

MINUTES of the MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL 2024 at 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Peter Harris - Chairman
Councillor Peter Harman - Vice-Chairman
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Ann Duke
Councillor Leslie Howes
Councillor Dawn Johnston

ALSO PRESENT: Graham Blew – Town Clerk
Martin Harding – ATC/RFO
Karen Sandland – Kent Police Community Liaison Officer
Paul Parsons – Swanscombe & Greenhithe representative on the Dartford Borough Council Tenants & Leaseholders Forum

ABSENT: Councillor Anita Barham

479/23-24. 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.

480/23-24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Elizabeth Wickham, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was submitted by PC Bayley – Cook.

An apology for absence was submitted by Joanne Appleton – Kent County Council Community Warden.

Recommended: That the reasons for absence, for the Councillors listed, be formally accepted, and approved.

481/23-24. SUBSTITUTES.

There were none.

482/23-24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

As per Standing Order 34 c) the Chairman adjourned the meeting at this point to allow members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business being transacted at the meeting.

483/23-24. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

484/23-24. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2024

A correction was highlighted in relation to minute 425/23-24 to amend Vice-Chairman to Chairman.

Recommended: That, subject to the correction as detailed, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 February 2024 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

485/23-24. KENT POLICE REPORT.

Unfortunately, PC Bayley- Cook was unable to attend but, in his absence, he had submitted the following report which included:

A summary of the current trends in crime statistics, and overview of crime patterns of note within the area such as vehicle thefts, off-road bikes, lorries contravening vehicle restrictions and thefts of bicycles. The report also included an update on partnership work with local businesses and partner agencies.

Members raised a query regarding the continued issue of illegal and obstructive parking on the High Street in Swanscombe affecting traffic flow given the current road closure on Galley Hill. It was agreed that officers write to the Parking Enforcement Manager at Dartford Borough Council to request additional patrols in this area around key times, 8am to 9am, 12noon to 2pm and 4pm to 6pm. It was also agreed that the x 2 Dartford Borough Councillors for Swanscombe would be included in this correspondence.

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Karen Sandland, Kent Police Community Liaison Officer (CLO) to the meeting.

A short presentation, along with questions, was then undertaken by Karen Sandland to outline the role of a CLO. The primary function of the CLO is to seek out, engage with and build relationships with as many diverse groups within the community. The role also includes improving public confidence in Kent Police and working alongside the Independent Advisory Groups who challenge current police procedures and practices.

Recommended:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That officers write to the Parking Enforcement Manager at Dartford Borough Council, along with the x 2 Dartford Borough Councillors for Swanscombe, to request additional patrols in Swanscombe High Street as detailed.
3. That Community Liaison Officer, Karen Sandland, be thanked for her attendance and presentation.

486/23-24. KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (KCC) COMMUNITY WARDENS REPORT.

Unfortunately, the KCC Community Warden was unable to attend but, in her absence, Joanne Appleton had submitted the following report which included:

A summary of the work being undertaken through the service including tackling isolation and inclusion, health and wellbeing and supporting vulnerable persons. Specific details of challenges with abandoned vehicles, financial concerns, neighbour disputes were highlighted.

It was confirmed that the service had supported the Swanscombe Food Cellar with its relocation and officers had attended the support group based out of the methodist Church.

Recommended: That the report be noted.

187/23-24. COMMUNITY SAFETY LIAISON.

Neighbourhood Watch – The Chairman confirmed that a meeting had been held today which had been attended by PCSO Mitchell.

Community Speed Watch – The next session was scheduled to be held in the next 2 weeks.

Lorry Watch - Lead Member, Councillor Elizabeth Wickham was unable to attend but, in her absence, she had submitted a report which included:

“Lorry watch continues with weekly or fortnightly watches with volunteer Councillors and residents with lorries being recorded on Thursday or Saturdays. Residents and local business owners tell us that they appreciate us being there and some have told us about damage to their cars from passing lorries (usually in the early hours of the morning) along Stanhope Road and these residents have been encouraged to inform the Police.”

Recommended: That those who provided reports be thanked and the information be noted.

488/23-24. **DETAILED ANALYSIS OF CRIME STATISTICS FOR SWANSCOMBE AND GREENHITHE.**

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

Members were pleased to see that the stats for Swanscombe and for Greenhithe seemed to indicate a decline in crime.

Recommended:

That the information be noted.

There were no confidential items to be discussed.

There being no further business to transact, the Meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Signed _____

Chairman

Date

CSC 3/7/24

As I am covering three parishes I will try to provide you with a brief monthly report. This will give you a regular update on what is happening within the area. I attend Swanscombe on a Thursday and Friday.

Referrals:

The Dartford and Gravesham Community Warden team continue to respond to referrals from SECAM, Social services, Kent Police and Trading Standards of welfare/safeguarding concerns regarding vulnerable residents throughout Swanscombe and Greenhithe.

