

3. Christmas Street Party Friday 10 December

Ann Sutherland reported that all arrangements were well in hand. She said she had received two cheques for contributions.

John Claydon has printed posters; Richard has had green flyers distributed.

Arrangements have been made to chop the tree down.

The lights are being put up on Sunday 5th

We need helpers from 08h30. Please come along to Church Street if you can.

The PCC have invited the mayor. He will be arriving at 6 p.m – Janet Hullett will introduce him and two children will present flowers to the Lady Mayoress. The Mayor is to judge the children's Christmas card competition.

Advertising: Posters, flyers, ABC tourist department Website, Parish magazine, Kentish Express. Press on the night – Ann to ring Kentish Express.

Father Xmas will be there, courtesy of Wye Lions.

Nigel Maclean is doing the legal letters and flyers for cars.

Barry Hullett is to bring his banjo.

Ann Sutherland to provide **badges** for all stall holders.

All WBA members to have leaflets about WBA and membership forms – John Claydon to arrange printing – Nicola to send him the information.

Help is needed on Friday afternoon. Tables to be put in Richard's van at the end of the evening.

Stall holders to start 3pm onwards

Everyone is invited to New Flying Horse after the party.

4. Other Business

Refreshments: thanked Dave Dubber for providing the excellent refreshments.

Next Meeting

Thursday 27th January at 6.00 for 6.30 p.m. at the Devil's Kneading Trough.

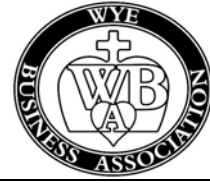
Action

Ann Sutherland

All members

Ann Sutherland

**Ann Sutherland
Nicola Warren
John Claydon**



Mr David Jenkins
Senior Transport Manager
Mid-Ken Area Office
Doubleday House,
St Michael's Close
AYLESFORD
KENT ME20 7BC

27th October 2004

Dear Mr Jenkins,

Out of concern and love of our village which we consider to be special and unique, we are writing to you to urge you to reconsider the one way system in Wye.

Our reasons are twofold. The effect on the businesses, a focal point of our social structure, also, if not more importantly, safety

We believe that at no time the effect on the businesses was ever taken into consideration. The household survey never asked the question 'Do you want a one way system?' Indeed people were only asked after the one way system had already been implemented on a so-called trial basis.

We accept that there is a problem in Bridge Street when The Lady Joanna Thornhill School opens and at pick up time. We feel that this is the reason for the one way system which will lead to the tragic urbanisation of our wonderful village when all the back up "easements" are put in place. A sledge hammer has been used to crack a nut.

We understand that part of the planning consent to enlarge the school was the implementation of a dedicated lay-by for school buses. When is this going to be installed?

What has been achieved so far is the creation of traffic problems all around the village and the measurable increase in the speed of traffic. The current suggested 'traffic improvements' are a direct result of the one way system.

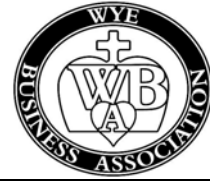
Past Parish Councillors recall County Highways rejection of a proposal for a one way system due to the expected traffic problems we are now experiencing.

As has been already suggested on many occasions recently and way back in time, all that really needs to be done at a great deal less expenditure and impact on the village is to ban all H.G.V. vehicles from proceeding up Bridge Street. We would also recommend that the public car park next to Gregory Court should be made more user friendly (In fact we cannot understand why this has not been done before, it seem such an obvious thing to do. Wye being an area of outstanding natural beauty and has been quoted by Ashford Borough Council as being a jewel in their crown!) When the car part has been improved then the parents should be strongly encouraged to walk their children to school from this point.

Returning to the effect on the businesses in Bridge Street, your own figures (letter to Mary Hemsley dated 28th April 2004. Your Ref: 2mDBJ.T/AS/43) claimed fifty percent drop in passing traffic up Bridge Street. This traffic would be people **entering** the village and therefore the businesses in Bridge Street fear that they have lost fifty percent possible trade. Being directed **up** Churchfield Way gives the impression of "nothing much doing in Wye, let's pass on through". The businesses concerned can verify the harm this has had.

Finally, four of twelve businesses in Bridge Street decided to open before the one way system was conceived, they may very well have had second thoughts if they had known that a one way system was to be put in place.

Wye Business Association



Our present government has indeed shown concern at the decline of the villages due to the demise of local businesses. Money has been invested in sustaining the local business structure in a bid that we do not lose our village way of life forever.

The Wye Business Association is unique in its strength and determination to retain village life and all that it holds dear. We fear that it is wrong to bow down to the motor car and people's impatience to gain more seconds. The same people will weep and wring their hands when their ideal disappears. They cannot have it both ways.

Wye was in danger of decline and went through a terrible period of shop closures, it became very depressed and people were not investing in their properties. Recently, four new shops have opened up bringing life back into four empty decaying premises. The direct result is that once again we had a surge of investment on properties and Wye is beginning to shine again.

We fear that the one way system will crush what has been achieved. We implore you to remember the Ashford ring road with all its problems. Without vision the people perish.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Sutherland
Chairman. For and behalf of The Wye Business Association.

Cc Mr Colin List
Clerk of Wye Parish Council

Cc Mrs Linda Cobb
Chair of Wye Parish Council

Cc Councillor Ian Cooling
Ashford Borough Council

Cc Councillor Charles Findlay
Kent County Council
Cc Mr Michael Fuller
Chief Constable
Kent County Constabulary

Mr Damian Green
Member of Parliament