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**SOUTH
WILLESBOROUGH
and NEWTOWN
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

SWAN NEWS

**Summer
2020**



The Big News!

After a debate lasting three and a half hours, Ashford Borough Council gave the green light to a proposal for a huge production studio which has already courted the interest of Netflix and Amazon. The new development will create thousands of jobs and also offer hotel and retail space, as well as 300 new apartments. The Crowbridge Road hump bridge will also be improved and a new road crossing at Ellson Way is proposed.

Whilst the Community Council welcomes the regeneration of this long-standing eyesore, it urged the Borough Council to carefully consider the impact on our residents of future property price rises, the height of the hotel and additional traffic, as well as the need for new community facilities, including primary care provision, and the lack of any affordable accommodation on this part of the site.

“SWAN Community Council is particularly disappointed that Ashford Borough Council has not taken up our suggestion that it should buy several properties in the development to offer to locals at an affordable rent”

**Sue Mullan, SWAN
CC Chairman**

SWAN PARKING & TRAFFIC SURVEY - THE FINDINGS

1. Overall, the highest concern for the majority of SWAN residents **NOW** is **Parking**, followed by **Safety**. Of least overall concern **NOW** is **Traffic/Pollution**
2. The issue which is of highest concern to the majority of SWAN residents **IN THE FUTURE** if large housing and commercial developments are agreed remains **Parking**
3. **Safety** remained the secondary concern. However, residents acknowledged that **Traffic/Pollution** would be a growing future concern. The gap between **Safety and Traffic/Pollution** was deemed slender enough to consider it as equal priority with Safety for future action.
4. The 2 main **Parking** issues identified were 1) **parking which affects access to emergency vehicles and buses** and 2) **inconsiderate parking** which blocks pavements for such as wheelchair users.
5. These issues were consistently ranked higher than those which affect individual homes such as the **ability to park outside one's home day or night or visitor parking**.
6. The 2 main **Safety** issues were: 1) **Speeding vehicles** and 2) **the quality of road and footpath surfaces** although **improved lighting of our underpasses and footpaths** also received a high ranking especially from car-less and disabled residents
7. The 2 main **Traffic/Pollution** issues were: 1) **The volumes of traffic** and 2) **traffic using Newtown Road as a "rat-run" for the Town Centre/M20**
8. Despite general support for priority interventions to solve parking problems, further analysis revealed that it was by no means a unanimous decision - A quarter of the roads that responded considered Safety to be their priority whilst a smaller number, including Canterbury Road, saw Traffic/Pollution as theirs.
9. Canterbury Road experiences a complex set of problems and although parking features highly, so too do other factors such as the number of HGV traffic movements and the knock on effect of traffic enforcement elsewhere
10. Analysis of the responses from 2 minority groups revealed that their concerns and priorities coincide broadly with those of the wider SWAN population

SNIPPETS

We hope you and your families and friends are well and surviving the lockdown

217 responses to the parking and traffic survey were received from 34 different streets prior to lockdown. Around 30 more have been received since. Thank you to everyone who responded.

The findings of the survey will now go to Ashford Borough Council, Kent County Council and the Police, amongst others.

Our new website is up and running. We've kept the same domain name- www.swancc.org.uk

If you have any good digital images of the area that you don't mind us using in the photo gallery on the website, please contact the Clerk

Calling all event organisers! Our new website contains a community calendar. Please contact the Clerk if you would like your event publicised

In March, we appointed Louise Wilson to the Council following the resignation of Liz Thorne in January 2020

To support its work during the Covid-19 pandemic, SWANCC made a grant of £2000 to The Salvation Army

The Council has received a petition asking it to examine the demand for more allotments in the SWAN area. If you think we need more of them, please contact the Clerk

SOUTH WILLESBOROUGH AND NEWTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL TAX- WHO DOES WHAT??

Council Tax is the annual fee you pay for local services. The actual amount you pay depends on the banding of your property. A Band A property pays least and Band H, most. Although the bills are sent out by Ashford Borough Council, the vast majority is passed to 4 other organisations to pay for the services they provide. This article explains how much goes to each one, what it pays for and who you should contact if you have a problem.

