



## 'Now KCC talk of moving local office—to Ashford!'

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*Highways have not cut the trees.*

**POT HOLE REPAIRS: Pot holes reported by the Parish Council often take months to be fixed, then the repairs are of such poor quality that sometimes the repairs last only a short time.**

**OVERGROWN GRASS:** *The Parish Council is increasingly having to take responsibility for grass cutting because Canterbury City Council and Kent Highways have not had the work done. 'This puts a strain on our small resources, but we are managing to double our efforts in 2007 without putting up our part of the council tax,' say the PC.*

'When the Parish Council has tried to contact the Kent Highways chief officer recently, we have been fobbed off by administrative assistants—it's very frustrating,' said the Clerk.

Councillor Martin Vye (Kent County Council) said: As your local county councillor I find the record of Kent Highways in Thanington Parish indefensible.

'I have been battling to have repairs done within a reasonable length of time, but it has been an uphill struggle. Part of the reason is that the East Kent branch of KCC Highways has had its repairs budget slashed from £14 million to £11 million this year\_ and this at a time when it is reckoned that £50 million needs to be spent in the Canterbury district



Overgrown hedge by flint cottage on Ashford Road

alone to bring all roads and footways up to a decent standard. The other reason is that KCC abolished the partnership with the City Council which brought the management of repairs much closer to residents.

'Now KCC are talking about moving the 'local office' - to Ashford!'

Nick Eden-Green (Canterbury City Council) said: 'I am sorry to say that I am all too aware of the problems outlined above. The state of our roads and pavements throughout the district is a disgrace and the Ashford Road interactive sign is not the only one not working.

'I applaud the work being done by the Parish Council which is entirely in line with that taken by your District and County councillors. Getting action from KCC Highways was never good, but since their move out of the City Council offices it is now almost impossible.

'I will, once again, be asking those responsible to do the jobs which we all pay for through our council tax.'

Since talking to Martin Vye and Nick Eden-Green, the PC Clerk has had a meeting with Kent Highways Inspector Ralph Simpson, who has toured the parish to examine the work that needs to be carried out. 'We have to thank Dennis Button of Kent Highways for setting up this meeting,' says the Clerk. 'We are hopeful now that communication between the Parish Council and Kent Highways will improve.'



Unsafe water board man-hole cover on Thanington Road