

Proposal from the Caretaker Committee

1. Background

The Caretaker's van has had a problem with its wiring loom. The van no longer recognises that it is towing a trailer so the trailer lights won't work.

The van was looked at in the garage and the result was that, at 17 years old, the van is beyond economical repair.

2. Discussion

The Caretaker Committee met on Monday 30th June to work out a way forward. There was much discussion over the matter and we looked at the option of leasing a van or buying a replacement van.

Leasing a vehicle would cost approx. £6,500 over a 2 year period. Local Government Reorganisation will not take place until 2029, therefore we have another 4 years of the scheme with KCC/ABC funding whilst we negotiate the situation going forward.

A replacement van will cost approx. £12,000. This would cost less over the 4 year period and also, the Parish Council would have a van at the end of the 4 years which would give some stability. The Caretaking of the Parish Council owned areas will still need to continue after the reorganisation of Kent.

3. Request

The Caretaker Committee therefore wonders, would it be possible for Smeeth PC to loan the Caretaker account £12,000 to purchase a van?

The plan would be that the scheme would repay Smeeth PC over the next 4 years. Any resale of the van can be paid to the Parish Council.

The Caretaker Account is managed by Smeeth PC.