

6. **SPRING VALE – WOODED AREA.**

As Members will be aware the Town Council own a section of land at Spring Vale, Greenhithe that is a wooded area (Title K720393 – Appendix A).

Residents of a block of properties that back onto the wooded area have raised concerns about the size of the trees and their safety (properties shown on Title K247682 – Appendix B).

A site meeting was held with Councillors' Mrs S P Butterfill, P M Harman and B E Read.

Attempts were made to obtain quotations for undertaking a survey of the wooded area and it was agreed that the Ash trees nearest to the properties boundaries have the overhang reduced to between mid-path and woodland edge (i.e. well back off the gardens). At this point there was no indication that any of the trees were in ill health or a danger, this work was agreed purely to alleviate any immediate concerns the residents may have had whilst the survey of the area was being arranged and undertaken.

During correspondences with the residents it was clarified that a tree that had "fallen" over during winter 2013 had in fact been cut at its base and had not fallen due to ill health or because of any weather conditions. This raised further concerns with the residents regarding anti-social behaviour in the area. This matter was reported to the Police. The Police have since made the Community Safety Unit at Dartford Borough Council aware of the residence concerns regarding ASB in the area.

The email correspondences between the group of residents and KCC member Peter Harman have been copied to all members.

Whilst attempting to draw up a Risk Assessment of the site the following information was clarified:-

- Kent County Council Public Rights Of Way (PROW) confirmed that there is no PROW at the rear of the properties shown in Appendix B.
- Dartford Borough Council confirmed that "this area is not adopted highway, therefore we do not sweep it. It is the responsibility of the garage owners to arrange for the fly tipping to be disposed of."

The survey report is attached for members' consideration. All the works highlighted as requiring to be undertaken in the survey report have been authorised and it is hoped that these will have been completed by the time of the meeting.

Members are asked to agree on how they would like to maintain this area in the long term and it is suggested that a similar survey be undertaken every 2 years.

Recommended:

- 1 To note and endorse the actions taken by the Town Clerk to date.
- 2 To agree to a similar survey being undertaken every 2 years.

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Graham Blew

From: Catherine Kennedy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 06 October 2014 23:46
To: Graham Blew; susan.butterfill@dartford.gov.uk; motekellymorris@hotmail.co.uk; peter.harman@kent.gov.uk
Cc: Luke.Kennedy@e[REDACTED]; wyvernlad@[REDACTED]; nicky_conyers@[REDACTED]; poppyconyers@[REDACTED]; luke_kennedy1@[REDACTED]
Subject: Issues of safety regarding trees on council-owned land behind Spring Vale, Greenhithe

Dear Mr Blew,

Following our conversation earlier today, I thought it would be helpful to send an email both to formally express my concerns for the safety of the residents of our section of Spring Vale, and to confirm the action you agreed to take.

I was unaware when we spoke earlier that others had been in touch in relation to these trees, but your reaction to my call led me to speak to neighbours who I have now learned have raised similar concerns to the council over the years. Mine is obviously the latest in a number of enquiries the council has received and is no doubt the reason for your defensive and somewhat hostile response to my call.

As you are aware, we now rent out our former home to Mr Boldrini, a policeman, and his wife and young family. You'll appreciate that, when earlier today, Mr Boldrini shared his concerns with me about the trees and explained that one of the trees did fall during last winter's storms, I was duty bound to investigate these issues. I couldn't bear the idea that, if the worst were to happen, I hadn't acted on his concerns. These trees on the bank are now mature and very tall, and if they fall in the direction of the houses in our row I have no doubt they pose a serious danger both to the Boldrinis and other residents in that line of houses.

I do fully appreciate that you have a responsibility to protect the public purse and as fellow public servants my husband and I both personally and professionally share your desire to deliver best value. I'm not suggesting that any works are done on the trees, only that someone who is qualified to assess whether they are in a fit state to cope with another stormy winter is sent out look at them and make the judgement as to their stability. I understand another of the neighbours has had a tree surgeon look at them, and this surgeon did raise concerns. If they suggest that work is required then naturally we would like the necessary work done, and I am sure you will agree that any works would then clearly offer good value compared to the potential harm to families in the street. If indeed your preferred stance of no action is the right one then at least you'll be able decisively lay the matter to rest and the council will have been able to adequately demonstrate that it has acted appropriately in relation to its duty of care to the residents.

So, following our conversation, you agreed to:

- Get quotes for a tree surgeon or appropriately qualified individual to go to Spring Vale to assess the trees on the council-owned land for approval by elected members.
- Confirm to me in advance, which public meeting this matter would be considered at – I would be very grateful if you could do this via email, copying in all of the recipients of this email as many are residents or homeowners in Spring Vale too.

