

# LINTON PARISH COUNCIL

<http://www.lintonpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/>

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## Concerning Polytunnels

The following principles may be appropriate for adoption by the Parish Council, or at least may be sufficient to form a basis for constructive discussion.

Linton Parish Council agrees that:

- ▽ Linton is mainly within a Special Landscape Area, includes sites of historical interest and a Conservation Area, and has extensive views across the Weald of Kent. It is widely used as a centre for walking, riding and similar outdoor pursuits, and the Parish includes a significant stretch of the Greensand Way long distance footpath.
- ▽ Plastic polytunnels may well have commercial benefits. However the Parish Council accepts that they involve a negative impact on amenity and the environment, because they are unsightly and can be noisy.
- ▽ Recent applications have been submitted for large areas of polytunnel coverage in the Maidstone and Tonbridge & Malling borough areas. A significant part of some neighbouring parishes has been affected by polytunnel construction, notably Yalding, Coxheath & East Farleigh.
- ▽ At present, only a small part of Linton has been affected by such construction, but overall they are spreading and coverage in this general area is increasing. Therefore, polytunnels constitute a significant issue for Linton which the Parish Council acknowledges needs to be addressed. It is best that this is done before further specific applications are made and the issue therefore becomes personalised.
- ▽ The Parish Council accepts that it has no direct power either to approve or to ban such developments. It therefore proposes the following actions:
  1. To write to Maidstone Borough Council, to express our concern at the possibility of more widespread polytunnel development, and to request that it formulate and supply a specific policy on polytunnel development. Also, to request that protection of visual amenity in sensitive landscape areas such as ours should be accorded a high priority within that policy.
  2. To write to significant landowners within the Parish and draw their attention to our concerns on this issue. To request that they also give a high priority to visual amenity in and around Linton, and limit or reduce such development wherever feasible.
  3. To invite the views of Linton residents on the issue, including constructive proposals as to any further actions that should be considered by the Council.
  4. To retain polytunnels as an agenda item at all future Parish Council meetings for the time being.