

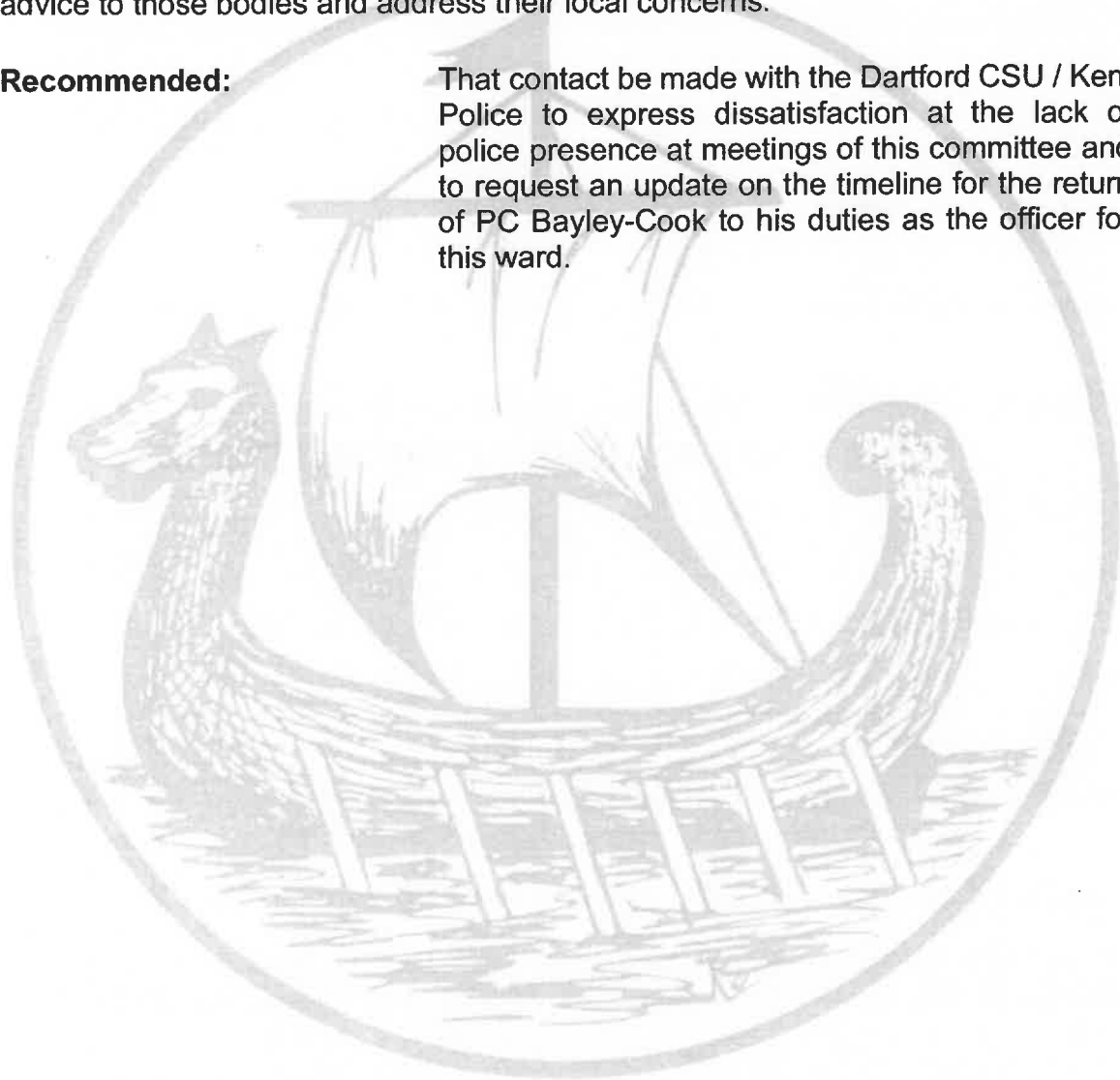
87/24-25. **KENT POLICE REPORT.**

Unfortunately, both PC Bayley- Cook and PCSO Mitchell were unable to attend, and no formal report had been submitted.