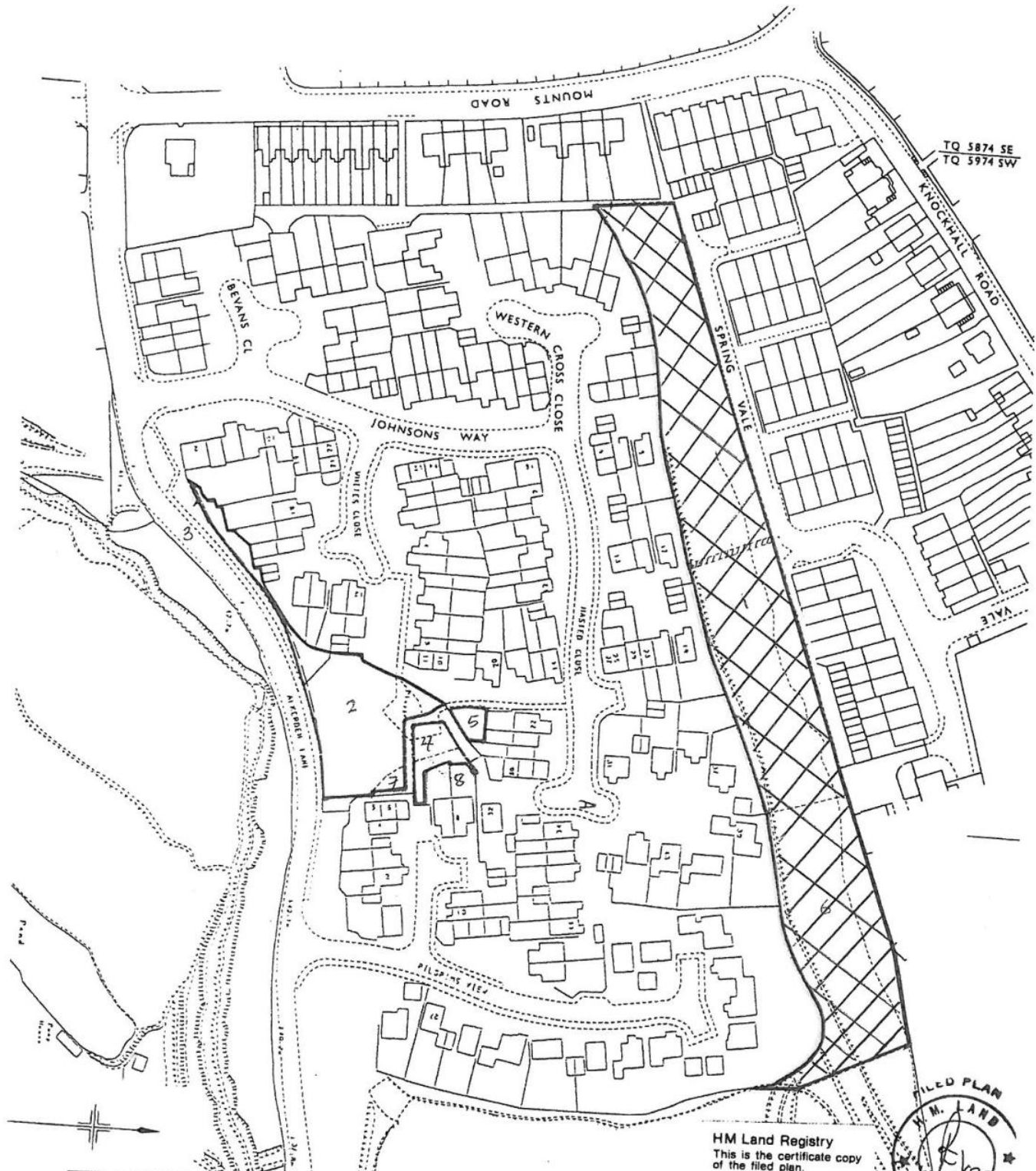
Copied to Councillors Sue Butterfill, Keith Kelly, David Mote and Peter Harman – Councillors, I thought you would like to be aware of this serious safety issue to ensure you are content that your officers have acted appropriately in addressing these concerns. I am assuming you agree that an assessment of these trees is

both a necessary and appropriate use of funds? I would be grateful for your individual confirmation that you will support the approval of this work. To my dismay, I understand that some of those who have enquired previously about this have been given the response (if, indeed, they have received one at all) - "That's why you get insurance!". I am sure that you and fellow councillors will place more value on human life than that. This is a street full of hard-working voters who ask for little from the public services to which their council tax contributes, and who are grateful for what they receive. I am sure it is the kind of community you would like to actively demonstrate your support for.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Catherine Kennedy

Home owner and landlord – No. 6, Spring Vale, Greenhithe DA9 9HA



TQ 5874 SE
TQ 5974 SW

HM Land Registry
This is the certificate copy
of the filed plan.



H.M. LAND REGISTRY		TITLE NUMBER	
		K720393	
ORDNANCE SURVEY PLAN REFERENCE	TQ 5974.	SECTION	Scale 1/1250
COUNTY KENT	DISTRICT DARTFORD	© Crown copyright 1990	

