

MINUTES of the MEETING of the ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & CRIME SUB-COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL 2016 at 7.00 PM

**PRESENT:** Councillor B E Read (Chairman)  
Councillor Ms L M Cross (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor P M Harman  
Councillor Mrs C K Openshaw  
Councillor B R Parry

**ALSO PRESENT:** Martin Harding, ATC/RFO  
Steve Taylor, Kent Community Warden  
Geena Beddoes, PCSO  
Steve Keers, PCSO  
9 x members of the public

**ABSENT:** Councillor Mrs M B Kelly  
Councillor A S Reach.

**595/15-16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Mrs S P Butterfill (other commitments). Apologies were also received from David Edie, DBC Housing

**Recommended:** That the apologies for absence and reasons, as listed, be formally approved.

**596/15-16. SUBSTITUTES.**

There were none.

**597/15-16. 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.***

Members of the public in attendance were all residents of St Peters Close and St Pauls Close. They collectively recounted ongoing issues with anti-social behaviour in Manor Park and through to St Pauls Close. This included excessive noise, rude and abusive behaviour, damage to private and Town Council property and underage drinking and smoking.

Members along with PCSO's and Wardens present reinforced the importance of raising these incidents through both 999 (if the incident in progress or life threatening) and 101. This would not only report the individual incidents but help to build up a picture of ongoing concerns in a particular area.

Residents also raised concerns regarding the lack of street lighting in the area. This was said to be causing further concern to elderly and vulnerable residents. Councillor P Harman agreed to attend the area and report the street lights concerned in his capacity as KCC Member for the area. KCC Community Warden Taylor agreed to pass on residents details in order to re-instate the Neighbourhood Watch Group. Councillor B Read recommended to members that an item should be included on the next Recreation, Leisure and Amenities Committee agenda to further discuss this matter, this was agreed by members.

The meeting was briefly adjourned at this point to allow members of the public to exchange direct contact numbers with both PCSO's and Community Wardens.

**598/15-16. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.**

There were none.

**599/15-16. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2016.**

**Recommended:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 January 2016 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

**600/15-16. TOWN COUNCIL'S PROBLEM LOG.**

Members were provided with a copy of the incidents reported to the Town Council since the last meeting. Members were reminded that the Town Council should be made aware of any incidents reported to the police, in order for them to be added to the problem log. The RFO advised that the problem log was emailed monthly to the CSU at DBC and also to the Police.

**Recommended:** That the problem log be noted.

**601/15-16. BEAT OFFICER AND POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS (PCSO) REPORT.**

PCSO Geena Beddoes introduced herself as the new officer for Swanscombe along with PCSO Steve Keers who is currently covering Greenhithe and Stone. PCSO Beddoes gave a brief update on the general statistics for the area. Members asked whether this was an improvement, PCSO Keers confirmed that levels were reducing and emphasised the importance of reporting incidents.

**Recommended:** That the report be noted and the PCSO's be thanked for their attendance.

**602/15-16. 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 item be noted.

**603/15-16. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR VIA DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL, DARTFORD HOUSING SERVICES (DHS).**

David Edie from DBC Housing Services had already sent his apologies and would be sending through a report direct to the ATC/RFO.

**Recommended:** The ATC/RFO to circulate the update report from DBC Housing Services.

**604/15-16. KCC COMMUNITY WARDENS REPORT.**

KCC Warden Unsworth could not be in attendance due to personal reasons and Warden Supervisor Steve Taylor attended to update on the Volunteer Warden Scheme. The volunteer wardens for Swanscombe and Greenhithe have now completed their training and been issued their uniforms. Warden Taylor will arrange for them to visit the Town Council to be introduced.

**Recommended:** That KCC Warden Taylor be thanked for attending the meeting.

**605/15-16. KENT COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH NEWSLETTER.**

Members were provided with the spring 2016 edition for Community Speed Watch in Kent.

**Recommended:** That the item be noted.

**606/15-16. FLY TIPPING – MILTON ROAD.**

Members were asked to note the successful removal of items from the rear of properties in Milton Road. Members were also asked to endorse the Town Councils thanks to KCC Warden Unsworth for his involvement in arranging this.

**Recommended:** That the item be noted and that the Town Councils thanks be passed to KCC Warden Unsworth via Warden Taylor.

**607/15-16. POLICE NOTIFICATION OF CRIMES.**

Members were asked to note a recent article in the local press regarding an incident in the area. This incident was discussed during the members question section of the Full Council meeting on 18 February 2016 (minute 524/15-16).

Members briefly discussed the article and also a recent publication through social media of an incident at Bluewater Shopping Centre.

**Recommended:** That the item be noted.

**608/15-16. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.**

**Recommended:** That the next meeting be held on Wednesday 29 June 2016 at 7.00pm

**609/15-16. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.**

It was proposed by Councillor B E Read and seconded by Councillor C K Openshaw:

**RESOLVED:**

That, pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of the following item(s).

No members of the press or public were present during discussion of the following item of business.

**610/15-16. CONFIDENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS.**

No confidential items were discussed.