Highways problems can be reported online at www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem

Street light faults
Drainage
Traffic Signal Faults
Trees, hedges & grass
Roads (roadworks, resurfacing)
Pavements

In 2020-21 - **73%** of your Council tax bill will go to **Kent County Council (KCC)** to pay for services like Schools, Social Services and Highways

For a Band D (average) property it means that KCC will receive £1351 of the total £1830 you pay - an increase of £51 per household over 2019/20

George Koowaree was elected in 2017 to represent the SWAN area on the Kent County Council, which has its HQ in Maidstone. To contact George e-mail george.koowaree@kent.gov.uk

- Refuse collection
- Bulky waste collections
- Council Tax
- Disabled parking bays
- Environmental health
- Health and safety
- Littering
- Parking fines
- Pest control
- Reporting abandoned vehicles
- Reporting fly-tipping
- Soft landscaping

If you have questions about any of the above, go to www.ashford.gov.uk or Tel: 01233 331111

Ashford Borough Council receives **9%** of the total you pay. For a band D property, £167.50 of the total £1830 pays for local services like Bin Collection, Car Parking services, Planning and Environmental Health

This is an increase of £5 on average over 2019/20

2 Borough Councillors were elected to represent the SWAN area at the last Borough Council election in 2019

David Smith and Andy Rogers

To contact David e-mail david.smith@ashford.gov.uk
To contact Andy e-mail andy.rogers@ashford.gov.uk

What does the PCC do?

- Sets the The Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plan
 - Victim support services
 - Holds the Police to account
 - Sets the budget
 - Projects & Campaigns
 - Public Engagement
- Matthew Scott is the current PCC and can be contacted on kent-pcc.gov.uk

Two other public bodies funded by the Council Tax are the **Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Kent** and the **Kent & Medway Fire and Rescue Authority**. A

Band D property will contribute £203 in 2020/21 to support the Police and a further £79 to support the Fire and Rescue Service - an increase of £10 and £2 respectively over the previous year

Unlike the other 4 organisations the Fire Authority is not directly elected but made up of councillors appointed by Kent County Council and Medway Council. It can be contacted on 01622 692121 or enquiries@kent.fire-uk.org

AND FINALLY! - Us - South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council.

A Community Council has the same status and legal responsibilities as a Parish or Town Council (eg Tenterden & New Romney) There are 320 such Councils in Kent alone. The Council's main role is to act in the interest of the community and its residents by making decisions and recommendations that help to improve the local environment and the quality of life of local residents. The Council works best in partnership with other organisations including Kent and Ashford Councils as well as the Police, voluntary and community organisations.

A Band D property will contribute just £30 a year to support the Community Council in 2020/21 - a reduction of £6 on 2019/20. We are the only public funded body in this group to reduce our costs year on year.

SOUTH WILLESBOROUGH AND NEWTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL

8 Councillors represent South Willesborough:

[Nick Cane \(nicholas.cane@swancc.org.uk\)](mailto:nicholas.cane@swancc.org.uk)

Member – Finance and General Purposes Committee
Chair – Community Hub Working Group
Champion – Community Engagement

[John Hunt \(johnny.hunt@swancc.org.uk\)](mailto:johnny.hunt@swancc.org.uk)

Member – Planning and Highways Committee
Member – Community Hub Working Group

[David Mullan \(david.mullan@swancc.org.uk\)](mailto:david.mullan@swancc.org.uk)

Member – Planning and Highways Committee
Member – Staffing Committee

[Sue Mullan \(sue.mullan@swancc.org.uk\)](mailto:sue.mullan@swancc.org.uk)

Chair of the Council
Chair of Staffing Committee
Member – Finance and General Purposes Committee
Council Representative at KALC

[Peter Porter \(peter.porter@swancc.org.uk\)](mailto:peter.porter@swancc.org.uk)

Chair – Finance and General Purposes Committee

[Nirosha Thilagarajan](mailto:nirosha.thilagarajan@swancc.org.uk)

[\(nirosha.thilagarajan@swancc.org.uk\)](mailto:nirosha.thilagarajan@swancc.org.uk)

Member – Finance and General Purposes Committee
Champion – Environment and Climate Change

[Charli Wilson \(charli.wilson@swancc.org.uk\)](mailto:charli.wilson@swancc.org.uk)

Vice Chair of the Council
Chair of the Planning and Highways Committee
Member – Staffing Committee

[Louise Wilson \(louise.wilson@swancc.org.uk\)](mailto:louise.wilson@swancc.org.uk)