Certified COPY

H. M. LAND REGISTRY

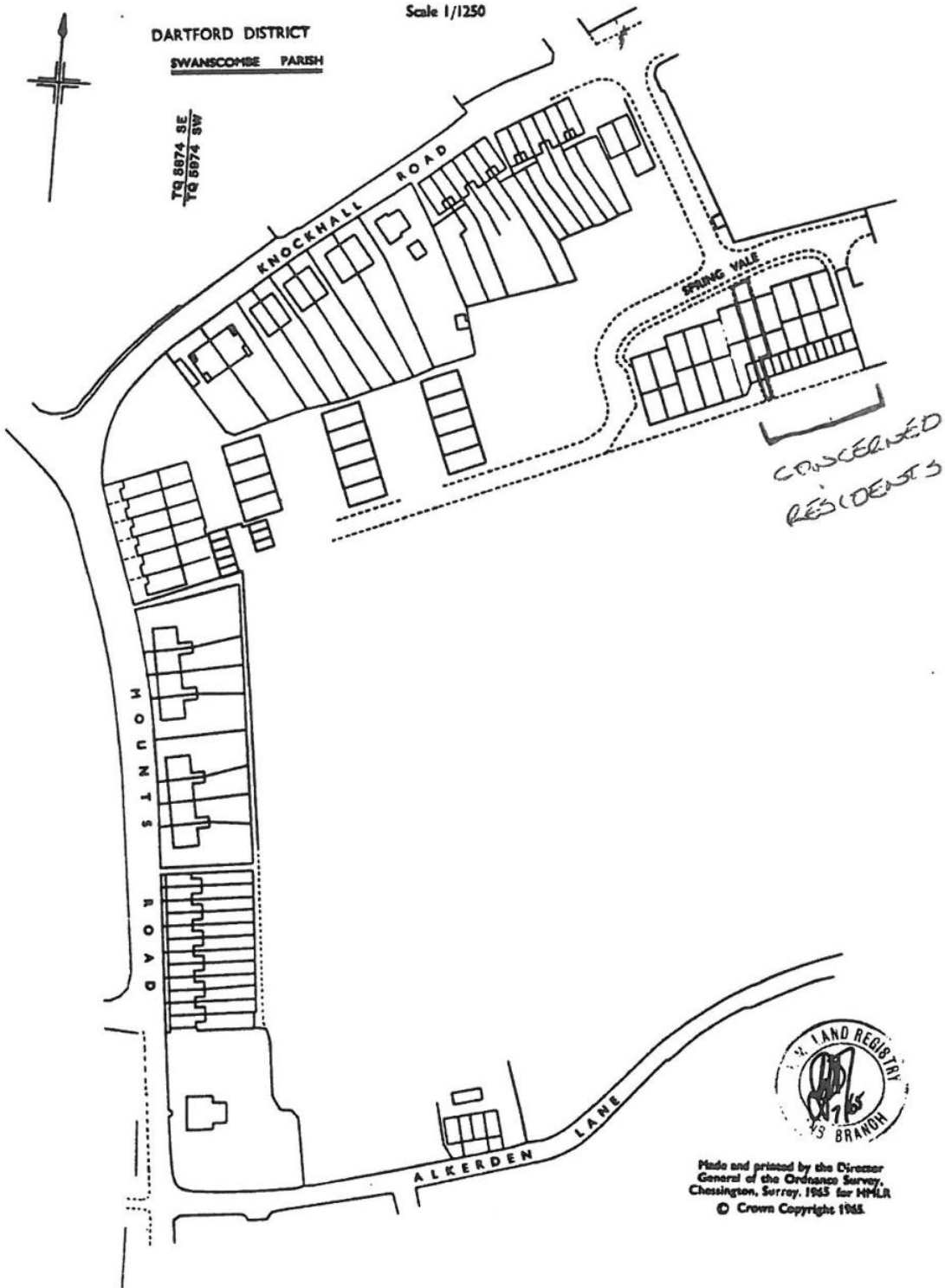
NATIONAL GRID PLAN TQ 5974 SECTION J
KENT

Scale 1/1250

DARTFORD DISTRICT
SWANSCOMBE PARISH



TQ 5974 SE
TQ 5974 SW



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Filed Plan of Title No. K247682

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SL TreeCare Ltd

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Customer No: SWA003 Quote No: 700591

email address: graham.blew@swanscombeandgreenhithe town council.gov.uk
01322 385513

Mr Graham Blew
Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council
The Grove
Swanscombe
Kent
DA10 0GA

03/11/2014

Tree Safety Inspection Report Nov 2014

Woodland strip alongside Spring Vale, Greenhithe

Preliminaries:

I am instructed by Graham Blew of Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council to carry out a safety inspection along both the top edge and the lower edge of the woodland alongside Spring Vale, Greenhithe.

The inspection is a visual inspection carried out at ground level. There was no climbing carried out.

Tools at my disposal were binoculars, a sounding mallet and a metal probe to test the soundness of any suspect areas.

The weather was calm and unseasonably warm and bright.

The inspection was carried out on Friday 31st October 2014.

Not every tree was surveyed, just those that would affect the top and bottom edges of the woodland and the surrounding houses, garages or footpath.

Only trees that were worthy of requiring action are listed.



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The following information is given in the table below:

Tree number: Refers to the tree number marked on the accompanying plan for location.

Tree Species: Is usually given as the common name where there is no confusion.

Defect: Describes the potential for harm that is worthy of note.

Action: The works required to prevent the potential harm.

Notes: Is just for additional information that may be useful.

Priority: Is a measure of the urgency for the carrying out of any action.

1. High Priority, to be done within 3 months unless otherwise stated.
2. Medium Priority, to be done within 6 months
3. Low Priority, to be done within 12 months.

Variations to the above may include the instruction "to be done immediately" or advice that works may be done as and when budget and time allow.

(These two variations do not appear in this particular report as they are not needed).

