

South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council
www.swancc.org.uk

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Monday 6th
September 2021**

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00pm and announced the resignation of Cllr Galpin on grounds of ill-health

113/21 Record attendance and list apologies for absence

Present Sue Mullan (SM) (Chair) David Mullan (DM) Paul Bohill (PB) Peter Porter (PP) Nirosha Thilagarajan (NT) Jacky Godden (JG) Eric Parkinson (EP) Andy Rogers (AR)

Apologies were received from Councillors, Graham Galpin and Johnny Hunt (JH) and Steve Campkin (SC) and approved

Also in attendance: Sarah Evans (SE) Rob Woods (RW) (Clerks) PCSO Oli Welch, Peter New Neighbourhood Watch, 3 members of the public.

114/21 Declarations of pecuniary, other significant or voluntary interest

115/21 Agree Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting of 2nd August 2021 and sign

The minutes of the August 2021 Meeting were agreed as a true record of proceedings and signed.

Proposed PP Seconded NT Resolved: Unanimous agreement.

116/21 Meeting adjourned for members of the public to raise questions on items on the agenda (This item will last no more than 15 minutes in total)

The meeting adjourned 7:04pm

Resident Dave Gower highlighted issues with the bridle paths and footpaths still being overgrown. Shopping trolleys in the Aylesford Dykes and the repairs for which the Cudworth road was closed have not been carried out.

Resident Malcolm Webb raised concerns over the removal of the play equipment and highlighted the strong feeling amongst residents to replace it. That letters had not been received from Ashford Borough Council and concerns to see equipment replaced.

The meeting reconvened at 7:10pm

117/21 To receive reports from Borough and County Ward Councillors, Kent Police, Neighbourhood Watch (attached) and KALC representatives.

AR advised he is still awaiting a response regarding whether an anti-graffiti coating was applied when graffiti was cleaned off at the underpass in Hunter Road and Newtown Road. If it has been applied as a Community Council, we would create working groups to tackle it.

Parking Permits on Wainwright Place for Construction workers have now been issued and also have permission to use the Compound on Newtown Road. PB noted construction vehicle parking has improved.

Playground Gate Bullied Place opens outward this is to stop dogs entering the park and is EU compliant.

Play equipment removal at Stirling Road was due to safety concerns at which point the insurance was no longer valid and had to be removed. Noted a meeting between ABC, SWANCC and Ward Councillors has been moved to 12pm on Friday 10th September.

Notices have been served to Aspire to improve the catch up rate of work on overgrowth. It is due to reduced workforce due to Covid19 and heavier rain than normal causing excess growth and delaying work.

Planning Portal is being amended so that if an application is resubmitted historical comments and objections will still be visible.

Street Lighting on the Spinney aka Armanda's Path has again been highlighted with Ashford Borough Council and the refusal of KCC to assist or adopt. Ashford Borough Council are auditing all of the street lights they are responsible for.

KALC update included feedback from Chief Inspector Sparkes that a Police Representative would attend quarterly meetings KALC and monthly Parish Council meetings. Crime is down generally across the area, this is thought to be due to the unusual amount of rain and the pubs having been closed due to Covid. Complaints have been received regarding the A2070 however these were more noise related than speed but acknowledged it is a dangerous road and this would be discussed at Septembers Joint Transport Meeting.

PCSO Oli Welch advised Members of his career history, confirmed his planned attendance at monthly Parish Meetings between SWAN and Victoria Ward. Crime for the area was 71 incidents reported, however his area is larger than that of the SWAN Ward. Majority were domestic violence related issues. Anti Social Behaviour in the use of motorbikes particularly in Newtown has been an issue. PCSOs can arrange for a Section 59 to be issued against the rider and the bike which means if behaviour is repeated and the bike or rider stopped this can be seized. PCSO is working with Angela Burden ABC Police Safety Officer to look at preventing access for these bikes to fields and alleyways for safety for all. Since actions have been taken no reports for 7 days. Use of E Scooters is increasing and there is no legislation to manage their use is being investigated.

That the disused Bus Stop on Wainwright Place is a potential for anti social behaviour and could the Council consider removing it.

PB advised that he had requested the Clerks to report this to KCC last month and was willing to arrange for it to be repaired with Council agreement. However, if it was felt better to remove it he would be happy to assist with this and requested item be added on October Council Agenda.

Peter New NHW Schemes now in Alfred Road, Beazeley Road, Baxendale Court and Bulleid Place.

Very pleased with Wheelie Bin Stickers to ensure crime is reported

Gave an update with photos of experiences of Cuckooing in the area and how this has been managed.

118/21 Following cancellation of the August Finance and General Purposes Committee

- a) To endorse payments made by bank transfer (attached) by authorised signatories
- b) To note the bank reconciliation statement as at 31st August 2021 (attached)
- c) To receive a verbal report and recommendations on a grant application from SWAN Women's Institute

Resolved a) Proposed AR Seconded DM

Resolved b) Proposed PB Seconded AR

Resolved c) Agreed Unanimously.

119/21 To receive a report of the Clerks on the removal of playground equipment by Ashford Borough Council at the Alfred Road/Sterling Road children's play area and agree the Council's response.

