

MINUTES of the MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2020 at 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Peter Harris - Chairman
Councillor Emma Ben Moussa
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Lesley Howes
Councillor Jay Shah

ALSO PRESENT: Martin Harding – Assistant Town Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer
Billy Unsworth - Kent County Council (KCC) Community Warden.
PCSO Rob Young – Kent Police
Sue Hart – CAS Training
Chris Hennis – Play Place
5 x members of the public

ABSENT: There were none.

460/19-20. ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS REGARDING FILMING OR RECORDING THE MEETING.

The Chairman explained the arrangements and constraints relating to the filming or recording of the meeting.

461/19-20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors' Anita Barham, Sue Butterfill and Peter Harman.

Apologies were also received from Zoe Harris (Kent County Council), Sgt Siobhan Rowe (Kent Police) and Sarah Rawlinson (Youth & Community Engagement Officer, Diocese of Rochester).

462/19-20. SUBSTITUTES.

There were none.

463/19-20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

The Chairman gave the opportunity for the meeting to be adjourned at this point to accept questions from the public.

A resident raised concerns over a group of youths causing anti-social behaviour around parts of Greenhithe. PCSO Young reassured the resident that they were aware of the groups and that steps were being taken to address the issue.

Another resident highlighted an issue of the littering of nitrous oxide canisters around specific areas of Swanscombe. PCSO Young agreed to include those areas on their regular patrols.

464/19-20. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

That, at the request of the Chairman, Agenda item 12 be moved to the last item on the agenda.

465/19-20. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2019.

Recommended: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 December 2019 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

466/19-20. POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS (PCSO) REPORT.

PCSO Rob Young gave a summary of recent crime levels and incidents of note that had occurred in both Swanscombe and Greenhithe. These included burglaries, groups of youths causing anti-social behaviour and county lines gangs using the rail network.

PCSO Young also spoke about his upcoming police surgery scheduled for 2.00 to 3.00pm on Saturday 22 February 2020, in the Church Road Hall, Church Road, Swanscombe.

Recommended: That the report be noted and PCSO Young be thanked for his attendance

467/19-20. KCC COMMUNITY WARDENS REPORT.

KCC Warden Unsworth gave an update on cases he had been involved with in the area, including blue badge parking, suspected scams, anti-social behaviour and safeguarding reviews.

Recommended: That the report be noted and KCC Warden Unsworth be thanked for his attendance.

468/19-20. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND EFFECTIVE PUNISHMENTS.

Members were asked to consider the current levels of anti-social behaviour within Swanscombe and Greenhithe, and whether these are effectively punished.

Members discussed the guidance from GOV.UK on punishments available for anti-social behaviour with PCSO Young and Warden Unsworth. Both agreed that although the punishments were not ideal, they were aimed at educating young people away from further crime.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

469/19-20. COMMUNICATION.

Members briefly discussed existing routes of communication regarding community safety and methods in which these could be improved.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

470/19-20. COMMUNITY SAFETY LIAISON.

Youth services / officers – Chris Hennis from Play Place gave a summary of the activities they were currently undertaking in the area. These included the weekly youth club at the Heritage Community Hall, occasional detached work in Broomfield Park and a multi sports activity in Castle Hill.

Sue Hart from CAS Training gave an update on the success of the Town Council funded MCM Youth Club that had opened at the Old Fire Station in April of this year. Sue gave an overview of the results of the recent participant and parent survey, which was very positive and also extended an invitation to all to attend the end of year exhibition of the young people's work on 18 April 2020.

Neighbourhood Watch – The Chairman reminded the meeting that if any new neighbourhood watch groups wished to form they should contact PCSO Young.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

471/19-20. DETAILED ANALYSIS OF CRIME STATISTICS FOR SWANSCOMBE AND GREENHITHE.

Members were provided with the up to date detailed analysis of crime figures for Swanscombe and Greenhithe.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

472/19-20. **CURRENT CRIME RELATED ISSUES.**

County Lines – PCSO Young explained a recent success story involving the seizure of drugs and money from a group original based out of the London.

County Lines – The Chairman reminded members of a recent incident at Greenhithe Station and confirmed that personal alarms could be purchased from the Community Safety Shop, which was now based in Gravesend.

Ability to send CCTV to Kent Police online – PCSO Young confirmed that as yet no updates had been made to the online reporting system to facilitate uploading CCTV footage.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

At this point Councillor Emma Ben Moussa left the meeting.

473/19-20. **GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – STRENGTHENING POLICE POWERS TO TACKLE UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS (p).**

The Home Office are seeking the views of local authorities, police forces and other interested stakeholders on strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments.

Full details were attached and can be found electronically at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-police-powers-to-tackle-unauthorised-encampments>

The deadline for representations and objections is 5 March 2020.

Members went through the consultation and formulated their responses to the questions.

Recommended That the completed consultation be returned.

There were no confidential items for discussion.

There being no further business to transact, the Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed _____
Chairman Date