



# PRICE-WHITEHEAD

CHARTERED SURVEYORS & RURAL CONSULTANTS

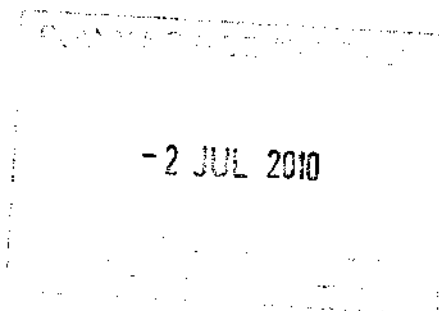
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Civic Centre  
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1<sup>st</sup> July 2010



Dear Mrs Freeland,

## Tenterden and Rural Sites DPD – Hearing

Further to the Tenterden hearing held last Wednesday (23<sup>rd</sup> June) in which the Inspector (Mrs. S. Chivers) requested Mr. Hankinson provided additional evidence to support his case, we now enclose a hard copy of this for the Inspector's attention.

Please note that the information enclosed is identical to that which was emailed to you today. However, we anticipate you may only have been able to print a copy in black and white, and the enclosed has the benefit of being in colour, which is essential in understanding the aerial photograph which shows access routes across Hopes Grove Nursery land.

Yours sincerely,

**Helen N Whitehead MRICS**

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**23 June 2010- Comments relating to the Ashford Council response to  
TENT16.**

**Examination into Tenterden and Rural Sites DPD 06-25**

**Supplementary information and evidence of theft, trespass, plant damage and vandalism at Hopes Grove Nurseries Ltd.**

At the examination further evidence of the problems at the Hopes Grove Nurseries site was requested and I am pleased to provide the following information.

1. Photograph 1 shows the scene following the theft of a trailer from the Hopes Grove Nurseries site ( 'Ifor Williams' type, serial no LM187 5034644) Crime reference FY/3434/10 stolen on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2010. In the opinion of the investigating officer it is likely those involved had surveyed the site previously from the footpaths on the site which cross the opposite end of the yard from which the theft took place, both to determine the presence of the trailer and to make opportunity of the only 1 hour period during the entire day when Mr Hankinson was absent.
2. Photographs 2, 3 and 4 show the scene following the attempted theft of potted nursery stock from the Hopes Grove Nurseries site during February 2009 ( Crime reference FY/4060/09). The thieves had carried much of this stock from well inside the nursery site (up to 150 metres) slashing 2 winbreak fences to gain access and leaving trails of plants across several parts of the nursery in the process. The agricultural nature of the neighbouring land proved to be the only protection in this case as the muddy field cultivated the previous autumn was too wet to allow the thieves vehicle to travel and collect the plants in the photo. The muddy ruts were easily seen in the opposite corner of the field. The development of TENT1 phase B will without doubt remove such protection currently afforded.
3. The Hopes Grove Nurseries site is intersected by a number of designated footpaths. Careful consideration has been given to the Horticultural development of the site with reference to security. This has seen the potted plants (potentially easily stolen) to be exclusively situated on the Eastern side of the site away from the footpaths, plants grown in the soil are virtually impossible to uproot without specialist nursery machinery and so are located on the western side (Photograph 5). This strategy worked very well initially but since the recent developments to the rear of Shrubcote there has been an increasing development and use of a network of unofficial footpaths which cross Hopes Grove Nurseries on the Eastern side of the site. These paths are used it seems to link the Eastern and Western ends of the town to give a longer walk than is possible using the public footpath that crosses the North of Huson Farm.
4. We have noted many smaller cases of theft on the nursery, both of plants and tools. Invariably these thefts are of considerably smaller scale as the thieves can only take what they can carry. Because of the extensive nature of the site, on many occasions such incidents are not noticed immediately, because of the minor nature it is uneconomic to pursue an insurance claim and as such inappropriate to seek a crime reference on such occasions. One trend we have noted is the theft of a nursery barrow and presumably whatever stock will fit on it. We think it reasonable to assume such incidents are opportunistic and

result from the increasing network of unofficial footpaths on the site. The majority of unofficial footpath traffic is currently to be seen on the TENT1 phase B site (dealt with in point 4), should TENT1 be developed it will be inevitable that this traffic will be transferred south onto the Hopes Grove Nurseries site and that such theft events will increase. Photo 6 actually shows 9 individual photos showing both the extent of use of unofficial footpaths on the TENT1 phase B site and also the practical difficulties of effectively and economically securing the boundary with the Hopes Grove Nurseries site, some 650 metres of boundary with the TENT1 Site alone.

5. A number of attempts have been made to secure the boundary of the Hopes Grove Nurseries site following the increasing incidents of damage and trespass. Photo 7 shows one such attempt to secure the boundary with the Eastern corner of the TENT1 phase b site. In every case the boundary reinforcements have been completely vandalised within 24 hours. Photo 8 shows two shots from the same vantage point, the first shows the newly reinstated fence in February 2009, the second is in June 2010 where the fence has all but disappeared. The wooden panels having been smashed and the wire pig netting having been cut with wire cutters in a number of places, better shown in photo 9.

PHOTOGRAPH 1





PHOTOGRAPH 2



PHOTOGRAPH 3

PHOTOGRAPH 4



PHOTOGRAPH 5



TENT 1 PHASE B

TENT 1 PHASE B

PLANTS IN SOIL

PLANTS GROWING IN SOIL

SHRUBS ETC.

Prow

Prow

Prow

Prow

DESIGNATED PROW

UNOFFICIAL ACCESS



PLANTS IN SOIL

DESIGNATED PROW

UNOFFICIAL ACCESS

Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9.