Members noted the concern of residents on the removal of the play equipment, that Ashford Borough Council have advised an indicative cost of £35,000 to replace and £25,000 maintenance. This was considered very high considering the small area of the park. That residents had not received the correspondence letters, that strong feeling that the equipment should be replaced.

Resolved: Agreed Unanimously DM would take a petition around the residents Tuesday to gather views and present at meeting on Friday 10th September. To await outcome of meeting on Friday 10th September 2021, to represent that the view of the SWANCC is that the equipment should be replaced.

Action: SE to draft petition, DM would meet with resident Malcolm Webb and take petition to all residents of Stirling Road and nearby Alfred Road.

120/21 To consider the following items identified for inclusion on the agenda at the previous meeting

- a) The Management of Footpaths and the ownership of them in the SWAN area. (Cllr Campkin)
- b) The Underpass and Graffiti (Cllr Porter)
- c) To receive the draft consultation document on the Community Plan and agree

Resolved: a) SC not at meeting so item deferred.

Resolved: b) PP raised the issue of the graffiti returning to the Underpass on Hunter Road Newtown Road. AR advised he is waiting for response from Ashford Borough Council to advise if Network any anti- graffiti coating was used.

Agreed Unanimously for Planning Committee to write to Network Rail requesting anti-graffiti coating in order to be able to wash off graffiti easily as a working party.

Resolved: c) Members discussed the draft consultation and noted an index was required and a further invite to the Annual Meeting of Electors and for residents to be encouraged to submit a consultation response. The white text was difficult to read on the coloured backgrounds and to amend this. The document needed to be made print ready and thoroughly checked for spelling grammar and punctuation.

Action SE to draft an index and ensure document is formatted as above. SM to attend office Wednesday PM to review final content, SE to then circulate document for Members to review finally and give their response by end of Thursday 9th September 2021 and NT to give for final review for spelling grammar or typos and any amendments received Thursday.

121/21 To receive correspondence/e-mails

- a) **Consider response to Ashford Borough Council Draft Corporate Plan to 2024 (previously distributed)**
- b) **Consider response to Kent County Council consultation on Civic Amenity Tip booking arrangements**
- c) **Any other correspondence of an urgent nature received prior to the meeting**

Resolved: a) Members were advised that deadline for the response to the plan has been extended to 1st October. AR agreed to circulate a copy of the plan to all members in case they ah not received it on prior circulation. comments to be submitted by Cllrs.

Action: AR to circulate by email Ashford Borough Council draft Corporate Plan to 2024.

Resolved: b) Members agreed that the continuation of the booking system would be beneficial, However, Members felt the charging system was not fair and probably caused fly tipping and needed to be reviewed.

Action: RW/SE to draft response to consultation

Resolved: c) An Invitation to Local Council Forum 13 September 2pm. Members noted the notice was very short of the meeting and the response deadline did not allow for Council to have a further meeting to agree a response.

Action DM & SE to attend, draft response to questionnaire and circulate by email for members to add comments and agree. To feedback the short notice and the short deadline for responses.

122/21 To agree date of next Council meeting as 4th October 2021 and items to be included on the agenda and the dates of events working group meetings

Next Council Meeting 4th October 2021 7pm.
Working Group 16th September 2021 6:30pm.

Items for the agenda

PP Forum for Council response and feedback on the Zoom meeting.
PB Removal Bus Stop on Wainwright Place

123/21 Forum for exchange of information between Council members

AR raised the issue of parking at Kings Prospect and feedback from Residents regarding parking and lack of access for Emergency Vehicles. Issue to be on Planning Agenda September 2021.

AR Cudworth Road has been indicated as an opportunity for planting trees 135,000 trees to be planted in Ashford under the Queens Green Canopy.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9pm

Signed _____
(Chair)

Dated ____/____/____

Appendix

**SOUTH WILLESBOROUGH AND NEWTOWN COMMUNITY
COUNCIL**

COUNCIL - 6th September 2021

Report - Budget Monitor & Bank Reconciliation at 31st August 2021

RECEIPTS	BUDGET	ACTUAL	-	GENERAL	GHF	-	DIFFERENCE	%
Reserve Support	15000	15000		13650	1350		0	
Credit - KALC	288	288		288			0	100%
Precept	42945	21473		19540	1933		-21473	50%
VAT Recovered	750	1540		1401	139		790	205%
Rents	2000	57			57		-1943	3%
Other	0	514		514			514	
Interest	30	16		15	1		-14	54%
TOTAL RECEIPTS	61013	38888		35408	3480		-22125	64%
PAYMENTS	BUDGET	ACTUAL	-	GENERAL	GHF	-	DIFFERENCE	%
Employee Costs	25070	10436		8349	2087		-14634	42%
Councillors Costs	£1788	169		169			-1619	9%
Legal Costs	£825	120		96	24		-705	15%
Running Costs	£14830	6478		4735	1855		-8352	44%
Projects	£18500	2993		2993			-15507	16%
TOTAL inc VAT	61013	20196		16342	3966		-40817	33%
VAT to RECOVER	927.37							
RESERVES	BUDGET	ACTUAL	-	GENERAL	GHF	-	DIFFERENCE	%
E-Mail Migration	-£106	0		0	0		106	0%
Broadband	£74	48		48			-26	65%
Noticeboard repairs	£1,050	410		410			-640	39%
Spring Clean costs	£150	0		0			-150	0%
Election Costs	£3,500	0		0			-3500	0%
Legal Fees	£4,000	0		0			-4000	0%
Speed Indicator Device	£6,000	0		0			-6000	0%
Key deposits	£650	0			0		-650	0%
Allotments- repair	£3,000	0			0		-3000	0%
	£18,318	£458		£458	£0		-17860	2%

