Report of Environment Committee 6th September 2011 at 8.30 am.
In School House.

Present: Mary Evans, Jane Lawrey, Charmian Marsh, Elizabeth Ward.

Last meetings minutes were reviewed.

Oxenhill Woods: The present coppicing was discussed, M.E reported that the cut trunks are not stacked and it seems as if they will be taken away using Tudor Drive as the exit. E.W said that a meeting had taken place a few weeks ago, when Robin Hales, Chief Executive of SDC had attended and the matter of extraction was discussed with the contractor, Ray Froud SDC Woodland Ranger, Douglas Bennett, Kemsing Parish Councillor and herself. She understood that the extraction would be from Dynes Recreation Car Park where there was to be a caged area around the stacked trunks awaiting transportation. E.W will investigate. Rides need to be cut properly in the last coppiced area, the brambles will also need to be managed over the whole coppiced area. Maybe community involvement will be needed? E.W

Pilgrim’s Way East: The footway needs to be cleared of encroaching ivy. A working party is needed if KCC cannot clear it in the very near future. Volunteers to be approached. C,tee

Footpath 49 (Otford to Kemsing): Working Party needed to cut back overhanging branches, many are head height. W'king Party.

Station Approach Shrubs: Need severe pruning before the winter. W'king Party.

Willow Trees at the Pond: Check with Brian Thomas when the dead branch is to be removed. Pleased to see our second duck has recovered and is now back on the pond. EW/BT

Village Hall Patio Planter: This has been and still is very colourful thanks to the Afternoon WI. Hope that there will be colour for the winter months. E.W

Jubilee Suggestion: To purchase some new planters for the village, Seal and Riverhead have looked particularly attractive this summer. Preferably recycled plastic, and plant with red white and blue flowers. Also to have two hanging baskets attached to the village hall to follow the theme. The shopkeepers at the parade have agreed to have some hanging baskets and would also like two planters to go on the verge. The owners of the dry cleaners have volunteered to look after the latter. Could these be in place for some winter/spring planting? Approach Fete Committee to see if there would be any money available to purchase some new planters and if they could be in use for the winter. M.E. would plant them up if BT and NC could install and fill with necessary soil. E.W
**Lime Tree in Car Park:** Suckers to be removed.  

**Dog Bins:** Elands are in negotiation with Brian Thomas re type and siting.  

**Telston Park:** A community working party to be arranged, notify surrounding residents for help, similar to a few years ago. Maybe supply refreshment, ask WI for some home made cakes. Contact Scouts and Guides to assist as a community project.  

**Village Gateways:** Suggestion made by M.E that RADIO may ‘fund’ some of the project. Apparently there is to be a meeting on 26th Sept in School House at 8 p.m. to ‘wind down’ Radio.  

**Correspondence:**

CPRE ‘Countryside Voice’ magazine Summer 2011 for perusal by C’tee and other Cllrs, that may be interested.

CPRE ‘Fieldwork’ magazine Summer 2011 information on their present campaigning.

Letter from KCC re Consultation on KCC’s Countryside Access Improvement Plan – review 2012 any comments should be sent through by £0th September 2011. We will be given opportunity to comment on the final draft in January 2012.

Current CAIP document can be found online: [www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess](http://www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess)

Kent Downs AONB Booklet ‘Managing Land For Horses’ 2011 together with a letter .. The equine industry is an important contributor to the rural economy. It is the second largest rural employer and riding is a healthy form of outdoor exercise. During the consultation process for the KDAONB Management Plan 2004 – 2014 the potentially negative effects of horse keeping in some instances on the landscape and biodiversity quality of the AONB were highlighted as an issue and one that our Action Plan should seek to address. The enclosed document seeks to help to address some of these issues relating to horse keeping and promote positive impact that horses can have on the landscape’ .... Booklet and letter will be kept in the Parish Office.

Details of the proposed Community Heritage Orchard, sent to all Cllrs. for their information and discussion.

A Report on the proposed Palace Field Project for discussion by OPC.

**Dates of future meetings:** 4th OCT, 8th NOV all at 8.30 am in School House.

**Possible Dates for Working Parties:**

- Thurs 22nd Sept. 9.30 am Footpath 49, tools to cut branches.
- Sat. 1st Oct. 9.30 am Community Work in Telston Park.
- Sat. 5th Nov Community Planting, boundary of Hale Lane Rec.

*Elizabeth Ward 6th Sept 2011*