Members expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of police presence, as it was noted that at the Dartford Borough Council Crime & Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee meeting from February 2024, it was recorded that Dartford's CSU Police Sargeant would resume attendance at Dartford Parish Council meetings to give advice to those bodies and address their local concerns.

Recommended:

That contact be made with the Dartford CSU / Kent Police to express dissatisfaction at the lack of police presence at meetings of this committee and to request an update on the timeline for the return of PC Bayley-Cook to his duties as the officer for this ward.



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EXTRACT OF CORRESPONDENCE

From: Lee Cheesman INSP 46010801
Sent: 09 July 2024 11:31
To: Martin Harding
Cc: Rob Wilkinson PS 46009918, Adam Rafter PC 46014677
Subject: Reply: Police Contact Details

Good morning Martin,

Firstly, let me apologise for there being no one from Kent Police at the meeting. We do strive to attend as many meetings as possible, but with the CSU not being fully staffed yet and the abstractions required for the general election, meant that what resources I did have were stretched very thin.

With regards to PC Bayley-Cook, I have spoken to Peter Harris about his abstractions and the fact that this will be very protracted. As such I have a new member of staff starting this week. PC Adam RAFTER will be taking over the wards that PC Bayley-Cook had been looking after, so this will assist you.

With regards the parking, I know that this has been discussed many times. PCSO's do attend as part of the patrol strategy and when it is witnessed by police then the offenders are moved on and educated. The Local policing teams have also been briefed regarding this issue and although not dedicated to wards, should hopefully deal with parking infringements if not responding to emergency calls. PC Bayley-Cook updated me that most of the time when he has been there, they are parking on the double and single yellow line which falls within the remit of DBC, but he would usually give stern words of advice and move them on. We have spoken to local businesses as well about their customers doing this and they have been engaging in the conversation but not really on the actions front.

I know PC Bayley-Cook has suggested that there is lobbying against KCC to re design the high street with barriers and bollards to stop the ready access to the paths from illegally parked vehicles and to place traffic enforcement cameras in the area.

Hopefully with PC Rafter joining the team, he will link in with you and pick up this issue as one of his first duties to understand the issue fully and look for a more permanent solution.

Lee

Lee Cheesman | Inspector 10801 | Dartford Community Safety Unit | Kent Police



**Kent
Police**



From: Martin Harding
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 10:34 AM
To: Lee Cheesman INSP 46010801
Cc: Karen Sandland 46061195
Subject: Police Contact Details

Good morning Inspector Cheesman

Further to my email exchange with Karen Sandland, below, I wanted to make contact with you at the request of the members of the Town Councils Community Safety Committee.

The Committee met on Wednesday 3 July 2024 and would normally have a representative from Kent Police present to discuss key issues affecting the community, but on this occasion no officer attended. It was noted at the meeting that when the Dartford Borough Council Crime & Disorder (Overview & Scrutiny) Committee met in February, Kent Police stated that a Sergeant would resume attendance at Dartford Parish Council meetings to give advice to those bodies and address local concerns.

Are you able to advise what the plans are for Kent Police regarding attendance at Parish Council meetings as members were disappointed not to have any officer present or any form of update on 3 July?

The Town Council would normally work closely with our local officer PC Ben Bayley-Cook. We had been made aware that he was working outside the area on secondment. This has been the case for quite some time and leaves Swanscombe and Greenhithe without a dedicated PC. Are you able to provide any timeline on the likely return to duties for PC Bayley-Cook?

The final point that the committee requested to be raised with yourselves was regarding the enforcement of traffic offences in relation to the zig-zag lines on the crossing in Swanscombe High Street. On many previous occasions this point has been raised and is still a major concern given the road closures and diversion routes caused by the collapse of Galley Hill Road. Are you able to provide any assurances that officers are actively enforcing these offences when possible, and are you able to provide any statistics on the number of fines / tickets issued at this location over the last 12 months?