Bank reconciliation as at 31/8/21 Noon

			31/08/2021
	Opening Balances		Closing Balances
Current 1	26417.62	Current A/c 1	27132.48
Current 2	0.00	Current A/c 2	707.16
Deposit	36551.85	Deposit A/c	36568.08
Total	62969.47	Total	64407.72
		LESS	
		Not yet presented	295.87
		Creditor	0.60
Add Receipts			
Precept	21472.50		
VAT	1539.55		
Rents	57.25		
Interest	16.23		
Other	514.00		
Total	23599.53		
Less Payments	22457.15		
Balance	64111.85		64111.25
			0.60

**NB The difference relates to an earlier 60p underpayment of salary to Sarah Evans
It will be corrected next month.**

SOUTH WILLESBOROUGH AND NEWTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Council meeting September 2021
Payments listing – August 2021

PAYMENTS TO FINANCE & GP COMMITTEE

PAYEE	NET	GROSS
Salvation Army	£562.50	£562.50
Clerk Salary	£783.53	£783.53
Clerk -Salary	£908.64	£908.64
HMRC	£217.72	£217.72
NEST (direct debit)	£78.35	£78.35
Interactive M	£148.00	£148.00
Agilico (direct Debit)	£39.95	£47.94
Interactive M	£120.00	£140.00
Interactive M	£893.00	£893.00
Siemens (direct debit)	£119.38	£143.25

Monthly Newsletter – South Willesborough & Newtown

Hello,

This is your monthly newsletter for August 2021 for the South Willesborough & Newtown ward from PCSO Oliver Welch.

Crime has remained low in the ward during the month of August with only several crimes of particular interest to bring to your attention. I must inform you of a burglary that took place within the ward and remind you to ensure that you leave your property safe and secure whenever you are out. There have also been several reports of criminal damage within the ward and again I must remind residents to remain vigilant and report any incidents of crime.

Anti-social behaviour with nuisance bikes in the area has continued this month and we have been inundated with reports of them driving around footpaths and fields in the area. I am working closely with my NHW colleague Peter New to gain images, videos and names of the offenders in order to deal with them appropriately. I have also had a meeting with Angela Burden from Ashford Borough Council to see what preventative measures can be put in place to stop the bikes gaining access to the land they are using.

Crime statistics can be found at: <https://www.police.uk/>

Alternatively, Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) send out regular updates in relation to crimes that have happened in the Ashford area. If you wish to receive these updates directly then please contact Andrew Judd who is the Volunteer and Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer. His contact details are as follows:

Tel: 01233 896151

Email: andrew.judd@kent.police.uk

**Address: Ashford Police Station,
Tufton Street,
Ashford
TN23 1BT**



I have included some examples of good work being carried out across the ward below. We have a very active twitter account that highlights on-going issues within the district and showcases the proactive work that officers carry out on a day to day basis. Should you wish to keep updated follow the account [@kentpoliceash](https://twitter.com/kentpoliceash)



Kent Police Ashford @KentPoliceAsh · Aug 4



Local #PCSO has been proactively patrolling #SouthWillesborough and #Newtown due to numerous reports of off road bikes in the area. This one was located, stopped and the rider issued with a section 59 warning. If seen again it will be #Seized. #CommunityPolicing #RideLegal OW



4



14



Kent Police Ashford @KentPoliceAsh · Aug 7



Officers from #Ashford CSU observed this vehicle travelling in excess of the speed limit on the M20. It was stopped in the #Willesborough area. The driver was not insured. The car was seized and is now in a secure location awaiting collection. #CommunityPolicing 07-1167. JH



2

25



You Retweeted



Kent Police (UK)  @kent_police · Aug 9



A paedophile from #Ashford who paid women in the Philippines to make videos of child abuse that he directed has been jailed for nine years.

kent.police.uk/news/kent/late...



 17

 14

 57





Kent Police Ashford ✓ @KentPoliceAsh · Aug 9



An 18-year-old man has been charged and remanded in connection with the rape of a woman in #Ashford town centre.

Read more about the case here:



Suspect charged with Ashford rape to appear in court
Following an investigation into the incident on Saturday 31 July, an 18-year-old man has been charged.
kent.police.uk

2 3 32



Kent Police Ashford ✓ @KentPoliceAsh · Aug 9



Productive evening for #Ashford ASBOfficer and PCSO from Ashford CSU proactively patrolling the #Victoria and #Willesborough area. 2 vehicles shown on our systems as uninsured and untaxed - 2 vehicles #Seized !
#WalkingHome 🚶 #TaxIt #InsureYourMotor



1 29



Kent Police Ashford ✓ @KentPoliceAsh · Aug 14

...

