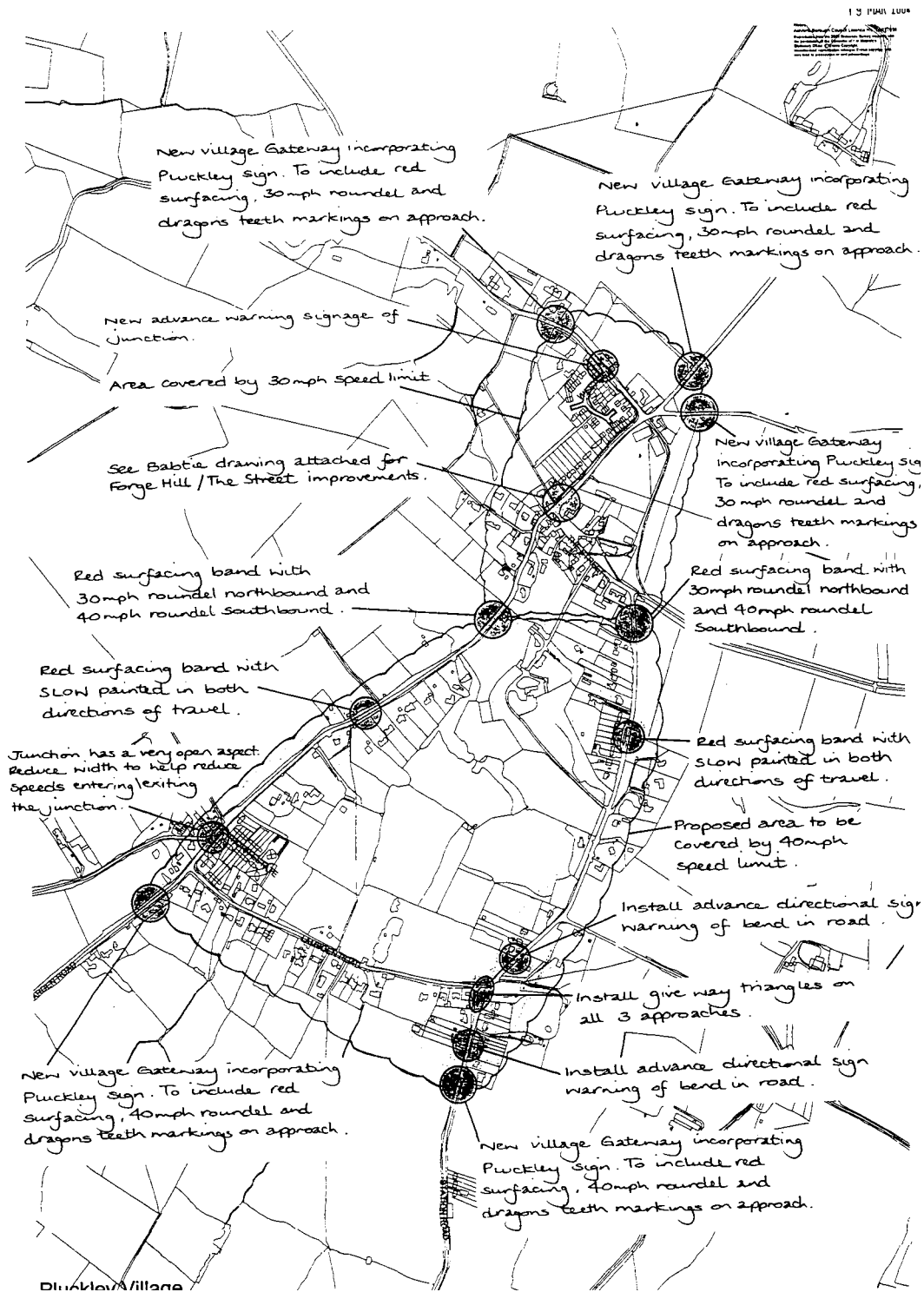


New speed limit restrictions for village

Following the Speed Management investigations in all Ashford Borough villages last year, Kent Highways have produced a recommended package of works for Pluckley.

This involves extending current 30mph speed restriction down Station Road to the Fir Toll, when it would then become 40mph to Forest Gate Lodge and installing 40mph speed restriction on Smarden Road from Thorne House to where the current 30mph commences on Forge Hill. In addition, there would be red surfacing at entrances to the village together with 'dragons teeth' markings on the approach.

It is also proposed to reduce the width of The Pinnock junction with Smarden road and make extensive alterations to the junction of The Street with Forge Hill.