Tree number	Species	Defect	Action	Notes	Priority
1	Robinia	Dead stem and leaning section over fence	Fell dead stem including leaning section over fence	Prudent management	1
2	Sycamore	Heavily ivy clad	Sever ivy to allow inspection in future	Desirable	1
3	Sycamore	Heavily ivy clad	Sever ivy to allow inspection in future	Desirable	1
4	Sycamore	Heavily ivy clad	Sever ivy to allow inspection in future	Desirable	1
5	Ash	Leaning stem. Poor stability at base	Fell leaning stem	Prudent management	2
6	Sycamore	Twin stem leaning approx 10 deg. Heavy branch structure towards the neighbouring property.	Reduce height by approx 25%. Reduce spread to road by approx 30%	Prudent management. Low risk at present but potentially susceptible to high winds	2
7	Sycamore	Heavily clad in ivy	Sever ivy	Will allow inspection in the future	1
8	Ash	Heavily clad in ivy	Sever ivy	Will allow inspection in the future	1



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Tree number	Species	Defect	Action	Notes	Priority
9	Ash	Heavily clad in ivy	Sever ivy	Will allow inspection in the future	1
G10	Several Ash trees	Heavily clad in ivy	Sever ivy	Will allow inspection in the future. It is noted that the trees are due to be reduced away from the properties.	1
11	Dead tree	Covered in ivy	Fell	Tree is behind first row of trees	1
G12	Several sycamores	Clad in ivy	Sever Ivy		1
13	Sycamore	Leaning over path. Clad in Ivy	Fell		1
14	Sycamore	Decay at the base	Fell	Blue dot on trunk	1
15	Sycamore	Fallen stem	Clear	Already under instruction. The stem has been felled by vandals.	1
16	Sycamore	Stem damage. Ivy clad.	Fell		1
17	Dead stems	Fallen over path onto wall	Clear		1

The following may be helpful...

How often should I cut back the trees?

Many trees will never need to be cut back. There may be several reasons for cutting trees back. Trees may have outgrown their situation and are getting too big or too close to buildings. Trees can be subject to damage or vandalism, disease or decay.

There is no hard and fast rule as to when trees are cut back or indeed removed.

Often it will depend on the proximity of the trees to buildings or public areas. Different areas can be classified as different levels of risk. Trees in the middle of a wood will have a different risk rating compared to a tree next to the road or a house.

It may be that if a tree has to be repeatedly cut back, it may be prudent to consider removing the tree entirely. Consider planting a smaller growing suitable replacement.

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Steve Launchbury Dip.Hort. (Kew) R.F.S.Cert
Arb. Tech. Cert. (Arbor A.)

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How often should I inspect?

The risk level and the hazard rating will assist in determining the frequency of inspection. A high risk rating is likely to be alongside a main road or motorway or alongside a high use area at a school or houses. A low risk area may be away from authorised footpaths in a woodland.

Of course, the size of tree will affect how often a tree will be looked at, because a big tree can cause more damage than a little tree. Stormy weather may destabilise or even damage a tree, leaving it in a dangerous state.

It is often a matter of probability in storms as to whether a tree may fail or not. Whether it is uprooted or not, or fails due to an unseen problem.

In a high risk area, generally the trees will be surveyed once a year, not necessarily by an expert, but someone who has a reasonable working knowledge of trees.

In a lower risk area, trees may be examined every three to five years.

It is important to have an experienced inspector periodically look at particularly high risk trees, because there are often tell-tale signs that can give warnings of hazards. Often it is simply better to have a trained professional look at the trees, identify defects and specify a course of action.

Should I do a risk assessment?

The short answer is 'yes'.

It only needs to be a simple affair, preferably written and dated (to prove it has been done). This will show the location of groups or locations of trees, the level of risk, such as frequency of use, or length of time people may be present. It may show the location of houses or other properties.

The risk assessment will then guide the tree owner naturally into having an idea as to when to have the trees inspected.



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People pressure

In an ideal world, trees (as well as things in many other spheres) will be monitored, and looked after, almost to the nth degree.

But in times of increased population pressure as well as financial pressures, it makes practical sense to prioritise the zones where trees need looking at.

There may also be fears of tall trees where there is no danger, especially after recent winter storms, but there may also be good local knowledge as to the health of the local tree population.

This is where the risk assessment, inspection level and listening to (eg) resident committees can assist in achieving the best in health and safety whilst retaining the tree cover that is so beneficial in a multitude of ways.

Trees inspected and report prepared by

Steve Launchbury Dip.Hort. (Kew) R.F.S.Cert Arb. Tech. Cert. (Arbor A.)