Officer from #Ashford CSU patrolling in the #Newtown area due to recent reports of #ASB and nuisance vehicles being used on the footpaths. Please report this as it happens via 101/999 #ZeroTolerance



♥ 10



Kent Police Ashford ✓ @KentPoliceAsh · Aug 19

...

ASB Officer and PCSO from Ashford CSU were proactively patrolling the #Willesborough area to target nuisance vehicles. This vehicle came to our attention - checks were made and here is the result . No insurance + No Tax = No vehicle and a considerable fine from the DVLA #TaxIt



♥ 11



Drug driving targeted in national campaign

Motorists are being urged to drive safely as part of a national campaign targeting those who take the risk of driving whilst under the influence of drugs.

From the Monday 23rd to Sunday 29th August 2021 officers from Kent Police will be out in force across the county, working with our partners to follow an intelligence led approach to target those who recklessly drug drive.

They will be proactively patrolling and targeting high risk locations to identify and prosecute motorists who are impaired by drugs.

Officers will be carrying out roadside drug wipes and field impairment tests at all times during the day and night to ensure those who break the law are arrested, charged and put before the courts.

Drug driving is recognised nationally as one of the four main causes of death or serious injury on the roads. These main factors are also known as the 'Fatal 4'. When driving under the influence of drugs you can impair your awareness, judgement and reaction times and put yourself and other road users at risk.

Chief Inspector Elena Hall from Kent Police's Roads Policing Unit said: 'The impact of drug driving can be devastating and our officers are committed to keeping the roads across Kent safe.

'Drivers need to remember they are not only risking their own life, but the lives of their passengers as well as other innocent motorists or pedestrians.

'If you are caught drug driving you could face prison time, an unlimited fine and a driving ban. There is no excuse for driving under the influence of illegal substances.'

Officers will be working closely with both Kent County Council and Medway Council throughout this week of action.

Kent County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, David Brazier, said: 'Taking drugs and driving can have serious consequences, apart from the fact it is illegal.

'Being under the influence of substances can cause blurred vision, erratic and aggressive behaviour, nausea, hallucinations, panic attacks, paranoia, shakes, dizziness and fatigue.

'I would urge everyone to think about how they might be able to react in an emergency and understand what is going on around them.'

Cllr Phil Filmer, Medway Council's Portfolio Holder for Frontline Services, said: 'There is never an excuse for driving under the influence of any substance. Not only is

drug-driving illegal it's incredibly dangerous and can have a devastating impact on people's lives. I would encourage residents to act responsibly and help reduce the number of incidents on our roads.'

Below is advice from our Crime Prevention Advice Officer

This month I will tailor the advice to **residential burglaries**:

- Keep keys and valuables out of sight, away from doors and windows – but know where they are in case of emergency
- Watch out for bogus callers and always ask for identification if an unexpected caller comes to your home. If you are unsure, don't let them in and report it to the police straight away
- Lock sheds and garages and put away tools and equipment after use
- Security mark valuable items using a UV pen or forensic solution
- Consider installing a burglar alarm, if you don't already have one

Facts supplied by Police.uk:

- Burglars target homes that they think will contain valuables. A giveaway is leaving packaging from expensive items outside your door
- Burglars often look for homes with windows or doors left open or with vulnerable features that they can exploit
- Burglars are aware of the times when someone is expected to be away from their house such as during the school run or holidays
- Burglars typically do not want to be seen or heard and if they feel that they would be noticed by a neighbour or passer-by then they are more likely to feel exposed and may move on to find somewhere else to burgle
- Burglars often choose a home because they've spotted a specific vehicle, motorcycle or bicycle they want to steal – and the keys are more than likely to be inside the residence
- [Sheds and garages](#) are often vulnerable as they are not that secure and contain tools which the burglar can use to assist them to gain entry to a home

It may be useful to consider looking at the home security checklist below:

How to check the security of **your** home

This checklist will help you check how secure your home is, and gives useful advice on ways to reduce opportunities for thieves.

For more home security advice visit www.securedbydesign.com or call **101** to contact your crime prevention design advisor.

Check the front of your property

Is your front door...		If 'no', consider that:
Visible from the footpath at the front of your home?	Yes/No	It may deter thieves if visitors at your front door can be seen by neighbours or passers by
Fitted with a rim latch and mortice deadlock that complies with British Standards Institution (BSI) requirements, see www.bsigroup.com	Yes/No	This is the best type of security for your home; British Standard locks have been security tested and are the basic standard you should have on a main door
Fitted with a spy hole?	Yes/No	Spy holes allow you to view a visitor before opening the door
Fitted with a door chain?	Yes/No	Door chains enable you to open your door and check ID without giving visitors access

Check your windows and patio doors

Are your windows...		If 'no', consider that:
Fitted with locks?	Yes/No	Window locks restrict access to your property
Fully closed and locked when your property is unoccupied?	Yes/No	Windows should be fully closed and locked with keys to keep thieves out
Fully closed and locked when you go to bed or are in your garden?	Yes/No	Keeping your windows on the latch does not mean they are secure

Are your patio doors...		If 'no', consider that:
Fitted with anti-lift devices on sliding doors, and additional locks?	Yes/No	These measures can reduce the risk of your patio doors being levered and lifted out

Check the rear of your property

Burglars often enter properties from the rear, where they are less likely to be spotted by other people.