There being no further business to transact, the Meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman Date

DATE & TIME	INCIDENT / PROBLEM / CRIME	CRIME NO / LOG NO	REPORTED BY	UPDATE
INCIDENT LOG: April 2016				
04/04/2016	Heritage Park - Motorbikes reported on the site.		Reported by Admin left VM on PCSO G Beddoes mobile and also tried to contact KCC Warden Billy Unsworth.	
07/04/2016	Springvale. Theft of both number plates from a Toyota motor vehicle Reg. No. EF 03 VBV between 5pm on Wed. 06-04-16 and 6.45am today Thurs. 07-04-16.	XY/12920/16	Kent Community Messaging	
13/04/2016	St Pauls Close, Swanscombe. An Attempted Burglary Dwelling between the hours of 5.00 p.m. on Friday 8/4/2016 and 8.00 a.m. on Monday 11/4/2016. Entry was gained, but nothing was stolen.	XY/13497/16	Kent Community Messaging	
13/04/2016	Large amount of fly tipping in the garage area of Gilbert Close.	909799	Reported to DBC by Parks Dept.	
15/04/2016	More flytipping added to the above	910764	GB emailed DBC	
25/04/2016	Heritage Park - Burnt out motorbike	25-0368	Reported by Parks Dept to 101.	Incident team to view evidence 25/04/16.

DATE & TIME	INCIDENT / PROBLEM / CRIME	CRIME NO / LOG NO	REPORTED BY	UPDATE
INCIDENT LOG: May 2016				
04/05/2016	Street Sign removed and left outside 154 Milton Road, Swanscombe (Leading to Bradburn Place).	CRM Ref 916077	Reported to DBC by Admin.	DBC confirmed sign had been picked up and would be replaced in due course - 12 May 2016
13/05/2016	Graffiti on back of Church Rd Hall	Ref: XY/18048/16	Reported by GB to 101 (this took 27 minutes 34 seconds)	Neighbouring property (No.2 Ch Rd) has also had same issue and reported it to Police
13/05/2016	No 2 Church Road - Graffiti on Fence and back of gate and side joining church rd hall	Ref XY/17858-16	Reported by owner of [REDACTED]	
17/05/2016	Meat with blue liquid oozing out of it seen in Knockhall Recreation Ground. [REDACTED] reported it to Town Council (didn't leave contact number).	Ref: 17/0558	GB reported to 101	Parks staff checked area but could not find anything.
26/05/2016	Mounts Road. A Burglary between 9.30am and 3.30pm on Thurs. 26 May. Entry was gained and a TV plus a Sony Playstation Games Console were stolen.	Ref; XY/20035/15	Reported by Kent Community Messaging	
31/05/2016	AB35. Eglinton Road. Theft from a motor vehicle occurred between 10pm on Saturday 28th and 7.45am on Sunday 29th May 2016. A blue cordless Makita drill and grinder were stolen from a White Ford Transit Van.	Crime No: XY/20429	Kent Community Messaging	
31/05/2016	AB35. Leonard Avenue. Theft from a motor Vehicle occurred between 9pm on Saturday 28th and 10.30am on Sunday 29th. The following items were stolen from a white and blue Vauxhall Vivaro: 15ft Ladder, small ladder with red feet.	Crime No XY/20438/1	Kent Community Messaging	

DATE & TIME	INCIDENT / PROBLEM / CRIME	CRIME NO / LOG NO	REPORTED BY	UPDATE
INCIDENT LOG: June 2016				
01/06/2016	Swanscombe Park - 2 noticeboards vandalised, notices removed and set fire to.	Crime No XY/20804/16	DU reported to 101.	Repaired by Parks Dept.
03/06/2016	Large black man shouting at elderly lady walking her dog at 7.10am (Manor Rd/Betsham Rd). Swearing and following (taking photos?)		GB rang lady and clarified that not any of parks staff and would tell Community Warden.	Lady's daughter said lady had rung 101 but did not know any reference number.
07/06/2016	DS6 - Footbridge from Knockhall damage to a gate and padlock stolen.	Crime No XY/21672/16	Police contacted Town Council for ownership details	
07/06/2016	Football smashed porch window - 22 Park Road, Swanscombe		Resident of 22 Park Rd informed Parks Staff @ 4.30pm. GB emailed Community Warden to ask if he could visit the resident.	Parks staff discussed incident with resident and advised that very little we could do regarding children playing with a ball in the park.
09/06/2016	Break in at Allotment Shop sometime between 2/6/16 and 8/6/16.	Crime No XY/21891/16	[redacted] contacted police then informed TC,	
10/06/2016	St Pauls Close, Swanscombe. An attempt was made to gain access to a property between 3am and 3.15am on Friday 10th June 2016. Entry was not gained therefore no items were stolen.	Crime No XY/22156/16	Kent Community Messaging	
11/06/2016	Moore Road, Swanscombe. Theft from a motor vehicle occurred between 7.50pm on Saturday 11th and 10am on Sunday 12th June 2016. A black and silver Armani watch was stolen from a black and blue Volkswagen Golf	Crime No XY/22520/16	Kent Community Messaging	
15/06/2016	One of the Groundsmen witnessed an "18 year old" male beating an Ebbsfleet pupil up by the Leisure Centre at approximately 4pm. There were a group of parents close by who also witnessed it and the pupil apparently took quite a beating by the older male.		GB - Reported by email to KCC Community Warden	

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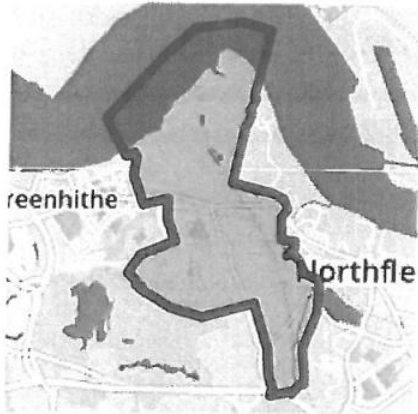
# AGENDA ITEM

ASB 29/6/16

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## Detailed statistics for Dartford - Swanscombe



