

Seal Parish Council Parish Plan – 2022/2023

The Parish Plan sets out our over-riding priorities to help ensure the Parish is an enjoyable and pleasant place to live. Although the Parish Council has few powers itself we are in a position to influence those who do have powers and to represent the views of parishioners in doing so. We do what we can to help to make things happen that will improve community life for residents. This plan is updated regularly.

SEAL PARISH COUNCIL PARISH PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS	Progress made and Ideas for Action	Target Date	Authority Responsible Individual taking the lead for the PC in bold	Funding Possibilities
<p>Traffic issues continue to be top of the agenda. In Seal village parking issues have eased off but parking around Knole Park became fraught as covid has brought more walkers to the area. We have a range of ongoing concerns particularly around the speed of traffic. Our Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) brings specific new measures we wish to see pursued into one document and is attached to and forms part of this Plan. We will regularly review this to press KCC to carry out improvements and assess the extent to which the Parish can contribute to solutions. All maintenance issues with the current road infrastructure should be reported on the KCC Highways website as below:</p>				
The Parish Council takes every opportunity to press for wider traffic issues to be addressed and accounted for, and for improved-provision for cycling and walking alongside highways wherever possible.	Currently pressing for KCC to address speed and traffic issues on A25 Childsbridge Lane railway bridge and other roads. Making the case through planning applications where applicable.	Ongoing with all items presented on the HIP	KCC, SDC, Tonbridge and Malling BC Planning Committee	KCC and developers. The Parish Council to consider using its funds from CIL to support eligible projects.
Speed watch – the PC now owns its own equipment and volunteers are moving it around the Parish and carrying out Speed Watch.	To establish active groups of volunteers to cover the Parish and identify roads to be targeted.	Active and ongoing, with the aim of having an active volunteer group in each village area.	Parish Council RB with active volunteer leaders in each ward	N/A
The PC now owns a mobile Speed Indicator Device (SID) that can be used in all three wards.	Volunteers to keep it active and ongoing	Ongoing	Parish Council RB with active volunteer leaders in each ward	Owned by Parish Council
Parking around Knole Park	Parking restrictions have been put in place. The effect of these can now be monitored.	2022	FW, LT, JT, OB to note improvements or not	SDC/KCC
<p>The roads in the Parish are often in poor condition with potholes and damaged verges. The Parish Council pursues some faults with KCC and residents are able to report all highway issues direct to KCC 03000 41 81 81 http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem The Parish Council also lobbies on improvements to the PROW network and for cycle routes. Residents can report problems on PROW to 03000 41 7171 8am-8pm Mon-Friday. http://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way</p>				
Overall, the PC will make representations whenever appropriate on improvements to benefit cyclists, walkers and horse riders and connectivity with the wider road and PROW network and to make improvements in routes to schools, village centres and services.	Work closely with the Greensand Commons project, SDC and KCC to identify improvements in access to the wider countryside.	2022-2024	SDC and KCC Highways All	KCC Highways, Greensand Commons Project
A list of ongoing repairs to the highways is kept as an Appendix to the PC minutes.	These are necessary repairs that need completing.	Ongoing	KCC Highways Clerk, CH	KCC Highways
Keep the footpath from Childsbridge Lane to Ash Platt in good condition for walkers and possibly considering	KCC	Ongoing	KCC Highways Clerk	KCC Highways