Is your back door...		If 'no', consider that:
Fitted with a five-lever mortice sash lock that complies with British Standards Institution (BSI) requirements see www.bsigroup.com	Yes/No	British Standard locks have been security tested and are the basic standard you should have on a main door
Fitted with a pair of stout bolts at the top and the bottom?	Yes/No	Bolts will enhance your home security and protect your door from being levered open

To the rear, do you have...		If 'no', consider that:
A lockable gate?	Yes/No	Gates locked from inside will restrict entry to your garden
A solid fence or hedge enclosing your garden?	Yes/No	Secure boundaries can prevent access from unwanted visitors
Trellis work or thorny plants along your garden boundaries?	Yes/No	Obstacles that prevent climbing are useful, particularly if you border alleyways or open fields

Home security measures

Do you have...		If 'no', consider that:
Security lights fitted to the front or rear of the property?	Yes/No	Lights can deter thieves and ensure entry points to your home are visible in the dark
Motion sensors to switch lights on automatically?	Yes/No	Lights turning on will alert you to movement outside
A burglar alarm fitted?	Yes/No	Alarms may deter thieves and can alert you, and others, if there are intruders about
Smoke detectors fitted on each floor of your home?	Yes/No	Smoke alarms can save your life – make sure you test them weekly and change batteries yearly or when needed

Please see www.securedbydesign.com for more ways improve the security of buildings and their immediate surroundings. Secured by Design's (SBD's) product based accreditation scheme – the Police Preferred Specification - provides a recognised standard for all security products that can deter and reduce crime.

We have seen a rise in the reporting of dog thefts not only in the Ashford district but across the UK. Below is some guidance in relation to keeping your dog safe when out and about.

I have also included below a number of helpful posters from the Kent fraud alert system which are worth taking the time to read.

Advice – Dog theft



Help keep your dog safe:

- Make sure your dog is microchipped and your contact details are up-to-date
- Keep good quality and up-to-date images of your dog taken from different angles, noting any identifiable markings. Consider tattooing to aid visual identification. This helps us to return your dog safely
- Avoid leaving your dog alone in a garden which is not secure, or in an area where it can escape or make it easy for people to take it
- Consider adjusting the security in your garden by using things like gate alarms or additional lighting
- If you do not have a solid recall, use an extendable lead
- Vary your dog walking routes, try not to be a creature of habit
- Be careful of strangers asking questions about your dog. Be cautious and consider positioning yourself in front of your dog if you feel uncomfortable
- Avoid leaving your dog unattended outside a shop, for example, and never leave your dog locked alone in a car
- Check social media privacy settings and avoid advertising your dog and your location
- If you suspect your dog has been stolen, report it immediately. Notify your local dog warden, vets and your microchip provider
- Consider using a mobile phone location application, for example, What3Words and Hollie Guard to aid response

If your dog is missing:

- Contact your local council dog warden in case the dog has been picked up as a stray.
- Check local vets, rescue centres and kennels to see if your dog has been handed in.
- Register your dog free of charge with www.doglost.co.uk
- Take regular images of your dog from several angles so a missing poster can be distributed.



Kent
Police

Contacting Kent Police
 Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report
 Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact
 In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**
 If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**
www.kent.police.uk   

Police do not monitor community Facebook, Twitter, neighbour next door apps etc...and these are not the correct way to report things going on, otherwise we are unaware and unable to help you in your community.

I hope you have found this newsletter interesting. Please feel free to share it with others

Contacting Kent Police



Find your answer online. Browse our A to Z question finder www.kent.police.uk/askthepolice



Email your local policing team. Visit www.kent.police.uk/yourarea



For non-urgent issues, call **101**



In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger, call **999**



If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**



Kent Police

[@kent_police](https://twitter.com/kent_police) or find your local kent.police.uk/yourarea



Follow us on Instagram [@kent_police](https://www.instagram.com/kent_police)



Kent Police

www.kent.police.uk

48 WELCH
afety Unit

REPORT TO SWAN C.C. COMMITTEE on PROGRESS WITH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.

BY PETER NEW (Kent Police Volunteer & Neighbourhood Watch Team)

DATE 1st SEPTEMBER 2021

Since we last met, good and steady progress continues, and I have added another 4 Operational Schemes into the SWAN C.C. Area. There is constant liaison and communications between myself and PCSO WELCH about the SWAN C.C. area crime trends and crime prevention.

I stay in regular contact with your clerks to ensure I try to meet the needs and goals of the council and you as members, whilst serving the residents of the area. All NHW recruitment is face to face on the doorstep which allows me to deliver our goals and strategies BUT importantly listen to worries and concerns and ensure operational intelligence is gained to shape colleagues interventions and patrols and in the longer term our crime prevention.

The new schemes launched are in ALFRED ROAD, BEAZLEY COURT, BAXENDALE COURT and BULLEID PLACE.