Member – Finance and General Purposes Committee

3 Councillors represent Newtown:

[Paul Bohill \(paul.bohill@swancc.org.uk\)](mailto:paul.bohill@swancc.org.uk)

Member – Planning and Highways Committee
Member – Community Hub Working Group
Champion – Crime and Disorder

[Matthew Harris](mailto:matthew.harris@swancc.org.uk)

[\(matthew.harris@swancc.org.uk\)](mailto:matthew.harris@swancc.org.uk)

Member – Planning and Highways Committee
Council Representative at KALC

[Eric Parkinson](mailto:eric.parkinson@swancc.org.uk)

[\(eric.parkinson@swancc.org.uk\)](mailto:eric.parkinson@swancc.org.uk)

Member – Planning and Highways Committee

The Clerk to the Council is Rob Woods

Unit 10,
Invicta Business Centre,
Orbital Park.
TN24 0HB

Phone: 01233 528933

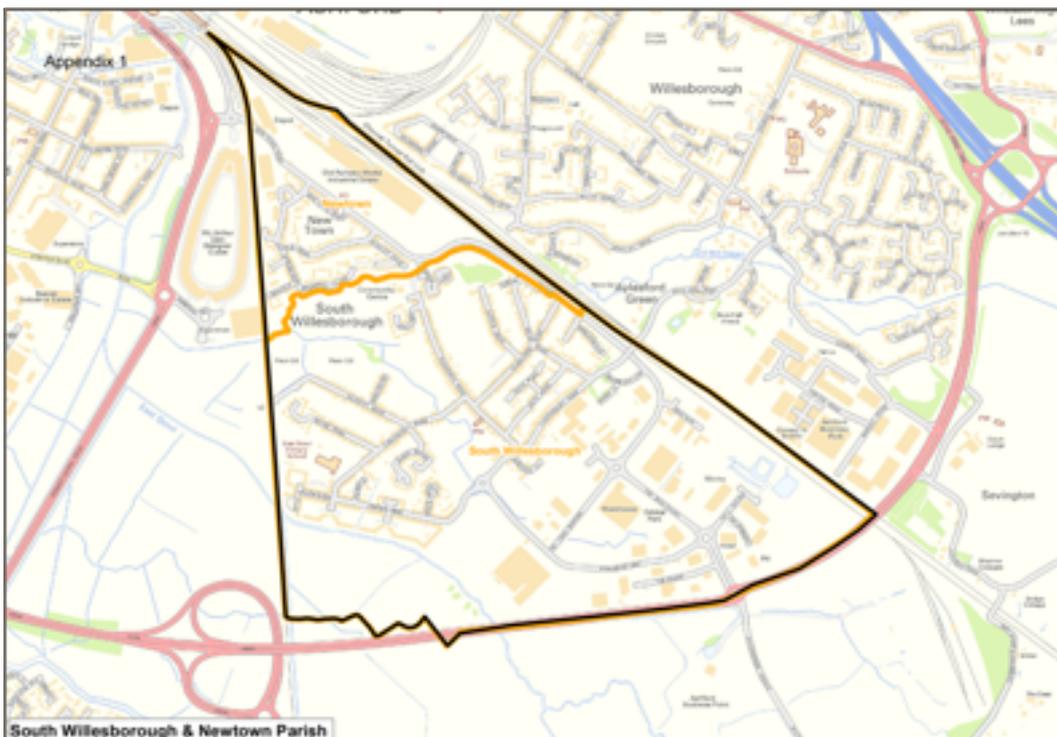
E-mail - clerk@swancc.org.uk

Council Meetings:

Full Council is held on the first Monday of each month at 7.00pm

Locations currently alternate between the Market Cafe Meeting Room (Hobbs Parker) on Orbital Park and the Headway building at 42, Cudworth Road

Go to our Community Calendar on www.swancc.org.uk for our Committee meeting dates



IN or OUT of SWAN?

Our eastern boundary follows the Channel Tunnel Rail line.

Orbital Park business estate is in the SWAN area but Barrey Road and Ashford Business Park are outside it

Our southern boundary is Bad Munstereifel Road

Finberry, Waterbrook Park & the HGV truckstop are all outside the SWAN area

Our western boundary is the Ashford-Hastings rail line

The Designer Outlet, Asda & the International Station Car Parks all sit on our boundary but are just outside the SWAN area