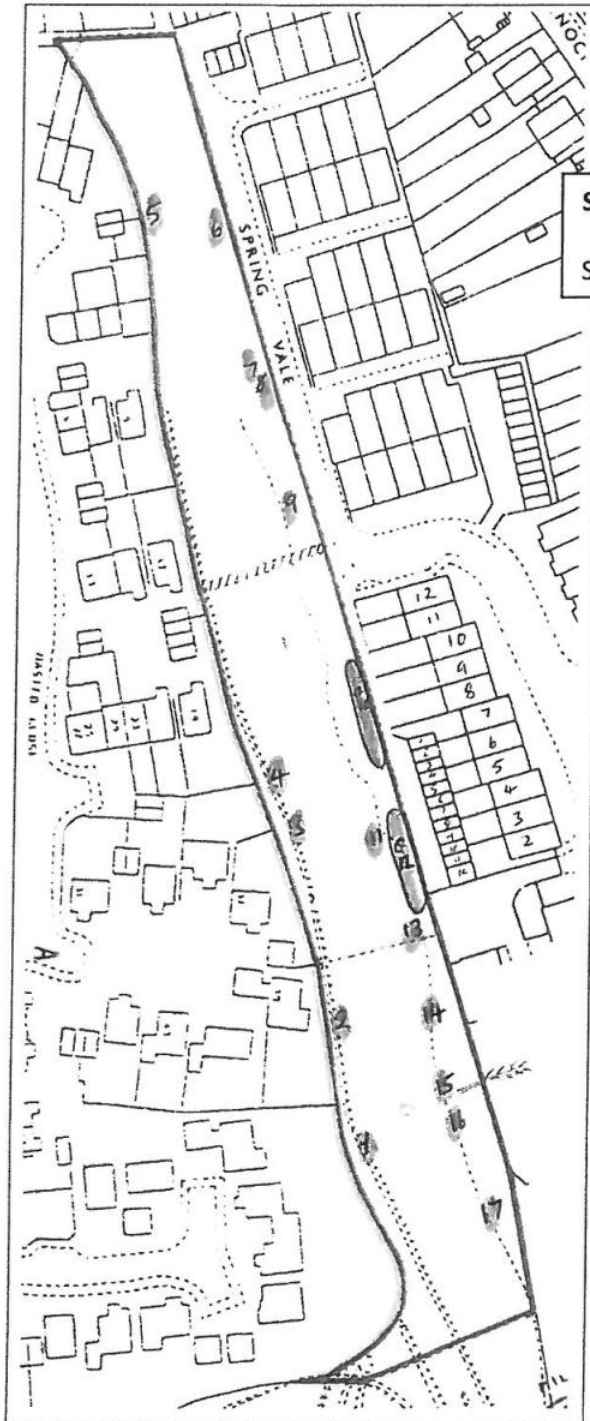
4th November 2014



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Spring Vale, Greenhithe

Showing location of trees in report

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Arb. Tech. Cert. (Arbor A.)

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Vat Registration No. 923 4685 12

Tabled >

AGENDA ITEM 7.
ELA 27/11/14

Parks Report : November 2014

Vic Dines:

We lost a valued friend and a very popular member of staff when Vic Dines passed away suddenly on November 15th.

Vic joined the council in 2008 and was a skilled groundsman who was well liked by all that met him.

He leaves a wife and two children.

He will be missed by us all.

Swanscombe Park:

Tree work to an Ash tree has been undertaken as has the removal of 2 dead tree stumps.

Parks staff have cleaned the war memorial.

The war memorial beds along with the other flower beds in the park have been planted out for winter.

Shrubs have been planted in the large old Rose bed towards the top of the park.

The tennis courts are now closed for the winter.

There have been several incidents of vandalism in the last few weeks which have all been reported to the police.

Manor Park:

Leaf clearing is ongoing.

Broomfield:

The Cherry tree that we planned to plant in Neptune Park has been purchased and will be planted shortly.

There have been a number of incidents of vandalism in the park in recent weeks.

Staff have installed a boot scraper near to the pavilion.

Knockhall:

Work undertaken during the summer has reduced the waterlogging issue we have with the junior football pitch.

Heritage Park:

Shrub pruning is due to take place over the coming weeks.

Saxon Court:

Hedge cutting is currently being undertaken.

Valley View:

Shrub pruning and leaf clearing is due to take place over the coming weeks.

Spring Vale:

Work to some trees has been undertaken by contractors.

A large, unsightly camp built by kids has been taken down and removed from the woodland.

ISTEAD RISE BOWLS CLUB

AGENDA ITEM

27/10/14

8.1

Chairman : Alaistair Boyland
Hon Secretary : Colin Cross
Treasurer : Margaret Couchman
Captain : Peter Hopkins



Colin Cross
4 Lewis Road
Istead Rise
GRAVESEND
DA13 9JG

Tel : 01474 832891
: 07808 850514
Colincross43@btinternet.com

24th October 2014

Affiliated to ECB

Mr G Blew
Town Clerk
Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council
The Grove
SWANSCOMBE
DA10 0GA

cc: Mrs S Stapleton

Dear Mr Blew,

It is once again my great pleasure to be asked to write to you on behalf of Istead Rise Bowls Club to congratulate you and your Groundstaff at Swanscombe Park on the fine condition of the Bowling Green this summer..

All watering and mowing was done completely to our satisfaction. The Staff there do a really good job.

I hope therefore that you will pass on our thanks to the guy's at Swanscombe Park.

It is our intention, with your permission, to install 'Astroturf' type covering to the Ditch Boards in time for the start of the 2015 summer season. We have already procured funding which is already in place. Furthermore you may remember that we had an issue with the Pavillion Doors which have now been repaired to our satisfaction.

We therefore look forward to the 2015 season at Swanscombe Park.

Concerning the Lease I have made proposals to Field in Trust which I hope will solve the issues that they had with our Constitution, they are a bit long winded and I am still waiting for their response

Yours sincerely

Colin Cross
Hon Secretary
Istead Rise Bowls Club

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EXTRACT
OF MINUTES

TOWN COUNCIL
16 OCTOBER 2014

AGENDA ITEM 8.2

RLA
27/10/14

238/14-15. **CAPACITY BUILDING FUND (DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL (DBC)) 2014 – 2015.**

Members were pleased to receive confirmation from the Leader of DBC that both the applications submitted by the Town Clerk had been approved and that the full amounts Applied For awarded.

The Town Clerk requested that Members give serious consideration to proposing appropriate projects for future funding applications to the Capacity Building Fund. After discussion members agreed that an item should be included on future committee agendas to give members the chance to propose and consider possible projects for submission to the scheme.

RESOLVED:

That an item be included on future committee agendas to give members the chance to propose and consider possible projects for submission to the scheme.

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GUIDANCE NOTE FOR THE PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL CAPACITY BUILDING FUND

The Council has earmarked £25,000 in 2014/15 for grants to parish and town councils.

There are no strict criteria for awarding grants except that grants are not designed to simply replace reduced section 136 contributions.

