



Parish of Castle Hedingham

Mrs Claire Waters (Parish Clerk)

25 Bayley Street, Castle Hedingham, Essex CO9 3DG

07845 056597 castlehedinghamparishclerk@gmail.com

REPORT FROM MEETING TO DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR FUTURE OF PLAYING FIELD Held at Castle Hedingham Club on 11th December 2015 at 10am

Present: Cllrs Garry Southgate, Trevor Hood, Ian Higgins, Guy Pewter, Miles Scrivens, Castle Hedingham Parish Council
Mr Jason Lindsay & Mrs Demetra Lindsay, Hedingham Castle
Mr Andrew Epsom, Asset Manager, Braintree District Council
Cllr John McKee, Cabinet Member for Assets, Braintree District Council
Braintree District Councillors Jo Beavis & Hylton Johnson

In the Chair Cllr Garry Southgate

Clerk: Claire Waters, Clerk to the Parish Council.

A walk around the village took place so that all present could make themselves familiar with the sites under discussion. Further discussions were then held at Castle Hedingham Club.

BDC land: Braintree District Council owned land alongside New Park and next to Site A.

Site A: The current site of the playing field.

Site B: The smaller piece of land next to the Memorial Hall which fronts on to Church Lane.

Site C: The larger piece of land next to the Memorial Hall to the west of Site B.

Sites A, B and C are owned by Mr & Mrs Lindsay.

Outcomes of the meeting:

- The land owned by BDC and Site A have been submitted in the call for sites for the new BDC Local Plan. The Local Plan will determine what land in the district can be developed over the next 15 years. The final version after consultations and revisions is not expected to be completed until 2017
- The BDC Local Plan has to meet the Government requirement to build 850 new houses a year across Braintree District. If a new Local Plan is not in place, there will be no protection from developers potentially building wherever they choose.
- BDC confirms that it is not possible for the Parish Council to site play equipment on their land, but suggests that if it is developed with Site A in the future a small area of the development may be set aside for play equipment. Alternatively a lump sum for investment in open space elsewhere in the parish could be offered by developers.
- Mr & Mrs Lindsay are not offering a renewal of the expired lease on their land at Site A to the Parish Council, instead they are prepared to offer a long term lease, maybe 25 years, on Site C. They wish to work in co-operation with the Parish Council as representatives of the community. In return for a lease on Site C they are asking for support from the Parish Council for future sympathetic development on their land at Site A.
- The Parish Council agreed by majority vote at their extraordinary meeting of July 20th 2015 to accept the proposal to look at leasing site C as a possibility for a future community open space. At this meeting the Parish Council did not agree to support future development at Site A, so this condition would need to be taken back to the full Council for discussion and decision.

The meeting closed at 12.45pm