• Isolation and inclusion:

We will continue to recommend groups to residents who feel isolated and need help in improving their well-being.

• Health and Wellbeing:

We will continue to deliver advice and referrals to relevant partners for support i.e., GP, MDT, charities and food bank aid.

• Vulnerable persons:

We will provide support and advice in reporting incidents of alleged crime/fraud to Trading standards and Kent police.

As you are aware the Methodist church is closing and a new location for the food bank will be required. The food bank provides food to people who have difficulty buying enough food and feeds families throughout Swanscombe. Support is needed to find a new location.

Whilst showing VP the following concerns have been raised and resolved:

- Off road electric bike, green and purple speeding in the area reported to 101 on several occasions.
- Issues regarding buses not arriving – advised residents to call Arriva and complain. This seems to be a regular concern to residents.
- Welfare concerns raised and reports to CSU
- Abandoned vehicle parked on double yellow lines in Swanscombe Street: Reported to DBC and the vehicle has now moved.
- Church Rd – Drain cover makes a noise when cars travel over it and the road is sinking around it. Reported to highways Ref: 807444
- Resident raised concerns that their neighbours garden is encroaching on their garden. I contacted DBC housing for assistance and have been advised that works will be carried out to resolve the issue.
- Whilst attending the lunch group I provided residents information on Loan Sharks.
- Reports that a resident is not living in the council property and the house remains empty. Reported to DBC housing and they have contacted resident.
- Concerns have been raised regarding off road bikes and road legal bikes using the footpath to the rear of the properties in Leonard Avenue that overlooks Whitecliffe. I did send an email to PC Bayley-Coo regarding this but I haven't had a response.

- Resident raised concerns about their mental health. Advice given and contacts for further assistance.
- Drug intelligence forwarded to the CSU

Martin Harding

From: BAILEY, Ron [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 May 2024 14:28
To: BAILEY, Ron
Subject: FW: Safety of Lithium ion Batteries and e-bikes and scooters
Attachments: the-safety-bill-updated ESF.pdf; Fires May 2024.xlsx; Logos May 2024.mhtml

[WARNING] This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Local Council

I am writing to ask your Council to support our campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries (used in e-bike and e-scooters) and their disposal.

Let me begin by introducing myself. I am the researcher for Lord (Don) Foster (hence my email address), who has been campaigning on this issue in the House of Lords. I am also the parliamentary advisor to Electrical Safety First, a UK Charity dedicated to reducing the deaths and injuries caused by electricity.

As you will probably know lithium battery fires are on the increase – there have been over 1000 in the past few years, nearly 200 injuries and a dozen fatalities. Homes have been destroyed. The cost to the UK runs into £billions. You will doubtless know of examples in your area. I attach a spreadsheet of some recent fires – as you will see there have been some in your area.

Lord Foster and Electrical Safety First are promoting the attached Bill (a summary of which is included at the end of this email) to ensure greater safety in the use and disposal of lithium batteries and are aiming to get it into law as soon as possible. It has its First Reading on 5th June.

We have the support of many national organisations, as the attached logos show – including the National Fire Chiefs Council, the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and the Royal Society for Public Health. In addition 2 coroners have called for the law to be tightened to ensure greater safety.

We are now contacting more locally based organisations, and it would be great if your Council was able to support this campaign. It would be a great boost.

Please do get in touch if you require any further information.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

Ron Bailey

PS Don't worry if you are not meeting before June 5th. That is only the 1st Reading – other stages will follow, so you won't be too late. Your support will be valuable at any time.

This page is intentionally left blank.

The Safety of Electric-Powered Micromobility Vehicles and Lithium Batteries Bill

A Bill to make provisions regarding the safety of electric-powered micromobility vehicles and of lithium batteries; to give duties to the Secretary of State regarding those matters; and for connected purposes.

1. The safety of electric-powered micromobility vehicles and secondary lithium-ion batteries used to power such vehicles

(1) No person shall after 31st August 2025 place on the UK market any electric-powered micromobility vehicle or a secondary lithium-ion battery used to power such vehicles unless –

(a) conformity assessment procedures have been carried out by a conformity assessment body ('CAB') authorised by the Secretary of State to carry out such assessments; and

(b) the manufacturer has drawn up the technical documentation and declaration of conformity; and

(c) the electric-powered micromobility vehicle and the battery used to power such vehicles bear the CE or UKCA mark to demonstrate conformity with designated or harmonised standards.

(2) The Secretary of State must within 6 months of the passing of this Act publish a list of CABs recognised as being able to carry out conformity assessment procedures pursuant to subsection (1).

(3) Where in the opinion of a CAB, a product covered by this Act has successfully met the essential safety requirements of applicable regulations, it shall issue a certificate of conformity to the manufacturer.