The residents have a mixture of vulnerabilities and disabilities which makes the work of Neighbourhood Watch essential.

I will hope to set up a new scheme in the “New Builds” properties adjacent to the Outlets in Newtown Road as occupation commences.

This brings the schemes of NHW I manage for the SWAN C.C. area to 24. and is starting to bring very good coverage to the SWAN C.C. area as a whole.

SWAN C.C. Neighbourhood Watch (24 Operational Schemes in total)

- East Stour Way
- Riverbank Way
- Richard Hillary Close
- River Close
- Surtees Close
- Wainwright Place
- Alfred Road
- Beazley Court
- Baxendale Court
- Stirling Road
- Bulleid Place
- South Willesborough General
- Samuel Peto Way
- Kirtley Way
- Harold Way
- Ellson Close
- Newtown Road
- Gresley House
- Turner Close
- Fairview Drive
- White Willow Close
- Jacobs Oak
- Clover Court
- Kings Prospect

CRIME TRENDS

The trends that have come to the fore of both my colleagues’ operational responses and my crime prevention work are

- 1. Motorbikes/electric scooters**
- 2. Drug use and supply (Potential of Cuckooing)**
- 3. Anti Social behaviour.**

The reason drug activity is of concern is that this is the matter that drives so much of the petty crime in areas. Thefts of Tools from Vans, thefts from cars, garages, and sheds. The work of chancers and opportunist criminals is often to fund the next drug fix.

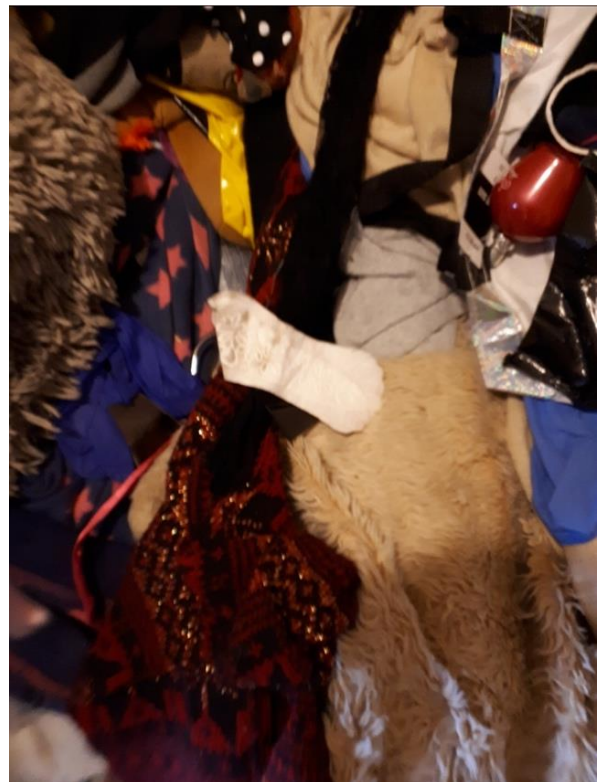
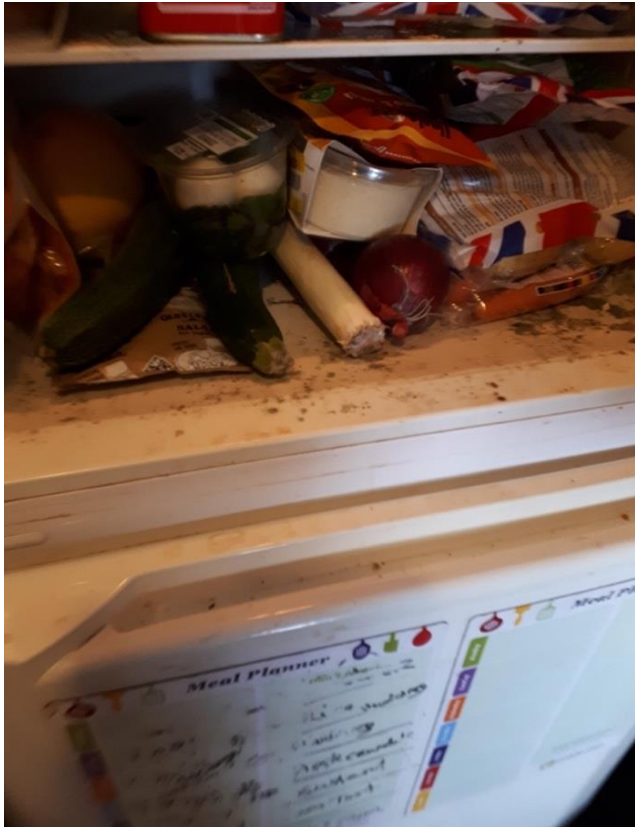
Also, as drug crime develops, more dangerous drugs, more dangerous criminals which then feeds County Lines Drug Activity, often nearby to vulnerable persons homes. It is vital that we collect as much intelligence and information on these activities and feed that into the police who can target resources into that work and areas of concern.