The Council particularly wishes to encourage joint and innovative working between parish and town councils, or projects that will make a real difference to the local community.

It is not essential that the grant is match funded by the applicant but it would be an advantage.

Normally grants will be for maximum of £3,000 but more will be available for joint applications.

Applications are invited (in your own format) explaining what is proposed, the estimated cost and the amount of grant requested.

Applications will be reviewed by a panel consisting of the Leader and Deputy Leader of Dartford Borough Council, the Chairman of the Parish Forum plus another parish Member. The parish Members would not be able to consider applications from their own parish.

The panel will make recommendations to the Managing Director for final decision.

The first round of applications are invited by 31 May. Please send them by email to Tim Sams (Financial Services Manager) at tim.sams@dartford.gov.uk. Applications will be considered in June and applicants notified of the results by the end of June.

THE PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL CAPACITY BUILDING FUND - UPDATE

The Council has earmarked £25,000 in 2014/15 for grants to parish and town councils.

The Council particularly wished to encourage joint and innovative working between parish and town councils, or projects that will make a real difference to the local community.

It was indicated that grants will normally be for maximum of £3,000 but that more will be available for joint applications.

Applications were invited by 31 May and were required to explain the proposal, the estimated cost and the amount of grant requested.

Individual bids have been received from:

- Darenth Parish Council.
- Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council
- Longfield and New Barn Parish Council
- Stone Parish Council
- Wilmington Parish Council

A joint bid was received from Darenth Parish Council, Bean Parish Council & Sutton-at-Hone & Hawley Parish Council.

Expressions of interest to be on the panel were requested on the 21st May and it can now be confirmed that the panel will consist of:

The Leader and Deputy Leader of Dartford Borough Council, Councillor Noreen Salway and Councillor Richard Lees. Please note The Leader / Deputy Leader will not take part in any discussion affecting a Parish on which they sit.

It is hoped that the 1st meeting of the Panel will be held in early to mid-July.

December 2014				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10 • PTE	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25 • TC BANK HOLIDAY	26 BANK HOLIDAY
29	30	31		

January 2015

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			1 BANK HOLIDAY	2 ?
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22 • FGP + Special TC	23
26	27	28 • PTE	29	30

Graham Blew

From: Project Manager <Projectmanager@dartfordcab.cabnet.org.uk>
Sent: 23 October 2014 11:05
To: Graham Blew
Subject: Old Fire Station Kiosk
Attachments: Kiosk Brochure.pdf

Good Morning Graham

Could you put this on the agenda for the full council meeting in December please.

As part of the legacy of Advice Service Dartford we would like to purchase and install a kiosk in The Old Fire station café this will be fully funded by Advice Service Dartford the package includes kiosk and 3 years maintenance.

I have a system up and running at Dartford Bureau and the councillors are more than welcome to drop in and take a look.

The kiosks do not have a print option ,you can only access the sites that are on the kiosk and the council can add sites they feel may benefit the community .

Everything is done remotely so if you have an event coming up that can be your screen save .

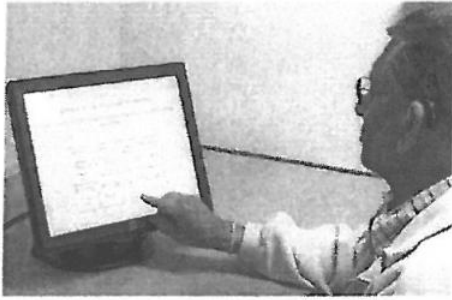
The overall package will cost Advice Service Dartford £2,500 free to you !!!!!!!!!

I am sure there will be questions after the meeting just let me know and I will answer them to the best of my ability .

Mandy Dabb
Project Manager
Advice Service Dartford
Dartford Citizens Advice Bureau
Trinity Resource Centre
Dartford DA1 1DE

Registered office:
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Self Help Kiosk for Citizen Advice Bureaux

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3rd it Sector

Introducing 3rd Sector's Self Help Kiosk

This affordable Self Service Kiosk designed specifically for Citizen Advice Bureaux is an easy to use Touch Screen system driven by simple menus.

With minimal space requirements the Self Help Kiosk has no mouse or keyboard to break or lose.

The Kiosk enables clients to gather information and answers to questions quickly and easily, freeing up Advisor time.



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About the Self Help Kiosk

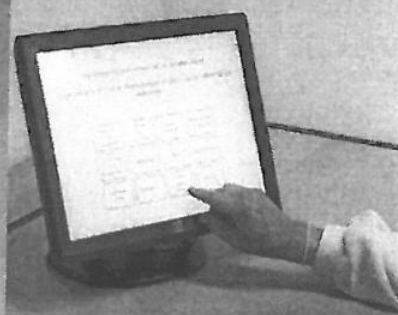
Available in various sizes (15", 17" & 19"), the Touch Screen Kiosk can be wall mounted for those Bureaux with limited space or simply kept on a desk.

The information provided through the Kiosk can be fully customised to your needs. An inbuilt tracking system enables statistics to be gathered on client usage.

