
INFORMATION ITEM

Aylesford
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Subject: Landscaping and tree planting
Location: Land Adjacent To London Road South Aylesford Retail Park
Quarry Wood Industrial Estate Aylesford Kent

1. Description:

- 1.1 Members will recall that I presented a report, for information, to the January 2006 meeting of this Committee with regard to the landscaping and tree planting at South Aylesford Retail Park. I undertook to bring a further report before Members on the matter at the end of the current planting season.
- 1.2 There were two areas of outstanding landscaping and tree planting to be implemented at that time, namely:
- The land to the north of the Homebase store fronting onto London Road;
 - The land between the Homebase and Harveys stores.

2. The Site:

- 2.1 The site lies within the South Aylesford Retail Park, which lies at the front of the Quarrywood industrial area. The site lies to the south of London Road and to the west of the Mills Road roundabout. The trees and landscaping in the two areas concerned form a buffer to London Road.

3. Planning History:

- 3.1 TM/05/00559/FL Approved 15.04.2005
Provision of additional paving and planting.
- 3.2 TM/04/03229/FL Approved 10.11.2004
New pathway and landscaping.
- 3.3 TM/04/00091/FL Approved 27.02.2004
Refurbishment of existing buildings, including external alterations.
- 3.4 TM/03/03495/TPOC Approved 27.02.2004
Coppice 27 trees (1 beech & 26 maple), fell 23 trees (15 pine, 2 maple, 1 silver birch, 2 hawthorn, 1 cherry & 2 sycamore) and crown lift 1 pine tree.

4. Determining Issues:

- 4.1 Since the January APC3 meeting the owners of South Aylesford Retail Park have carried out the approved landscaping and tree planting scheme to the north of the Homebase store, as detailed in application TM/04/03229/FL, and also the approved planting scheme between Homebase and Harveys, as detailed in application TM/05/00559/FL.
- 4.2 My Landscape Officer has inspected the planting and is satisfied that the landscaping and tree planting for both areas is in accordance with the approved landscaping schemes, apart from the omission of the bulb planting to the north of Homebase store. The site owners have stated that the bulbs will be planted this coming autumn, as it was considered inappropriate to carry out bulb planting in March. I concur with the agents on this last matter.
- 4.3 Therefore, all the important structural planting, i.e. the hedge and tree planting, along with the shrub planting, has now been carried out. As I explained when I reported in January, the planting to the north of the Homebase store was not strictly required to be done until after the refurbishment of the whole of this parade of units had been completed. I welcome the fact the site owners have seen fit to carry out this landscaping now. The planting in the area between Homebase and Harveys has been carried out in accordance with the timescale set out in the relevant condition attached to planning permission TM/05/00559/FL. The planting of the bulbs in the autumn will be monitored.

5. Recommendation:

5.1 FOR INFORMATION.

Contact: Robin Gilbert