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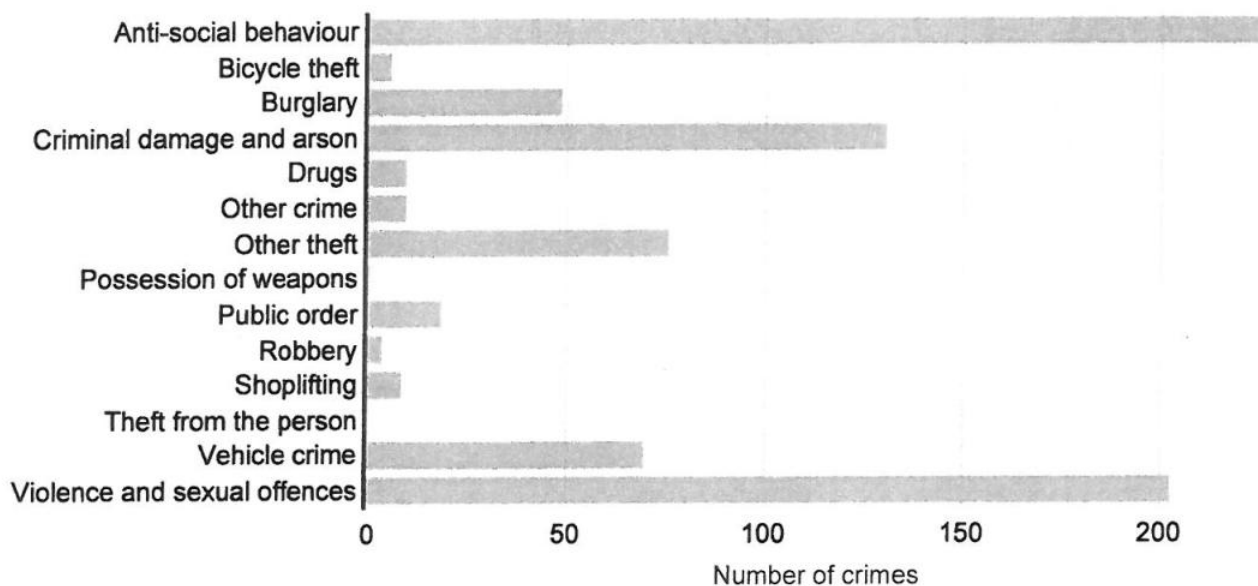
[Comparison of crime types in this area between May 2015 and April 2016](#)

[Comparison of outcomes in this area between May 2015 and April 2016](#)

[Crime levels in this area between May 2015 and April 2016](#)

[Download crime data for this area as a CSV file](#)

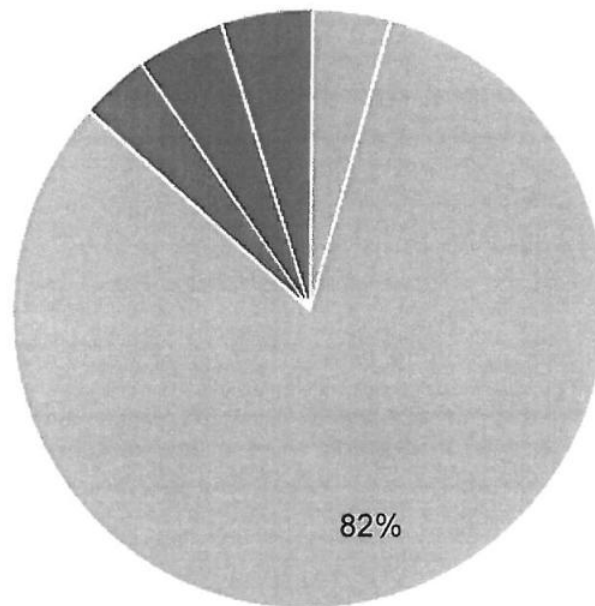
## Comparison of crime types in this area between May 2015 and April 2016



Crime type	Total	Percentage
Anti-social behaviour	227	27.85%
Bicycle theft	6	0.74%
Burglary	49	6.01%
Criminal damage and arson	131	16.07%
Drugs	10	1.23%
Other crime	10	1.23%
Other theft	76	9.33%
Possession of weapons	1	0.12%
Public order	19	2.33%
Robbery	4	0.49%
Shoplifting	9	1.10%
Theft from the person	0	0.00%
Vehicle crime	70	8.59%

<b>Crime type</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Violence and sexual offences</b>	203	24.91%