Welcome to our Information Access Point

Touch on any of the buttons below to go to information websites

Advice and support	Work and Pensions	Legal Matters	Council
Consumer And Money Advice	Maternity	Health	Relationships
Leisure Time	Education	Travel And Transport	Housing



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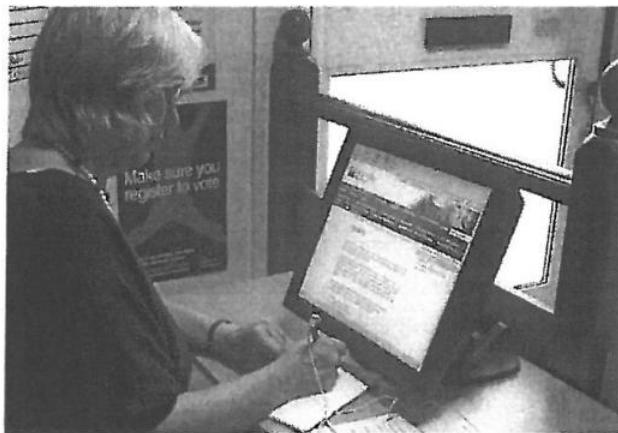
Info@3rdsectorit.co.uk

3rd it

Sector

Key Benefits

- Allows people to quickly and easily get answers to simple questions without needing to meet an Advisor.
- When an appointment is not available, clients do not need to be turned away but can be directed to the self-help facility.
- Allows people with more complex issues, to obtain information ahead of meeting an advisor, thereby maximising the effectiveness of face to face meeting time.
- For bureaux using Gateway Assessment, the clients can be directed to use the Kiosk system if they cannot be seen straight away.
- Statistics collected from the Kiosk system allow tracking of issues and client numbers.



01306 631888

info@3rdsectorit.co.uk

Prices

Model No.	Description	Price
EL15NV	15" Touch Screen Kiosk System for desk top mounting with separate CPU for mounting under desk/table	£1,600
EL17NV	17" Touch Screen Kiosk System for desk top mounting with separate CPU for mounting under desk/table.	£1,700
EL15IN	15" Touch Screen Kiosk System with integrated CPU for wall or desk top mounting.	£1,750
EL17IN	17" Touch Screen Kiosk System with integrated CPU for wall or desk top mounting.	£1,900

Prices exclude VAT

All Kiosk Systems come with a 3 year Limited Warranty and Support included in the price.

Prices also include delivery and configuration of the Kiosk System

Kiosk Systems come with wired ethernet as standard. Wireless (WiFi) or mobile (3G) connectivity can be arranged.

For details of a

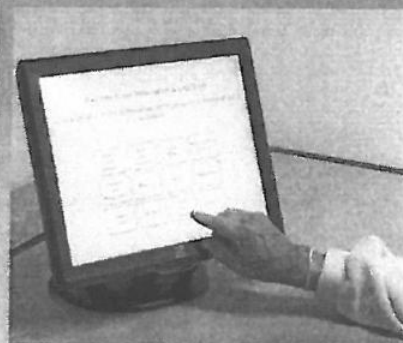
FREE TRIAL

call us on

01306 631888

or email

info@3rdsectorit.co.uk



3rd it

Sector

Frequently Asked Questions

I don't have a spare desk. Will I have room for a Kiosk?

The wall mounted Kiosk is a great option for those with limited space. With it's touch screen, there is no need for a mouse or keyboard.

Many of our clients are not computer confident, is the Kiosk simple to use?

Yes, with simple on screen instructions and 'big button' technology our Self Help Kiosk can be used by all!

What information can be accessed?

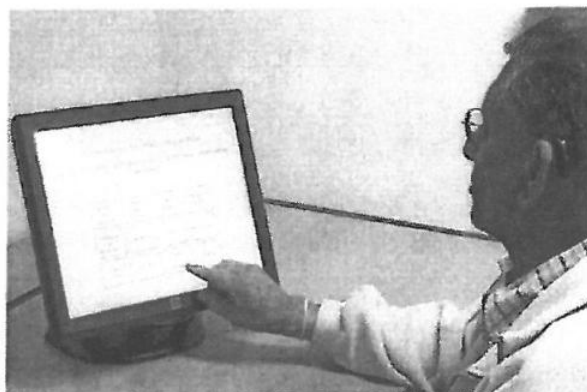
The information you chose to give your clients access to through the Self Help Kiosk can be tailor made for you. All our Self Help Kiosks are configured to your requirements as standard. To arrange a demo call us on **01306 631888**

How can I tell if people are using it?

Statistics are gathered each time a client uses the system. Details of when the system is used and what information is accessed are recorded as standard.

What are the maintenance costs?

The price of the Kiosk includes full support and 3 years limited warranty.



01306 631888

info@3rdsectorit.co.uk

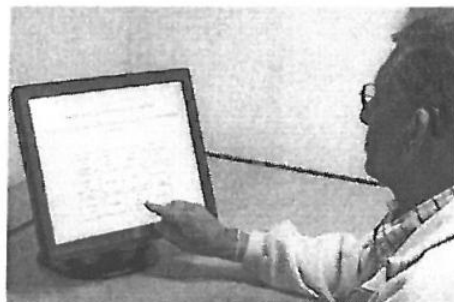
**For any queries, to view a demo or to
organise a Free Trial contact us:**

01306 631888

info@3rdsectorit.co.uk

**Have an IT issue? Need IT Support?
Contact us about our IT Consultancy Services**

**3rd
Sector it**



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RLA 27/11/14

Graham Blew

From: Rob Swain <Rob.Swain@GCLL.co.uk>
Sent: 06 November 2014 12:31
To: Graham Blew
Subject: Scale of Charges 2015
Attachments: Swanscombe Charges 2015.xls; Scale of Charges 2015 - report.doc

Hi Graham – I trust you are well.

Attached is a covering report relating to Scale of Charges 2015 that was submitted to GCLL's Management Board and has been approved as per the recommendations.