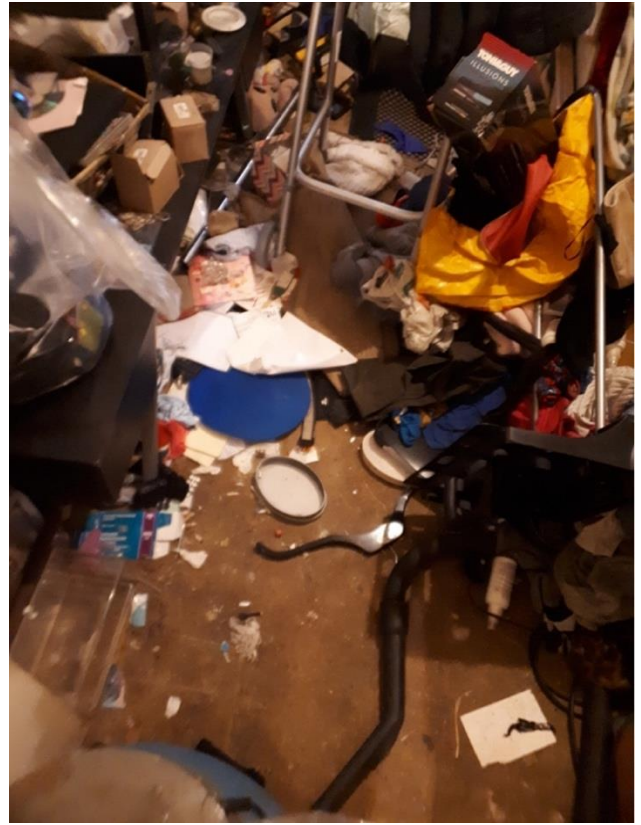
CUCKOOING

This is where a property, normally of a very vulnerable person is taken over by drug criminals for drug use, drug supply and distribution. The vulnerable person may have their finances taken over and they may be almost certain to face violence of some degree.

So, what does cuckooing look like? See following photos. This is in SWAN C.C. area.







Please see below police definition of cuckooing: (OCG – organised criminal gangs)

Cuckooing

OCGs often use high levels of violence and intimidation to protect the 'county line' and control them. One of these forms of control exploits vulnerable people by using their home as a base for dealing drugs, a process known as cuckooing. Dealers often convince the vulnerable person to let their home be used for drug dealing by giving them free drugs or offering to pay for food or utilities.

Often OCGs target people who are lonely, isolated, or have addiction issues. It's common for OCGs to use a property for a short amount of time, moving address frequently to reduce the chance of being caught.

There are several signs to look out for that may indicate someone is a victim of cuckooing:

- frequent visitors at unsociable hours
- changes in your neighbour's daily routine
- unusual smells coming from a property
- suspicious or unfamiliar vehicles outside an address

There has been constant work carried out to identify the youths who are riding motorbikes around the footpaths and areas within the district. Intelligence has been submitted along with CCTV evidence supplied by NHW members.

My role is to win the hearts and minds of families to try to stop this behaviour whilst at the same time to ensure all intelligence and information on the matter is fed in to try and shape patrols and intervention.

To assist with our campaigns, it is hoped to run 2 community engagement days within SWAN C.C. where bike marking and community interaction can help to improve this issue.

We know that bike thefts have been a problem across the Ashford District including thefts in our area. These have caused distress and upset to victims. Advice on security is given when meeting residents.

I will be liaising with our clerks on potential dates during the school half term holidays. Venues will be selected and published.

The work with Neighbourhood Watch is never done however at each meeting I can report our NHW coverage grows stronger and develops further. I have reported before the door-to-door approach gives that opportunity to shape the schemes after listening to residents' concerns. The consistent message from alerts, campaigns and your newsletters is important.

As we move forward an issue that I will be commenting on and follows on from questions at your last council meeting. We will need all agencies and all sections of local authorities to "Sing from the same song sheet" on issues like

PARKING, PARKING PROVISIONS ON NEW DEVELOPMENTS, ELECTRIC SCOOTERS, REFUSE MANAGEMENT and other issues.

There is a consultation out at the moment about whether and if "booking appointments" for Refuse collection centres, which was introduced as a COVID MEASURE, should continue. Has SWAN.C.C. an official position or response?

FINALLY, OUR MESSAGE TO REPORT EVERYTHING

The need to report all crimes and Anti-Social behaviour is essential, and our message on this must be constant and consistent.

This work is ongoing and essential to drive home the message of the need to **REPORT ALL CRIME** no matter how small. It is also important to report attempted crimes.

Please remember these calls will shape the action of our PCSOs and Police Officers in responses, and importantly preventative patrols. It will also shape our crime prevention work and target campaigns.

This work will also be reflected in articles in your newsletters throughout the year. **The police are not clairvoyant..... they must be called and informed! Writing on Facebook is**

not reporting a crime! Thank you for your support councillors as always.

Peter

Peter New (Kent Police Volunteer & Neighbourhood Watch Team)



Need to report a crime?
Do it online

-  A quicker way for you to report crime and incidents
-  Receive your confirmation email and reference number immediately

Go to www.kent.police.uk/report

The advertisement features a blue background on the left with a yellow hand holding a smartphone displaying a 'Live Chat' icon. The right side has a dark blue header with white text, followed by a yellow box containing two bullet points with icons, and a white box at the bottom with a blue link.