## Comparison of outcomes in this area between May 2015 and April 2016



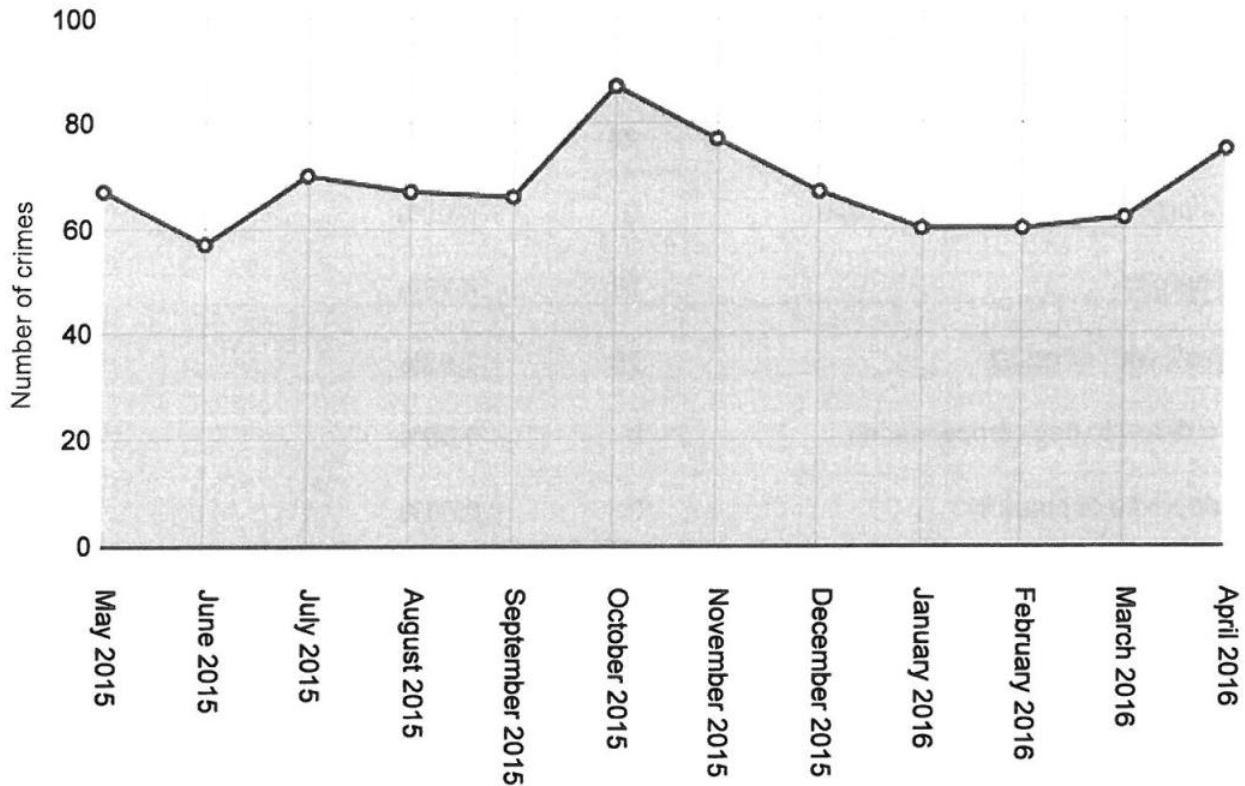
- Under investigation
- No further action
- Offender dealt with by police
- Offender sent to court
- Offender dealt with at court

Outcome type	Total	Percentage
<b>Under investigation</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4.25%</b>
Under investigation	25	4.25%
<b>No further action</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>82.31%</b>
Unable to prosecute suspect	199	33.84%
Further investigation is not in the public interest	0	0.00%
Investigation complete; no suspect identified	284	48.30%
Formal action is not in the public interest	1	0.17%

Outcome type	Total	Percentage
<b>Offender dealt with by police</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3.74%</b>
Action to be taken by another organisation	6	1.02%
Offender given a caution	7	1.19%
Offender given a drugs possession warning	3	0.51%
Local resolution	6	1.02%
Offender given penalty notice	0	0.00%
<b>Offender sent to court</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4.76%</b>
Suspect charged as part of another case	0	0.00%
Suspect charged	28	4.76%
<b>Offender dealt with at court</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4.93%</b>
Offender ordered to pay compensation	0	0.00%
Offender deprived of property	0	0.00%
Offender otherwise dealt with	0	0.00%
Offender given conditional discharge	5	0.85%
Offender sent to prison	5	0.85%
Offender fined	2	0.34%
Offender given community sentence	6	1.02%
Defendant sent to Crown Court	0	0.00%
Defendant found not guilty	3	0.51%
Offender given absolute discharge	0	0.00%
Court case unable to proceed	0	0.00%
Court result unavailable	8	1.36%
Offender given suspended prison sentence	0	0.00%

## Crime levels in this area between May 2015 and April 2016

All crime



Month	Total
April 2016	75
March 2016	62
February 2016	60
January 2016	60
December 2015	67
November 2015	77
October 2015	87
September 2015	66
August 2015	67

Month	Total
July 2015	70
June 2015	57
May 2015	67

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## Detailed statistics for Dartford - Greenhithe



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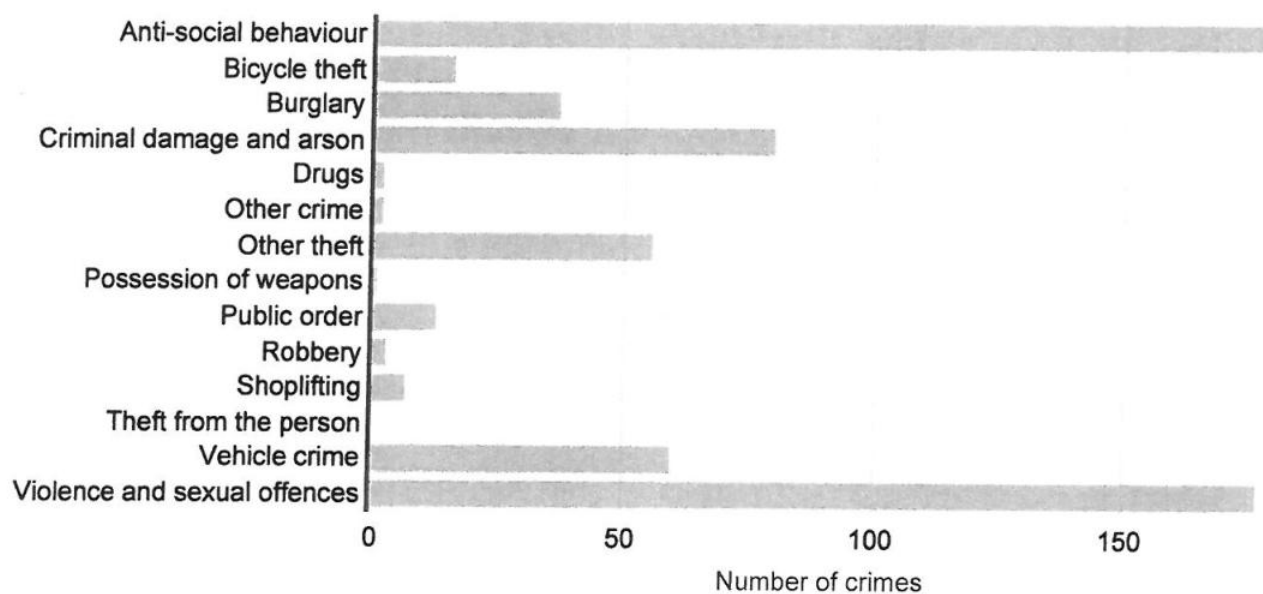
[Comparison of outcomes in this area between May 2015 and April 2016](#)