(4) Where a certificate of conformity has been issued pursuant to subsection (3) a manufacturer must display a CE or a UKCA mark on any product covered by this Act before it is placed on the UK market.

(5) No person shall display a CE or a UKCA mark on any product covered by this Act unless a certificate of conformity has been issued for the product given in accordance with this Act.

2. Disposal of Secondary Lithium-ion Batteries

(1) The Secretary of State must, within 6 months of the passing of this Act, make regulations regarding the safe disposal of lithium batteries.

(2) The regulations made pursuant to subsection (1) may include a requirement for sellers of such batteries to:

(a) Display a prominent warning about the dangers of improper disposal of lithium batteries not in accordance with those regulations; and

(b) Attach as part of the sale

- (i) Information regarding the cell chemistry of lithium batteries and;
- (ii) information regarding the safe disposal of such batteries.

3. Duties of the Secretary of State

(1) (1) The Secretary of State must, within 12 months of the passing of this Act, make regulations

(a) Specifying safety standards for micromobility vehicle conversion kits and associated components; and

(b) Requiring that all micromobility vehicles have either

(i) a non-proprietary charging system with a communications protocol;
or

(ii) a proprietary charging system with a matched charger

and such regulations may include details of the means by which those standards will be enforced and the penalties for failing to comply with those standards.

(2) The Secretary of State must within 6 months of the passing of this Act consult such persons as he considers have an interest in this matter on whether to implement an interim measure which prohibits the sale of universal chargers for electric-powered micromobility vehicles until such time as the regulations detailed in (1) (a) or (1) (b) come into force.

4. Offences

Any person who fails to comply with the terms of this Act commits an offence.

5. Interpretation

In this Act, the following terms have the following meanings:

- 'Electric-powered micromobility' means electric scooters or electric bicycles powered by secondary lithium-ion batteries, as defined in the Department of Transport 2020 publication 'Future of Transport Regulatory Review Moving Britain Ahead Call for Evidence'.
- 'A lithium battery' is a non-rechargeable battery with lithium as an anode.
- 'A secondary lithium-ion battery' is a type of rechargeable battery in which the main reaction is the transport and intercalation of lithium ions into the cathode and anode respectively as defined in the BEIS Research Paper No 2020/037 entitled 'Domestic Battery Energy Storage Systems A Review of Safety Risks'.
- 'A proprietary charging system' comprises of a manufacturer specified plug and socket system designed only to operate in combination with each other.

- 'A non-proprietary charging system' comprises of a non-manufacturer specified plug and socket system consisting of a standardised plug and socket and a communications protocol.
- 'A communications protocol' is a set of formal rules describing how to transmit or exchange data.
- 'A CE marking' means a mark consisting of the symbol "CE" set out in the form specified by the Secretary of State in regulations made pursuant to this Act.
- A 'UKCA' marking is a UK Conformity Assessed marking displayed in the form specified by the Secretary of State in regulations made pursuant to this Act.
- A conversion kit is the electrical drive train, battery and charging system, that is fitted to a regular pedal bicycle to convert it to an electric bike.

6. Regulations

(1) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the passing of this Act, make regulations specifying:

- (a) Any amendments to the definition of the term 'electric-powered micromobility' that, in the Secretary of State's opinion, are necessary.
- (b) The penalties that shall apply to breaches of this Act.

(2) Regulations under this Act shall be made by statutory instrument pursuant to the negative resolution procedure.

7. Extent, Commencement, and Short Title

(1) This Act extends to the whole of the UK, subject to resolutions being passed by

- (a) The Scottish Parliament;
- (b) Senedd Cymru;
- (c) The Northern Ireland Assembly

applying it to their respective countries.

(2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.

(3) This Act may be cited as the Safety of Electric-Powered Micromobility and Lithium Batteries Act 2023."

This page is intentionally left blank.

Cookies

We use some essential cookies to make our website work. We'd like to set additional cookies so we can remember your preferences and understand how you use our site.

You can manage your preferences and cookie settings at any time by clicking on "Customise Cookies" below. For more information on how we use cookies, please see our [Cookies notice](#).

Accept cookies

Reject cookies

Customise cookies



Your cookie preferences have been saved. You can update your cookie settings at any time on the [cookies page](#).

Your cookie preferences have been saved. You can update your cookie settings at any time on the [cookies page](#).



Sorry, there was a technical problem. Please try again.