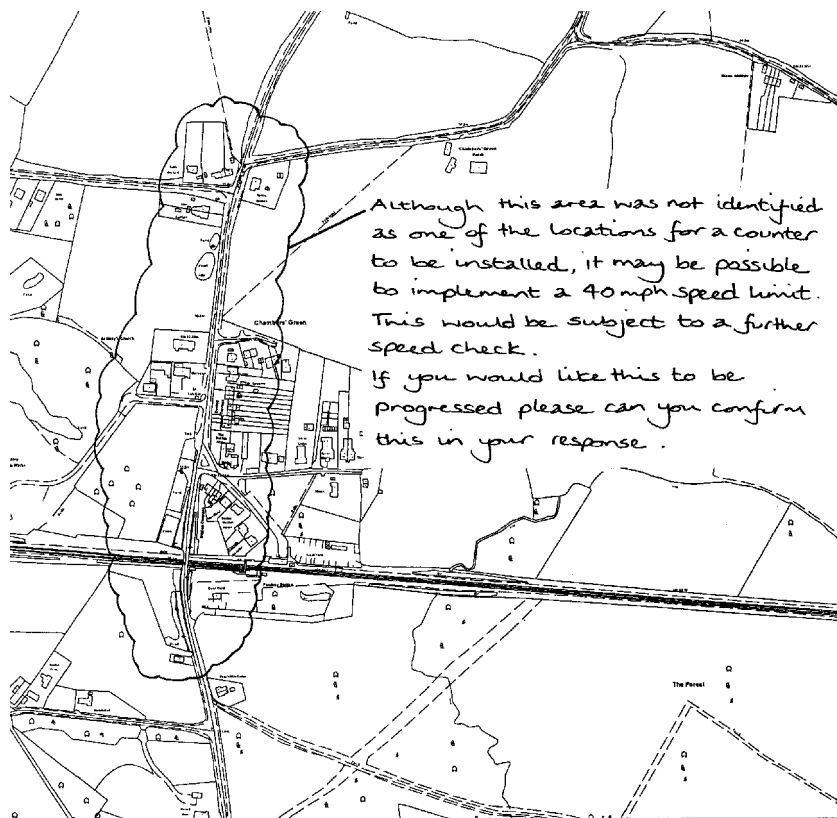
Suggested speed management scheme village centre

Following on from several representations made to Kent Highways, Ashford Borough Council, and Weald Police over the problem of parking at the station, Kent Highways have also recommended the installation of 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions from the start of the station car park to Dering Close on Dering Terrace side of the road and from the car park to the railway bridge. Parking would still be allowed on the western (garage) side of Station Road. Letters are being sent to all residents in the station area requesting their comments, but the parish council would also be pleased to hear observations from other members of the community.

The total cost of this work is estimated to be in the region

of £40,000. Kent Highways will be giving priority to those villages currently without any speed restrictions, but have intimated that parishes able to match-fund (provide up to half the cost of the work) would also be prioritised. It is possible that the parish council can find grant funding for some of the £20,000, but there would be at least a shortfall of £10,000.

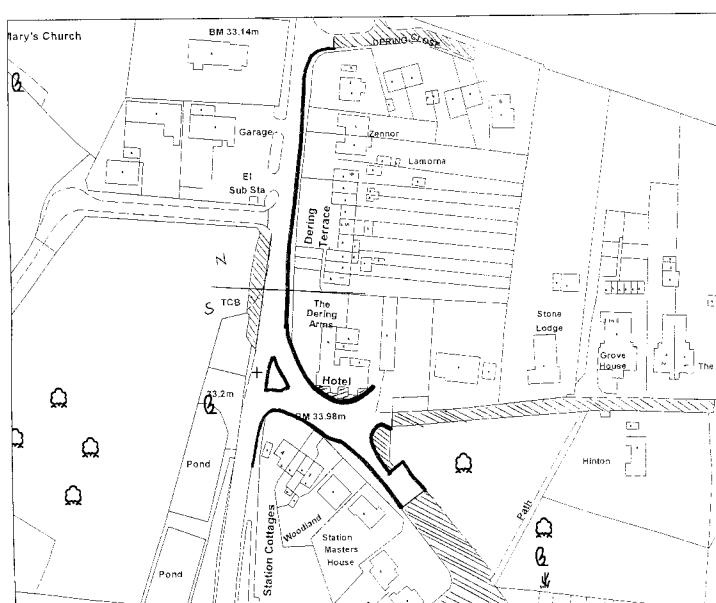
This matter will be discussed at the Annual Parish Assembly on Monday 19 April and it will be put to the parish as to whether a subscription of up to £50 be requested from each household or whether the precept is increased next year to cover the cost.