Also attached is the Scale of Charges 2015 specific to The Swanscombe Centre.

As you will note the main change is that relating to changing the 50+ rate to 60+, which is as part of the Management Agreement.

Any queries just come back to me.

Kind regards,

Robert Swain
Managing Director

Gravesham Community Leisure Limited
Head Office
Cascades Leisure Centre
Thong Lane
Gravesend
Kent DA12 4LG

Registered in England No. 28949R



Before you print think about the **ENVIRONMENT**

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GRAVESHAM COMMUNITY LEISURE LIMITED MANAGEMENT BOARD	DATE: 29.09.14
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TITLE: SCALE OF CHARGES 2015	ITEM NO.
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REPORTING OFFICER: MANAGING DIRECTOR	
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INTRODUCTION

Gravesham Community Leisure Limited's (GCLL's) Pricing Policy refers to charges being reviewed prior to January each year and for any variations to be implemented as of 1st January.

The preparation of the financial budget for 2015 is currently being prepared on the basis of the Scale of Charges being agreed at the levels recommended in this report.

SCALE OF CHARGES 2015

Attached at Appendix A are the proposed 'core' activity charges for 2014 which are compared with the current 2014 charges for Cascades, Cygnet and Swanscombe Leisure Centres. The appendix also details the percentage increases.

The revised charges have been compared with other similar local providers and GCLL continue to be price-competitive, which is extremely important in the leisure market.

Examples of competitor prices are also included at Appendix A.

On average, the activity charges have increased by approximately 4%, which is identical to the increase of 2014.

AMMENDMENTS

The major change to the proposed Scale of Charges is that relating to the current 50+ category of charge and for this to be amended to 60+. The 50+ category was put in place in the 1980's through the then Sports Council initiative to encourage such participation with it accounting for 6% of the total attendance in the 1990's. The current percentage usage of 50+ is now 11% at Cascades and 14.7% at Cygnet. Having spoken with the other leisure trusts in Kent, they too have amended their 50+ category's a number of years ago with the majority of them linking the category now to the retirement age of 65 years.

The proposal to increase the Non Membership day charge will encourage users to become either Active Leisure members or Outline Health and Fitness members noting that the Active Leisure membership charges have not been increased other than the Household category, which remains extremely good value for money.

Swimming charges have not been increased for members.

Racket Sports charges have increased significantly but continue to be competitive with other providers.

Hydropower was a new class that was introduced in 2014 at an introductory price and has remained so for the duration of the year. The proposal is to now bring this charge in line with the other Aerobic classes and also bring the Aerobic classes in line with a casual Gym session.

Swimming Lessons now include a badge and certificate for each child and continues to remain very competitive with other providers.

GCLL will continue to offer Concessionary/Disability Charges, all of which are now below the Junior/Member level and therefore very competitive.

DECISIONS

It is **recommended** that the revised Scale of Charges for 2015, attached at Appendix A, be approved for implementation from 1st January 2015, subject to any comments from Gravesham Borough Council, Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council and/or any customer reaction.

Background Papers: Managing Director's office, Cascades Leisure Centre

Single	40.95	41.95	1.00	2.38	45.95	43.50	44.00	39.95
Joint (deleted but honouring existing)	72.95	75.95	3.00	3.95	74.65	na	na	na
Saver (Concessionary)	29.95	29.95	0.00	0.00	na	na	35.00	29.95
Saver+ (50+) delete but honour existing	33.95	34.95	1.00	2.86	na	31.00	35.00	na
Saver+ (60+) new category		34.95						
Teen (16 - 17 yrs)	22.95	22.95	0.00	0.00	24.00	31.00	15.50	na
Fit Kid (12 - 15 yrs)	17.95	17.95	0.00	0.00	9.00	23.00	15.50	na
Corporate	35.95	35.95	0.00	0.00	31.00	na	na	na
Student	32.95	32.95	0.00	0.00	35.95	na	35.00	27.95
Phase 4 Scheme	30.95	30.95	0.00	0.00				
Coaching								
50+ Clubs/Ladies Only	3.00	3.50	0.50	14.29	4.90	3.45	3.30	3.25
Tumble Tots	2.60	3.00	0.40	13.33	3.80	2.70	3.30	4.65
Dry Coaching Sessions	3.90	4.30	0.40	9.30	4.80	6.05	7.03	4.65
Acorn Club	19.00	20.00	1.00	5.00	23.00	21.95	22.50	£15-£26
Half Day Acorn Club	9.50	10.00	0.50	5.00				
Saturday Bizz Kids	5.20	5.20	0.00	0.00	4.80	3.8	4.80	2.70
Creche	1.80	2.20	0.40	18.18	3.00	2.55	4.35 90m	2.85
Smarty Party	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	13.50	na	10.50	13.50
Centre Membership								
Adult	40.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	43.50	43.30	49.00	na
Junior	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	20.80	21.00	24.50	na
60+	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	20.80	21.10	25.00	na
Household - 2 adults and up to 4 children	46.00	50.00	4.00	8.00				
Local Residents - Adult	14.00	15.00	1.00	6.67				
Local Residents - Junior/60+	10.00	11.00	1.00	9.09				
Social Functions								

Main Hall	65.00	65.00	0.00	0.00	69.60						42.00
Disability/Concessionary (Low Income)											
Gym	4.80	4.70	-0.10	-2.13							
Aerobic	4.70	4.70	0.00	0.00							
Badminton	6.00	6.00	0.00	0.00							
Table Tennis	3.50	3.50	0.00	0.00							

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