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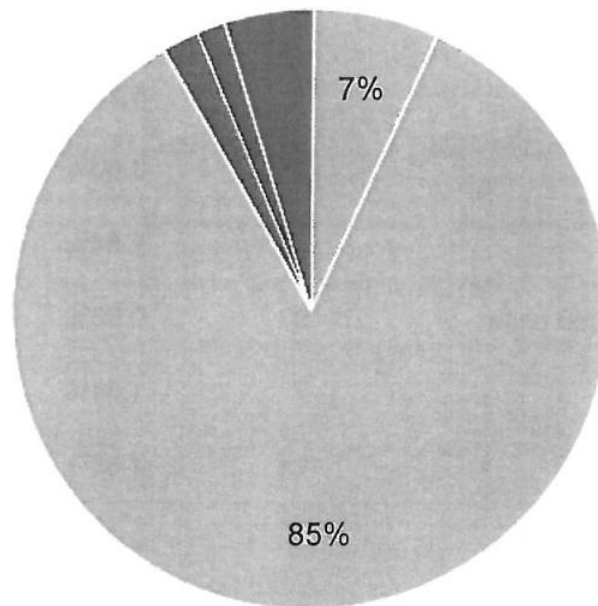
## Comparison of crime types in this area between May 2015 and April 2016



Crime type	Total	Percentage
Anti-social behaviour	180	28.39%
Bicycle theft	16	2.52%
Burglary	37	5.84%
Criminal damage and arson	80	12.62%
Drugs	2	0.32%
Other crime	2	0.32%
Other theft	56	8.83%
Possession of weapons	1	0.16%
Public order	13	2.05%
Robbery	3	0.47%
Shoplifting	7	1.10%
Theft from the person	0	0.00%
Vehicle crime	60	9.46%

<b>Crime type</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Violence and sexual offences</b>	177	27.92%

