

Droxford Parish Council – Parish Green Consultation

08/12/21

In attendance: Janet Melson (JM), Mark Dennington (MD), Colin Matthissen (CM), Di Shepherd, Lewis Smith

Ailsa Duckworth

Introduction – JM

Finance – CM (Budget £25k, from reserves of last 4 years, DPC decision to fund capital projects.)

Written response in advance of meeting – FODC

The following questions/comments were received from attendees with responses given at the meeting. Further consideration of these will be given by the Parish Council and final plans will be advised in due course.

Comments:

- Could increase parking by 4 cars if used as extension for parking
- Metal gates bring extra cost
- Armillary sphere will be stolen
- Surface drainage inadequate, a new soakaway will need to be constructed
- Pressure for parking – High Street is full
- Extra social activity has created a need for additional parking

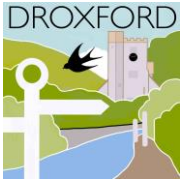
JM response:

- Green space important in conservation area in National Park and in proximity to grade I listed building so permission would not, under any circumstances, be given for additional parking

MD response

- Nothing can prevent access by the fire brigade
- Access to Church is inadequate
- Gates used for security historically
- Expense in moving footpath, makes sense to use gate already there





Comments:

- Didn't know where Parish Green was
- Where is the Church shown on the invitation?
- Is this being driven by the PC or the Park Authority?
- £25k is too much to spend on this when the surrounding footpaths need attention
- No issue with moving the war memorial

JM response:

- This is definitely a PC initiative
- Area was identified in conservation report
- Requested a show of hands if we should proceed – majority **IN FAVOUR**

Comment:

- Consideration should be given to dispensing with a gate

JM response:

- Gates can be reconsidered

MD response:

- For security reasons it is necessary to have gates for the Church
- Requirement for access of emergency vehicles dictates width/height of any entry

Comments:

- Security needs to be improved
- Idea with war memorial historically was to doff your cap as you passed through the gates
- Important to have safe access, preserve views, wider gates, access from Square to gates

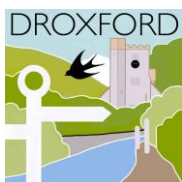
JM response:

- Requested show of hands: 1) Maintain gates or 2) Use an alternative type of entrance
- Majority **ALTERNATIVE PREFERRED**

Comment:

- Have the gates further down the path to clearly delineate the boundary between the Parish Green and the churchyard, also so approach to the gates is straight rather than at an angle





JM response:

- This could be considered

Comments:

- The war memorial is not in the right place currently on a privately owned wall
- Important to improve the area and focus on the war memorial
- Supports proposals, in particular wider entrance and easier access

Comments:

- Concerned about the view to the river and Church
- Benches face away from Church

MD response:

- Benches face both ways
- Used to delineate garden, designed to fit into space
- Benches focus on the war memorial
- Valid point to consider rotation of benches

Comments:

- Benches are in the shade as they are west or east facing
- Bins should be more attractively sighted

JM response:

- Bins across whole area would have to be considered but there would be no reduction in availability of dog bins

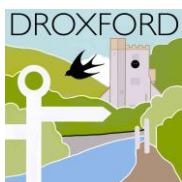
Comments:

- Benches should be placed in the optimal place
- Don't fix them in until best place is decided
- Planting should include low level hedging, herbs and a cherry tree
- Regarding planting, can we use the villagers' expertise, encourage suggestions from the garden club?

JM response:

- Already had a huge amount of input from the allotment holders in improving the cemetery, in particular from Judit Appel, which has all been given voluntarily





- This will need professional design and advice
- We need a clear direction from the consultation then can determine best course of action

Comments:

- Can some jobs be given to residents rather than contractors?
- Should rotate the benches, it is just an issue of orientation

JM response:

- Volunteers may not always be available as and when required to fit in with paid contractors and it is unfair to ask voluntary labour to work in poor weather conditions

Comment:

- Can we create parking bays? And cross hatch areas for emergency vehicles?

JM response:

- This has been discussed at length – considered too urban, we should protect rural nature and we have no means of enforcement

Comment:

- It will be a legal requirement to mark out bays for electric charging of vehicles, so marking could be considered at that time
- Could we have a disabled parking space in the Square? This would enable Church attendance

JM response:

- This is something that can't be enforced and even where disabled parking is available, it isn't designated to an individual

Comment:

- Can the main entrance be in the middle?

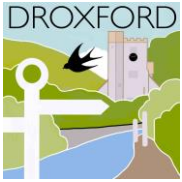
MD response:

- We can't move the path as it would eat up a large amount of the Green and we would lose parking spaces

Comments:

- PG not shown correctly on paperwork
- Not keen on a hedge as it will not be maintained, perhaps a low chain instead?





- Could emergency vehicles use the old driveway that was created for the contractors?
- Annex has been built, more opportunities for hazard, emergency access and access for hearses required
- Move the focal point
- 6ft tree reduction won't make a difference
- Too many benches, rotate the benches
- War memorial should be moved from wall but is too tall to go where proposed
- Lighting is required

JM response:

- The PC has no requirement to illuminate the PG. If extra lighting is required, this is the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council
- Existing light is powered by the Church
- Need to comply with International Dark Skies Reserve (SDNPA)

Comments:

- Must not allow light pollution
- Advised villagers to get torches
- Lights on wall and Church are on from 4pm to 10pm every day
- Emergency access could be created if the gates were at the Church, so the entrance was splayed out
- Could also encourage people not to park there
- The need for access could deter from the design
- Discrete signage could be used to encourage people not to park by the entrance

MD response

- MD to discuss further with Tony Hoile
- It is part of the plan to better service the Church
- Fire Brigade are happy with the width of the gate
- It will be difficult to keep vehicles from parking near to the gates, and this will always be an issue

Comment:

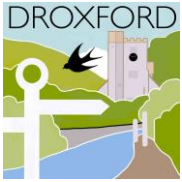
- Diocese have been consulted and have requested that the gates be maintained or something similar replace them
- Vehicles are to be stopped from entering without need (prevent burglary)
- Locked bollards that could be unlocked by PC, Church and fire Brigade could be a solution
- Lockable bollard base already in situ

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JM conclusion:

- Thank you for input and comments
- Written comments also encouraged
- DPC will give serious consideration to points raised
- In broad terms were residents happy to move forward with the plans?
- Majority **IN FAVOUR**
- Next steps, discuss at next meeting, consider timescales

Comments

- Could future plans be drawn to scale?
- Consider tree planting for Jubilee, not necessarily as part of this project, but in keeping with the Tree Planting Initiative (Plant a Tree for the Jubilee)