REPORTING ONLINE and use of CRIMESTOPPERS is also promoted within the community.



Give crime information anonymously

We never ask for your personal information and do not track your device. Call us or fill in our anonymous online form.

USE ANONYMOUS ONLINE FORM

or call us on: 0800 555 111

The advertisement has a dark purple background. It features a large white title, a paragraph of text, a red button with white text, and a phone number. On the right side, there is a circular inset showing a person's hands typing on a keyboard with a smartphone icon overlaid.



South



Willesborough and Newtown Community

Council



A
from
Clerks



report
the
on the

removal of play equipment on Stirling Rd Alfred Road.
Background

Residents were dismayed to see that the remaining play equipment at this site was removed without any public notification or explanation, nor any guidance as to whether the equipment would be replaced. This action also fell right in the middle of the school holidays. Neither the 2 Ward Councillors for the area or the Community Council were advised this was going to take place.

This caused strong feeling as the playground has been well used for many years and residents have previously highlighted to the SWANCC that they would like to keep it and see it invested in. Residents initially believed responsibility lay with the Community Council and were prompt to comment on social media and contact the Clerks to complain.

The Chair of the Community Council wrote to the officers to complain that no notice or consultation had been given as to the removal of the play equipment, and that residents were laying the responsibility with us. In response ABC published notices at the site to advise they had removed the play equipment and wrote to 62 neighbouring residents.

Further investigation by the Ward Cllrs and the Clerk found that the decision to remove the play equipment was made by Aspire on the grounds of health of safety and the equipment was removed promptly for this reason. It was then learnt from discussion with the Ward Cllrs and the Officers at ABC that a review of whether to replace the play equipment was intended by ABC when the play equipment failed and consideration of whether to renew it was not yet planned. This is in light of the investment at nearby Bullied Place. ABC advised that it considered at present that Bulleid is in a much better location for use, footfall, safety, with equipment that meets the current European Standards and within walking distance of local properties providing a much wider benefit than Stirling Road can offer.

The Clerks and the Chair and the Ward Cllrs highlighted the need for consultation on this matter and the need for residents to be considered.

As a result

- 1) A meeting is now planned 10th September 2021, between ABC, the 2 Ward Cllrs, and SWANCC to discuss the proposal.
- 2) ABC have written to 62 residents to explain the decisions taken and the intention to consider whether to replace the equipment. They have advised they are interested to see response they receive to this before the September meeting.
- 3) An update has been put on social media to advise of this.

Recommendations .

- It is essential that residents respond to the consultation, therefore local Cllrs and interested residents to rally a response from local residents.
- For SWANCC to write a response to the letter and ensure our views on behalf of the residents are recorded.
- Longer term To note the need to progress the proposed business case to transfer the assets of play equipment to and to argue the need to endow the SWANCC with a budget to do this.



Dear Member Councils

Please see the e-mail below from Kent County Council regarding their consultation on the continuation of the booking system to visit KCC Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Dear Colleague

Kent County Council has launched a consultation 'Booking to visit a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)'.

The consultation seeks views on the continuation of a booking system to visit KCC Household Waste Recycling Centres. The 6 week consultation is available until Thursday 30 September 2021 and we would like to invite you to comment.

The consultation questionnaire and supporting documents can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/wasteconsultation

Your views are important to us and we look forward to receiving your comments.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Business Development Team, Kent County Council, Waste Management
wastedisposalstrategy@kent.gov.uk

South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council

A report from the Clerks on the removal of play equipment on Stirling Rd Alfred Road.

Background

Residents were dismayed to see that the remaining play equipment at this site was removed without any public notification or explanation, nor any guidance as to whether the equipment would be replaced. This action also fell right in the middle of the school holidays. Neither the 2 Ward Councillors for the area or the Community Council were advised this was going to take place.

This caused strong feeling as the playground has been well used for many years and residents have previously highlighted to the SWANCC that they would like to keep it and see it invested in. Residents initially believed responsibility lay with the Community Council and were prompt to comment on social media and contact the Clerks to complain.

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Further investigation by the Ward Cllrs and the Clerk found that the decision to remove the play equipment was made by Aspire on the grounds of health of safety and the equipment was removed promptly for this reason. It was then learnt from discussion with the Ward Cllrs and the Officers at ABC that a review of whether to replace the play equipment was intended by ABC when the play equipment failed and consideration of whether to renew it was not yet planned. This is in light of the investment at nearby Bullied Place. ABC advised that it considered at present that Bulleid is in a much better location for use, footfall, safety, with equipment that meets the current European Standards and within walking distance of local properties providing a much wider benefit than Stirling Road can offer.

The Clerks and the Chair and the Ward Cllrs highlighted the need for consultation on this matter and the need for residents to be considered.

As a result

- 4) A meeting is now planned 10th September 2021, between ABC, the 2 Ward Cllrs, and SWANCC to discuss the proposal.
- 5) ABC have written to 62 residents to explain the decisions taken and the intention to consider whether to replace the equipment. They have advised they are interested to see response they receive to this before the September meeting.
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