## Comparison of outcomes in this area between May 2015 and April 2016

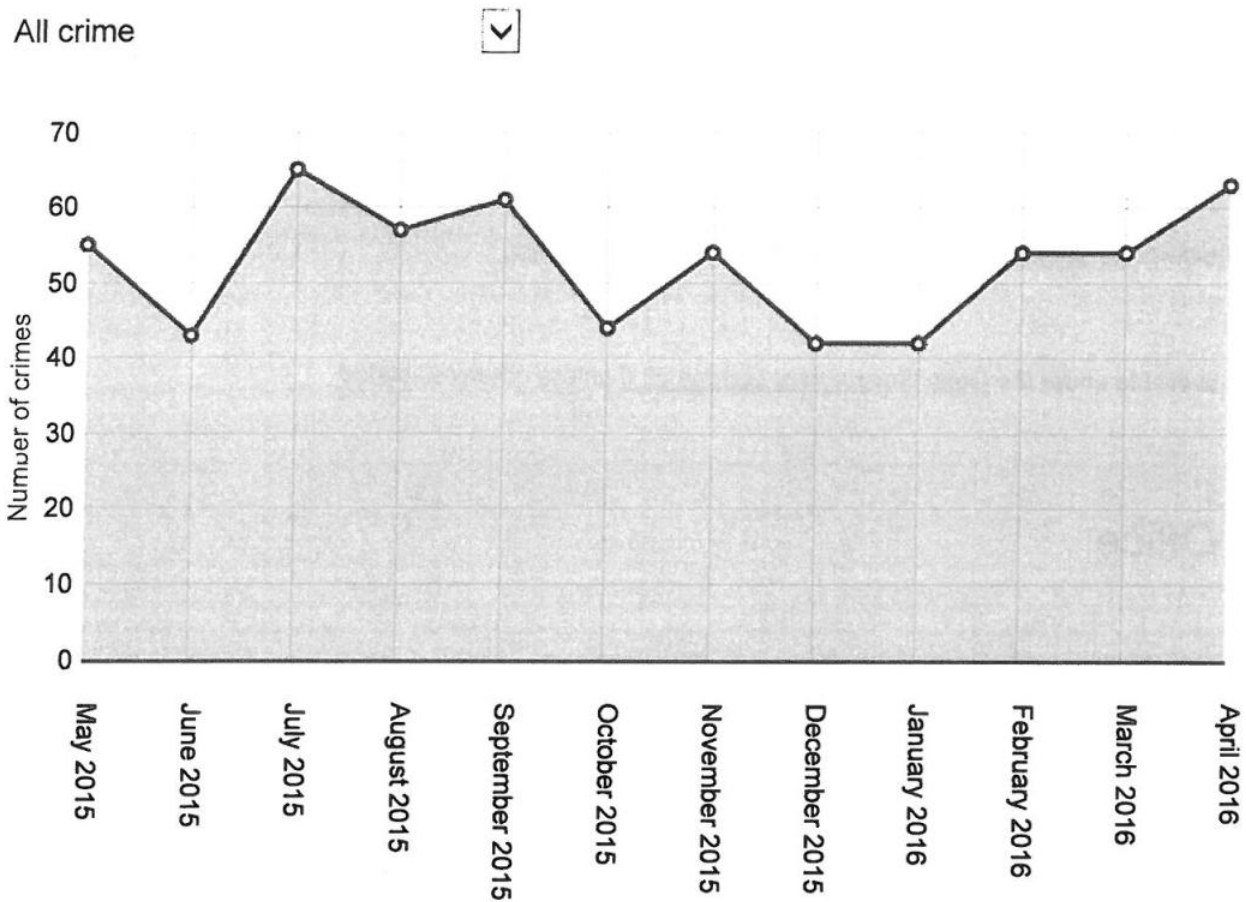


- Under investigation
- No further action
- Offender dealt with by police
- Offender sent to court
- Offender dealt with at court

Outcome type	Total	Percentage
<b>Under investigation</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>6.83%</b>
Under investigation	31	6.83%
<b>No further action</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>84.80%</b>
Unable to prosecute suspect	164	36.12%
Further investigation is not in the public interest	0	0.00%
Investigation complete; no suspect identified	221	48.68%
Formal action is not in the public interest	0	0.00%

Outcome type	Total	Percentage
<b>Offender dealt with by police</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1.98%</b>
Action to be taken by another organisation	0	0.00%
Offender given a caution	8	1.76%
Offender given a drugs possession warning	0	0.00%
Local resolution	1	0.22%
Offender given penalty notice	0	0.00%
<b>Offender sent to court</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1.54%</b>
Suspect charged as part of another case	0	0.00%
Suspect charged	7	1.54%
<b>Offender dealt with at court</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4.85%</b>
Offender ordered to pay compensation	1	0.22%
Offender deprived of property	0	0.00%
Offender otherwise dealt with	0	0.00%
Offender given conditional discharge	0	0.00%
Offender sent to prison	1	0.22%
Offender fined	2	0.44%
Offender given community sentence	4	0.88%
Defendant sent to Crown Court	1	0.22%
Defendant found not guilty	1	0.22%
Offender given absolute discharge	0	0.00%
Court case unable to proceed	2	0.44%
Court result unavailable	7	1.54%
Offender given suspended prison sentence	3	0.66%

## Crime levels in this area between May 2015 and April 2016



Month	Total
April 2016	63
March 2016	54
February 2016	54
January 2016	42
December 2015	42
November 2015	54
October 2015	44
September 2015	61
August 2015	57

Month	Total
July 2015	65
June 2015	43
May 2015	55

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Home Office

## Graham Blew

**From:** Peter Harman <harmanpeter@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** 11 June 2016 01:08  
**To:** Graham Blew; Martin Harding  
**Cc:** denise.sutton@kent.gov.uk; GARY WOODWARD; ALAN REACH; ANNETTE HARVEY; BRYAN PARRY; BRYAN READ; JEFF HARVEY; JOHN HAYES; KEVIN BASSON; LESLEY HOWES; LINDA MANCHESTER; LORNA CROSS; PETER HARRIS; RICHARD LEES; SIMON RYAN; SUSAN BUTTERFILL; JOSEPHINE HARMAN; Peter Harman  
**Subject:** Dangerous driving on dual carriageways in the vicinity of ASDA Greenhithe

Hello Graham / Martin,

There have been a number of reports of dangerous driving on the dual carriageway roads near ASDA in Greenhithe (see copied Facebook posts below). It appears that these roads are now being used in the same way that the roads near Ebbsfleet Station have been (ie as racetracks). Can you agenda this item for discussion at our next ASB Committee meeting please.

### Matthew Ward

3 hrs

Nearly got run down on the crossing near Asda earlier. Two cars racing, ran the light, nearly caused a crash at the roundabout and went tearing off towards the McD roundabout.

Was half way across, and had to sprint the last half to avoid getting hit. Called the police to report it... Be careful on that road. Its getting worse..

Like

### Comment

4 Simon J. Ryan and 3 others

### Comments



**Sarah Williams** People just don't care anymore, lucky no one was crossing with children!

Like · Reply · 3 hrs



**Elisha Bardoe** Oh that ain't good be careful they r dodgy xx

Like · Reply · 3 hrs



**Cocker Rose** Was it a black Vauxhall corsa?

Like · Reply · 2 hrs



**Matthew Ward** No some Silver penis extension looking thing. Was going too fast to notice any detail

Like · Reply · 2 hrs



**Becky Broster** What time? I got caught up in two cars racing at 3.45 ish earlier between McDonald's and bluewater. X

Like · Reply · 2 hrs



**Elisha Bardoe** There always racing along there every day I hear it from my house in bluewater x

Like · Reply · 2 hrs · Edited



**Matthew Ward** It was at about 7:45 pm.

Like · Reply · 2 hrs



**Elisha Bardoe** What type car was it

Like · Reply · 2 hrs



**Matthew Ward** Not sure. It was a blur... barely slowed down to take the roundabout.

Like · Reply · 2 hrs



[ ] [Write a reply...]