upgrading it to a bridlepath for cyclists.				
Encourage reporting of PROW problems direct to KCC	Contact details at the end of PC meeting minutes	Ongoing	KCC All	Ongoing
The Parish Council responds to <u>all consultations</u> on planning applications <u>in the Parish</u>, and wider policy documents.				
Update the Village Design Statements to ensure control over new development and to protect retail/commercial premises.	The Stone Street VDS has been Adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance by SDC. The Wilderness DS has been withdrawn by the Residents Association in preference for a review of the Conservation Area Appraisal at a later date.	The need to update VDS in the Parish will be considered in the light of progress on a new Local Plan and the Sevenoaks Neighbourhood Plan	Villages with the support of Parish Council. Formal Adoption by SDC. Conservation Area Appraisals are the responsibility of SDC Planning Committee	Minimal
Pursue suitable sites for Affordable Housing schemes.	The PC supports in principle 2-3 sites for 'Rural Exception' affordable housing sites in Seal village.	Foxbury Farm is nearing completion. Planning applications for schemes at Mills Crescent and Sealcroft Cottages are progressing. A second Phase of Mills Crescent has been proposed as site for inclusion in the Local Plan Review if local need is demonstrated.	Parish Council, English Rural, WKHA and SDC Planning Committee	SDC & Housing Associations
Monitor Sevenoaks Quarry extension to ensure compliance and limit damage to Seal residents.	The PC raises local problems at the regular meetings of two Liaison groups	Ongoing	Planning Committee	N/A
The Sevenoaks Local Plan	The PC made substantial responses to the consultations in 2019. It sought stronger policy for the proper development of the Sevenoaks Quarry, provisions of services, and protection of the Green Belt around Seal.	The Local Plan has been withdrawn from Examination on the advice of the Inspector. A new Local Plan programme has begun. An outline planning application for the development of Sevenoaks Quarry is expected early in 2022	SDC Planning Committee	N/A
Sevenoaks Neighbourhood Plan	The PC has responded to consultations, seeking a strong policy for the proper development of Sevenoaks Quarry, protection of the Green Belt around Seal and recreation activities that will not harm the amenity of Seal.	The Town Council hopes to proceed to a Referendum on a revised Plan during 2022.	Sevenoaks Town Council Planning Committee	
The Tonbridge and Malling Local Plan	The PC made a substantial response to the consultations in 2019 about the increased traffic in Seal from 3,000 new dwellings at Borough Green.	The Local Plan was withdrawn from Examination on the advice of the Inspector and its future programme is uncertain	TMBC Planning Committee	N/A
The Parish Council supports and encourages improvement to the wider environment and amenities in the Parish. Fly tipping is becoming an increasing problem – please report directly to Sevenoaks District Council 01732 227000.				
To increase areas for wildflowers within the parish	Engaged Kent Wildlife Trust to support and advise. Sites are being identified in consultation with local residents. Active volunteer groups being set up.	Ongoing, failed to get active volunteer groups in 2021 but hope to in 2022 and if not budget included to assist with management.	Parish Council CT with active volunteer groups	Parish Council/ Greensand Commons Project and other sources to be identified.
Active engagement with the Sevenoaks Greensand Commons Project	To support all community consultation and joint working.	To 2024	HLF Greensands Commons Project	HLF Greensand Commons Project

			FW	
To improve the community interest in the centre of the villages. Benches, planters, marking out of historical sites have been identified for Seal Village.	Plans in place for benches and picnic tables to be installed	2022	Parish Council CT, with Seal residents	Parish Council
Parking and traffic issues on Zion Street	Request for double yellow lines included in the HIP	2022	KCC Clerk, CH	KCC
Seal War Memorial Pavilion and Recreation Ground. The Parish Council is actively looking at improving facilities on the rec.	Work on memorial garden completed, historical sign and bench to be installed. Need to progress the plan instigated by CT to look at facilities on the recreation ground.	2022	Parish Council CT to lead on benches Volunteer need to lead on rec facilities	Parish Council
The Seal Memorial Garden	To renovate and enjoy.	2022	Parish Council	Parish Council
Seal Village Hall	To support the committee as appropriate to provide more opportunities for the local community to meet and enjoy a range of activities.		Seal Village Hall (SVH) CT	SVH
Find co-ordinators to set up local litter-picking groups.	Parish Council to pursue with residents.	Partially under way, stalled due to CV-19	Parish Council	Minimal
Bitchet Green Cricket and Football ground	The PC continues to work closely with the Cricket and Football clubs to find a long-term solution to bring in funding to keep the pavilion and grounds in good repair for the community	Ongoing	Parish Council, Cricket Club and Football Club RB	Club and Local Fundraising needed.
Godden Green ongoing pond improvements	Active volunteer group works on this.	On going	Parish Council SDC and KCC Clerk	KCC/SDC /Parish Council
To identify Community Assets	Parish Council to encourage villages to identify community assets.	Ongoing	Parish Council with village associations	N/A
Local Community Initiatives	Parish Council will support community initiatives to benefit local residents eg Christmas lights, community activities etc	Ongoing	Parish Council with village associations	Parish Council/Groups and committees.
Seal Library carry on supporting and monitoring the use of the library and possible mobile post office particularly now both Kemsing post offices have closed.	Discuss with library service and post office	On going	Parish Council	KCC support
Maintain Parish Council notice boards in good order.	Parish Council to initiate repairs and installation.	Ongoing	Parish Council Clerk	Parish Council
Install two public EV Charging points at Seal rec car park	Need established via residents survey. Parish Council to apply for grant under the Kent scheme	Application in progress	Parish Council MP	SPC/KCC
Monitor/support local postal and 'bus services.	Parish Council has responded to KCC consultation on public transport and awaits outcome.	Ongoing	Parish Council Clerk	Nil