

Alan Bates  
Chairman  
Tenterden & District Residents' Association

Dear Alan,

Following the report of TDRA's annual meeting in last week's Kentish Express, I thought it would be helpful to update you with regard to Tenterden Town Council's position on the potential development of the Appledore Road/Woodchurch Road site.

After lengthy internal discussions, as well as consultations with Ashford Borough Council, Tenterden Town Council made it clear in a statement on 29th August that it was opposed to development of the site. That resolution was communicated to Ashford Borough Council, which is the planning authority, finalises the Local Plan, and makes the final decision.

Part of the land under review is owned by the Tenterden Schools Trust, a joint charitable company owned by Homewood School & Sixth Form Centre, Tenterden Junior School, Tenterden Infant School and St Michael's Primary School. The rest of the land is owned separately and privately.

In a letter to Tenterden Town Council dated 4th October, the Trust's chief executive Sally Lees, head of Homewood School, and finance director Mark Seymour stated that they had "entered into an agreement with Wates Developments Ltd regarding the land owned by the Trust in Appledore Road."

The letter continued: "This agreement is simply that the Trust will work with Wates should there eventually be an opportunity for a planning application to proceed",

Tenterden Town Council had suggested to the Trust they should grant a lease on the Trust's land to enable development of new football pitches and possibly a clubhouse. Currently, this suggestion has been rejected by the Trust, but discussions are continuing.

The site in question would replace the town's existing football pitch as well as providing greatly enhanced facilities for the town's players. Replacing the pitch is necessary to allow the complete redevelopment of the Recreation Ground as part of the Tenterden regeneration scheme.

The situation is clearly complex, and we are in contact with the Trust and Ashford Borough Council to ensure an outcome which is of greatest benefit to the town.

Meanwhile, we continue to search for land on which to locate a new football pitch, and if any of your members know of a potential site, it would be greatly appreciated if you could let us know the details.

I hope that this makes the Council's position clearer, and I am copying this letter to the Kentish Express, as well as posting it on our website.

Yours sincerely

Phil Burgess  
Town Clerk