[ ]



**Mark Hutchings** I live next to asda and you can hear them tearing up and down there all night. Called police but nothing been done.. Someone is gonna up seriously hurt or worse

Like · Reply · 2 hrs



**Lorraine Peters** I don't use that crossing for that very reason, it happened to me a few times a few years ago. So now I have children with me, when walking I take the longer way round, i cross over the zebra crossing and go in the back of Asda. Less chance of being run over going that way.

Like · Reply · 2 hrs · Edited



**Simon J. Ryan** Second time this week I've seen a post like this about the stretch of road. I've had two near misses there two, once running and worse of all when I was with my little girl.

I'm going to catch up with County Councillor Peter Harman on it and my Residents Association colleague who has a good relationship with the Highway safety people, Peter Harris.

Like · Reply · 1 · 1 hr



**Shelley Sketchley** Utter wankers !!!!!!!

Like · Reply · 4 · 1 hr



Simon J. Ryan replied · 1 Reply



**Peter Harman** Hello Simon, When I saw your posting I went out and had a look, but it is all quiet now! This is really a Police matter, potentially dangerous driving so any resident becoming aware of this should dial 999 for the Police straight away. I will also ensure that is listed for the Town Council's next Anti-Social and Crime meeting so we can discuss it there with the Police to see what they can do



about it. I will also make sure our Highways Officer is made aware; but really there is nothing wrong with the roadway, just the behaviour of these few stupid drivers!

Kind regards

Peter

**Peter Harman (07956) 347419**  
**KCC Member for Swanscombe and Greenhithe**

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To: [graham.blew@swanscombeandgreenhithe.towncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:graham.blew@swanscombeandgreenhithe.towncouncil.gov.uk) [Remove this sender from my allow list](#)  
From: harmanpeter@hotmail.com

*You received this message because the sender is on your allow list.*

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Graham Blew

ASB 29/6/16

**From:** David Hook <David.Hook@dartford.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 01 June 2016 14:32  
**To:** 'Bean Parish Council'; clerk@stoneparishcouncil.com; Graham Blew; 'Ian Armitt'; 'Kathryn Gale-Clerk, Sutton-at-Hone & Hawley Parish Council'; Keith Holmes (darentparishcouncil@btinternet.com); Longfield Parish; Southfleetpc@aol.com  
**Cc:** Sheri Green; Mark Salisbury  
**Subject:** FW: Borough & Parish Forum 5 April 2016 - Role of KCC Wardens in Dartford: Response from KCC Cabinet Member  
**Attachments:** KCC.Cab.Mem.Reply 2ForumChair.25May2016.pdf; Chair'sLetter2KCCof12May2016.pdf  
**Importance:** High

Dear All,

I attach for distribution to your Forum Representatives, a letter of response from the KCC Cabinet Member Mike Hill to Iris Gutteridge's letter of 12 May (also attached for ease of reference).

The mooted discussions between KCC and Dartford Officers [final para. of Councillor Hill's letter] will be undertaken in the coming weeks, once Dartford's new Community Safety Manager, Tony Henley, takes up his duties on 6 June.

Any developments will be reported to the next Forum on 5 July as appropriate.

Kind Regards

David

---

**From:** David Hook  
**Sent:** 31 May 2016 11:38  
**To:** 'iris.gutteridge@talktalk.net'  
**Cc:** Ann Allen; Cllr Kite LineOne; Sheri Green; Mark Salisbury; Alan Twyman  
**Subject:** Borough & Parish Forum 5 April 2016 - Role of KCC Wardens in Dartford: Response from KCC Cabinet Member

Dear Iris,

I attach the response from the KCC Cabinet Member Mike Hill to your letter of 12 May 2016 (also attached for ease of reference).

The Final paragraph of Cllr. Hill's letter proposes that KCC Officers discuss the current arrangements for KCC Wardens in Dartford and the way forward, with Dartford's CSU Manager Mark Salisbury. The outcome of those discussions, if conducted by then, could be reported to the Forum on 5 July.

In the interim, you may wish to consider circulating the KCC response to Parish Clerks for their Members (happy to undertake that on your authority).

I will also *draft* you a short letter of acknowledgement to Cllr. Hill to his effect as you wish.

Kind Regards

David  
*Committee co-ordinator*  
DBC

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Michael Hill OBE – Cabinet Member for Community Services  
Member for Tenterden



Cllr I Gutteridge  
Chair, Dartford Borough & Parish Forum  
Dartford Borough Council  
Civic Centre  
Home Gardens  
Dartford DA1 1DR

31 MAY 2016

Sessions House  
County Hall  
Maidstone  
Kent ME14 1XQ

Direct Dial/Ext: 03000 416240  
E-Mail: michael.hill@kent.gov.uk  
Ask For: Mr Michael Hill  
Date: 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Dear Cllr Gutteridge

Community Warden Service

Thank you for your letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016 regarding the Kent Community Warden Service. The Community Wardens have, for a number of years been providing a high quality, efficient and effective service to the residents of Kent in partnership with numerous agencies including the police, district/borough and parish councils, however I note the concerns you raise in your letter.

As you will be aware, the County Council undertook a public consultation into proposed changes to the service at the end of 2014 and the past year has been spent embedding those changes. The changes, largely to the management, supervisory and back office support for the wardens, also required a realignment of the service to address the imbalance across the county. Please let me reassure you that the service remains fully committed to the proactive, community-based model of delivery for the Kent Community Warden Service and the service will continue to have community concerns at the heart of its ethos. The majority of the Community Wardens taskings come directly from the communities they serve and as mentioned by the Local Community Safety Manager, the wardens also regularly attend the Community Safety Unit and accept tasks through this route. These taskings relate to a variety of community issues that the wardens will deal with either directly, in partnership or through signposting to the relevant agencies.

