



Kings Hill Parish Council

Enhancing the lives of the Kings Hill Community



Kings Hill Community Centre, 70 Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LG
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PRESS RELEASE

Disappointment in lack of action from Waitrose regarding a pedestrian access route at their store in Kings Hill

For many years Kings Hill Parish Council has been lobbying Waitrose to provide a safer pedestrian entrance to its store. The existing footpath is laid out in such a way that those on foot have to walk along the HGV access to Asda and around the perimeter of the car park to get to the front door. Planning permission was initially granted in 2015 to provide a footpath from Fortune Way which is safer and more convenient for shoppers but delays in implementation caused the consent to lapse.

There is concern that the lack of a suitable pedestrian access way from Fortune Way creates a dangerous situation as the existing route to access the store is so excessive and unclear that customers use the store's steep, narrow and curving vehicular access road as an alternative. This causes a risk to pedestrians, especially children and those who are less mobile such as the elderly and disabled.

In 2019 Waitrose told the parish council that they were supportive of providing a new pedestrian entrance and there was some movement in designing a solution but in January 2021 Waitrose advised that there is no budget in the foreseeable future for these works to be carried out.

The council feels that Waitrose is failing to manage the safety of our residents using the store and has broken its promise to install the pedestrian entrance in previous correspondence. The parish council is urging Waitrose to review this decision and construct a safe and convenient pedestrian access.

Notes to Editors:

Kings Hill Parish Council was formed in 1999 and consists of 12 elected parish councillors serving the local community on a voluntary basis. Parish Council officers undertake the work of the Council representing the community and delivering community benefits throughout the village. We are consulted on planning applications in the parish and work closely with local community groups serving Kings Hill and the local area. The provision and management of allotments, looking after open spaces, maintaining bus shelters and community building, providing facilities for the community, such as the Kings Hill Community Centre and Kings Hill Sports Park, are just some of the responsibilities carried out by Kings Hill Parish Council.

For further information on Kings Hill Parish Council please contact the Clerk to Kings Hill Parish Council on 01732-870382 or clerk@kingshillparish.gov.uk.