Suggested speed management scheme for lower Station Road

Station Road

Pluckley



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Legend	
	Land not owned by the Highway Authority (KCC)
	Lengths of highway where waiting restrictions could be implemented.
Preferred Option.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	waiting restrictions on lengths of highway as shown on plan.
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	waiting restrictions on southern section of highway only, including triangle cuts de Dering Arms
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	No alterations required.

Suggested parking restrictions in lower Station Road & Station Approach

Raising funds for village charities

Pluckley Hog Fair Saturday 3 July 2004 – 11am to 11pm

Plans are underway for the biggest, best village fête this (and last) century. The recreation ground will be filled with fun and games for all including a hog roast, fun fair, netball tournament, go-kart races, open dog show, terrier racing, bowling for a pig, beer tent, tea tent, giant used book stall, trade stalls, cream teas and historical exhibition in the church.



The hog roast continues into the evening when there will be dancing to Ben Love's pop group. The beer tent closes at 11pm.

If you can help, donate books, cakes, produce, and raffle or tombola prizes, or turn up on Sunday 4 July for the tidy-up, please keep an eye on the parish magazine, which will include updates. Information will also be found on the parish notice board nearer the date. All profits will go to the Dering Organ Fund, the New Sports Pavilion Fund, and the Village Hall.

Grand draw tickets, with a £250 first prize, will also be on sale soon.

Pluckley Brickworks

There's been very little to report on the brickworks/waste recycling front. At the time of going to press, Clearers (SE) Ltd had still to put in their application for a waste management licence to the Environment Agency. Until that is done we are unable to get the campaign moving again, although the committee is actively pursuing a dialogue with both the Borough and County councils. Everyone's letters sent to the Environment Agency c/o parish council clerk are kept in an ever-growing folder ready to be forwarded once the application has gone in.

The Call My Bluff Evening raised £671.86

Pluckley's Design Statement

At last after a fairly long wait and many, many meetings, the Design Statement has been published and has been formerly adopted by Ashford Borough Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance, supplementing and supporting the policies of the Ashford Borough Local Plan 2000.

It will be on sale for £5 a copy at the Annual Parish Assembly.

What does your council do?

All meetings of Pluckley Parish Council are open to the public. Everyone is welcome to come along. The full council meeting is on the second Monday of each month at 8pm in the village hall. The plans committee meets at 7:45pm on the fourth Monday of each month when there are planning applications that have to be considered before the next full council meeting.

An agenda is displayed in the village a minimum of three working days before each meeting on the parish council notice board outside the school.

Members regularly attend meetings of Ashford Borough Council's Parish Forum, Weald Police Forum, and Kent Association of Parish Councils.

Broadband – will it happen?

The parish council is keeping up the momentum in trying to get Broadband in Pluckley. At the time of going to press there were 121 registrations out of the 150 target. It is understood that the exchange on Forge Hill is practically ready for ADSL and BT are proposing to go ahead with installations in some villages before their target levels are reached. Prices for connection are also dropping daily. To register an interest does not commit you to anything.

Where does it all go?

In November 2003, the parish council requested a precept for 2004/5 of £15,500. In addition Ashford Borough Council grants £1,091 as payment towards works carried out by the parish council on behalf of the borough and £874 towards the village street sweeping.

The 2004/5 budget is therefore broken down as follows:

Income	£	Expenses	£
Balance b/f	16,251	Road Sweeper	900
Bank interest	60	Sports Pavilion	3,000
Ashford Borough Council	17,465	General Admin	12,191
Recycling credits	1,000	Village Hall	9,552
Rents	248	Recreation Ground	3,980
Village Hall	3,250	Repairs & Maintenance	500
		Brickworks	1,000
		Hog Fair	500
		Grants	1,000
		S137 payments	1,500
		Wealden Wheels	1,000
		Contingency fund	3,151
Total income	38,274	Total expenditure	38,274

Planning

In the past 12 months, there were 49 planning applications, 7 of which the council objected. Most of these were of a routine nature. In three cases, Ashford Borough Council, overrode these objections, two were supported, another was withdrawn, and the other is still pending a decision.

Your Parish Councillors and other Contacts:

Janet Gwillim (Chairman)	840203
Trevor Oliver (Vice Chairman)	820516
James Ashby	840519
Peter Campbell	840412
Simon Crookston	840000
Alan Davies	840514
Russell Keep	840798
Ann Murray	840166
Borough Councillor: Andrew Wickham	...
	01580 879601
County Councillor: Richard King	756592
MP: Damian Green	820911