You will also be encouraged to hear that we have been working closely with the Kent Association of Local Councils to develop a Volunteer Support Warden scheme, which was developed in response to a strong steer from the community and Parish Councils responses to the public consultation. The scheme is being piloted in a number of areas across Kent over the coming year including Swanscombe and Greenhithe.

There is a strong bond between the police and the Kent Community Warden Service who work closely together in addressing community concerns in their neighbourhoods. This has been the case since the inception of the service in 2002 and will only strengthen into the future as a shared intelligence approach develops further. The service also work alongside KCC services such as Trading Standards, Highways, Adult Social Care/Social Services, Schools, and Libraries to deliver a broader range of community support services.

The joint working that has developed over the past year between Trading Standards and the Community Wardens has specifically been in relation to the 'Stop the Scammers' work. The 'scammers' problem' is a significant one; it is now becoming more apparent through the work of Trading Standards and the South East Scams Hub that Britain is witnessing a tidal wave of scams. Victims tend to be single, elderly and lonely, often suffering from dementia at its various stages. Aside from the tragedy of each story, the appalling social consequences and significant additional pressures on adult social services, there are economic consequences. Scamming is increasingly sophisticated and perpetrated by organised crime groups, in effect transferring large sums of money, often life savings, into the criminal sector and removing it from the local economy.

As a result, the problem is not simply a Trading Standards issue but a community safety one. It requires a coordinated partnership response involving a number of agencies including the police. The Community Wardens role within this project is to support those that have been victims; it fits within their role of supporting the vulnerable to live safely within their communities which in turn will have a positive impact upon adult social care.

Whilst I acknowledge your suggestion regarding the management of the wardens by the CSU, this overlooks the fact that these arrangements do not just provide significant benefits to partners but to KCC and ultimately, our Kent residents. The Community Warden Service provides a proactive, reassuring and trusted presence within the community; such trust would not be achieved if the wardens were purely associated with enforcement based activities. KCC has statutory duties in providing social care, protecting the vulnerable and giving young people the best start in life as well as under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998. As such the preventative model they deliver i.e. enabling communities to live independently is fundamental to delivering KCC outcomes. I am concerned that as resources become increasingly stretched amongst the partners and police, the partnership response to crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour will become increasingly reliant upon the community warden service.

I therefore suggest that we continue to build upon and fine tune the current arrangements, which as you have alluded to, work well for the benefit of all partners rather than look to replace them. I will ask Mike Overbeke, Head of Public Protection and Shafick Peerbux, Head of Community Safety to meet with the Dartford Community Safety Manager, Mark Salisbury, to look at how to strengthen that joint relationship.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Hill', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Michael Hill OBE**  
**Cabinet Member for Community Services**

Mike Hill, OBE  
Cabinet Member for Community Services  
Kent County Council  
Sessions House  
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Kent  
ME14 1XX

Please ask for:

Direct Line:

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Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 12 May 2016

Dear Mr Hill,

### **COMMUNITY WARDEN SERVICE**

I am writing to you as Chair of the Dartford Borough & Parish Councils Forum, following a meeting of the Forum on 5 April 2016.

Representatives of the KCC Warden Service had been invited to the Forum to respond to questions and concerns of Parish representatives who had expressed their particular interest in the role of the KCC Wardens and how that role worked with, and in support of, Kent Police officers.

The main discussion revolved around what the Wardens were being tasked to do in the Parishes, whether there was any community input to their tasking, and whether the Warden Service was being 'monopolised' in support of Trading Standards and Social Services duties, as appeared increasingly to be the case, to the detriment of other duties. Parish representatives felt that the traditional focus of the Warden Service in addressing day-to-day community concerns, particularly in the rural Parish environment, was being increasingly dissipated and lost.

The Dartford Community Safety Manager provided some re-assurance to the Forum by explaining that KCC Wardens were represented at least once a week at the Community Safety Unit (CSU) morning briefings, where they participated in the multi-agency information exchange and accepted tasking from CSU Officers. Community Wardens are also provided with support and office facilities, including hot-desk access within the Dartford CSU at the Civic Centre.

The Forum appreciated the benefits that the current arrangements brought to all partners, but felt that the present arrangements could be extended further, so that KCC Wardens are managed within the Dartford CSU and that the work they undertake in the future is co-ordinated by CSU Officers in collaboration with KCC. The Forum felt that such an approach would benefit all the partner organisations and ensure greater joined up delivery for Dartford's residents.

The Leader of Dartford Borough Council and Kent Member Councillor Jeremy Kite MBE was present at the meeting and noted in particular, the Parish concerns over the present Community Warden role as being undertaken in Dartford and fully supported and endorsed the Forum's proposals going forward.

I am sure Jeremy would be happy to discuss these issues with you, if you felt that would be helpful.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Iris Gutteridge, Darenth Parish Council  
Chair, Dartford Borough & Parish Forum

**CC:**

Councillor Ann Allen MBE Vice-Chair DB&P Councils Forum;  
Councillor Jeremy Kite MBE Leader Dartford Borough Council;  
All Dartford Borough & Parish Councils Forum Representatives;  
Shafick Peerbux, Kent County Council, Head of Community Safety;  
Sheri Green, Strategic Director (External Services) Dartford Borough Council;  
Mark Salisbury Dartford EARS & CSU Manager;  
David Hook Member Services DBC