POLICE.UK



Swanscombe

[View area boundary](#)

[Search another area](#)

Overview

Top reported crimes

Most commonly reported crimes during Apr 2024

Violence and sexual offences 28

Criminal damage and arson 6

Other theft 6

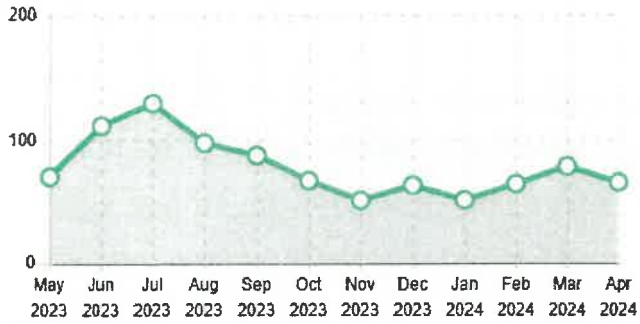
Public order 5

[Get crime prevention advice](#)

Crime levels overview

Crime for last year

Crime per Month



[View as a list](#)

Crime levels overview

Month	Total	Percentage
May 2023	70	7.5%
Jun 2023	111	11.9%
Jul 2023	129	13.8%
Aug 2023	97	10.4%
Sep 2023	87	9.3%
Oct 2023	67	7.2%
Nov 2023	51	5.5%
Dec 2023	63	6.8%
Jan 2024	51	5.5%
Feb 2024	64	6.9%
Mar 2024	78	8.4%
Apr 2024	65	7%

Your local policing team

▼ About us



Local policing teams are groups of officers dedicated to serving the community. Teams are made up of officers based in the area, supported by additional officers from the wider area.

Teams work closely with local authorities, organisations, partners and residents to decide policing priorities. This helps teams find long-term solutions to local problems.

▼ **Your team**

Inspector

Lee Cheesman

Sergeant

Steve Grasty

PC

Ben Bayley-Cook

▼ **Policing priorities**

There are no policing priorities available to display.

▼ **Meetings and events**

There are no meetings or events scheduled.

▼ **Contact**

Contact your local policing team

Contact details

Contact details for this team aren't available.

Search for another area

Find local areas, police forces, crime levels and statistics using the search box below. Enter a postcode, street address or area.

Location search controls

Search for another area Enter postcode or address 

Cookies

We use some essential cookies to make our website work. We'd like to set additional cookies so we can remember your preferences and understand how you use our site.

You can manage your preferences and cookie settings at any time by clicking on "Customise Cookies" below. For more information on how we use cookies, please see our [Cookies notice](#).

Accept cookies

Reject cookies

Customise cookies



Your cookie preferences have been saved. You can update your cookie settings at any time on the [cookies page](#).

Your cookie preferences have been saved. You can update your cookie settings at any time on the [cookies page](#).



Sorry, there was a technical problem. Please try again.



POLICE.UK



Greenhithe and Knockhall

[View area boundary](#)

[Search another area](#)

Overview

Top reported crimes

Most commonly reported crimes during Apr 2024

Violence and sexual offences 11

Vehicle crime 9

Anti-social behaviour 5

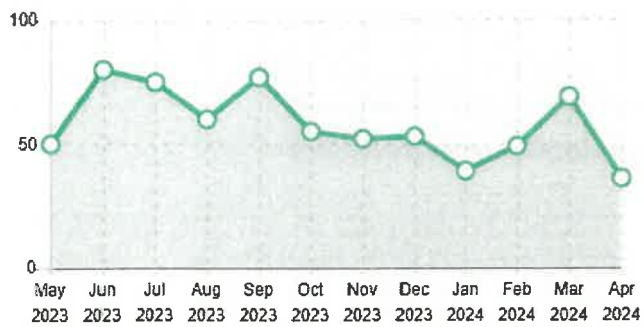
Other theft 3

[Get crime prevention advice](#)

Crime levels overview

Crime for last year

Crime per Month



[View as a list](#)

Crime levels overview

Month	Total	Percentage
May 2023	50	7.2%
Jun 2023	80	11.5%
Jul 2023	75	10.8%
Aug 2023	60	8.6%
Sep 2023	77	11.1%
Oct 2023	55	7.9%
Nov 2023	52	7.5%
Dec 2023	53	7.6%
Jan 2024	39	5.6%
Feb 2024	49	7.1%
Mar 2024	69	9.9%
Apr 2024	36	5.2%

Your local policing team

▼ About us



Local policing teams are groups of officers dedicated to serving the community. Teams are made up of officers based in the area, supported by additional officers from the wider area.

Teams work closely with local authorities, organisations, partners and residents to decide policing priorities. This helps teams find long-term solutions to local problems.

▼ **Your team**

Inspector

Lee Cheesman

Sergeant

Steve Grasty

PC

Ben Bayley-Cook

▼ **Policing priorities**

There are no policing priorities available to display.

▼ **Meetings and events**

There are no meetings or events scheduled.

▼ **Contact**

Contact your local policing team

Contact details

Contact details for this team aren't available.

Search for another area

Find local areas, police forces, crime levels and statistics using the search box below. Enter a postcode, street address or area.

Location search controls

Search for another area Enter postcode or address 