Many thanks in advance for taking the time to consider this email and we look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Harding

Assistant Town Clerk / RFO

Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council

During August I was on annual leave for two weeks and therefore not in area. Any referrals were carried out by the Dartford and Gravesham team. On the 26 September we will know what areas we will be covering throughout Dartford and Gravesham and I will notify you as soon as possible.

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.

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

- Residents are increasingly concerned about the tent erected near the play area in Heritage Park. I have liaised with Kent police and Alan has insured me that there is no concern. As you are aware they have been offered support from Porchlight and DBC but remain.
- Reports of youths damaging a property in Irving Rd have been reported to DBC housing due to the property looking unoccupied. This is under investigation.
- Bush on the corner of Leonard Ave and Boleyn Way is over hanging the footpath. This has been reported to Highways ref: 825799 – waiting a response.
- Whilst attending the lunch club I have made many referrals to KFRS to support residents.
- Referral made to IMAGO in supporting a resident financially.
- Supporting a resident in getting their child back into education after a year of no support. This is ongoing.
- Internal damage to a flat in Darent Way that can be viewed from the roadside has been reported to DBC housing to organise a welfare check.

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88/24-25. **KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (KCC) COMMUNITY WARDENS REPORT.**

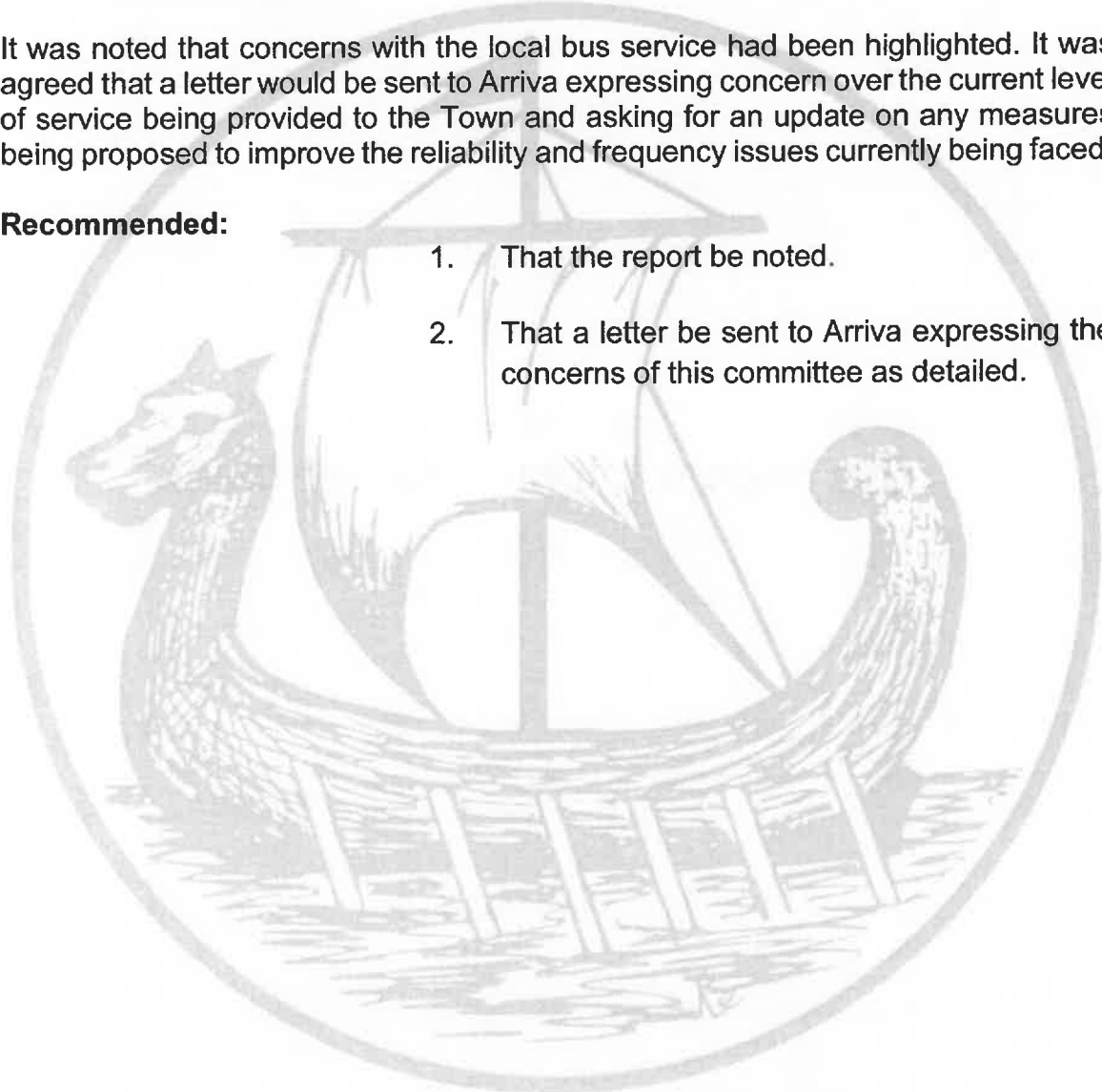
Unfortunately, the KCC Community Warden was unable to attend but, in her absence, Joanne Appleton had submitted the following report which included:

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 off road bikes, abandoned vehicles and neighbour disputes were highlighted.

It was noted that concerns with the local bus service had been highlighted. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to Arriva expressing concern over the current level of service being provided to the Town and asking for an update on any measures being proposed to improve the reliability and frequency issues currently being faced.

Recommended:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That a letter be sent to Arriva expressing the concerns of this committee as detailed.



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EXTRACT OF CORRESPONDANCE

From: Michael Jennings <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, July 4, 2024 4:00 PM
To: Martin Harding <rfo@swanscombeandgreenhithetowncouncil.gov.uk>
Cc: Tony Bull <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Service Levels and Improvements

Hi Martin,

Graham has retired.

We're aware of the issues and are putting in place some revised timetables and route patterns from 28th July.

The road closure at Galley Hill has caused huge disruption to the bus network. Whilst initially it was thought that the closure would be a relatively short term one and that a temporary change to the bus network was needed which we put in place soon after the closure, it is now apparent that the closure is becoming a lot more longer term, and hence we need further changes to the network. The closure has also caused significant levels of traffic congestion, both going through Swanscombe, but also on the junction of A2260 and International Way which has caused delays to services, which are exacerbated when there are any issues on the A2.

The biggest issue I'm aware of is of missing buses or late buses on the 483. The main drivers of this issue are the traffic delays I've highlighted above, and our challenges with the size of vehicle we can use in Swanscombe due to the parking. Unfortunately we did have an issue a few months ago when we had too many small buses off the road for mechanical issues, but we addressed this by bringing into the depot additional small vehicles to help address this and as far as I'm aware this is not an issue any more. In addition, from 28th July, the 483 will operate just to Gravesend and not onwards to Kings Farm, which will reduce the potential for disruption on the route but also allow us to schedule additional running time and recovery time in the timetable to make it more robust. The revised timetable has been built using realtime GPS data to help it be more robust.

The other issue that has been brought to my attention has been that since we introduced the temporary timetable on the 480/490, the direct link between Swanscombe George and Dragon and Bluewater has been lost. From 28th July this link will be reinstated. The 480/490 route will be standardised to operate Gravesend – Swanscombe - Bluewater – Dartford – Temple Hill up to every 10 minutes.

Hopefully the changes we're making from 28th July will both improve the reliability of services and also offer the links that residents of Swanscombe need.

Are there any other issues that I've not covered above?

Regards

Michael Jennings

Head of Commercial

Arriva Southern Counties

Kent, Medway, Essex and Southend

Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire

From: Martin Harding
Sent: Thursday, July 4, 2024 2:54 PM
To: Arriva - Graham Wykes [REDACTED]
Subject: Service Levels and Improvements

Good afternoon Graham

At a meeting yesterday evening the Town Council discussed and raised concerns regarding the current level of service being delivered along Arriva bus routes through the areas of Swanscombe and Greenhithe.

Councillors have been receiving negative feedback from residents in relation to buses not arriving at all, being late and general issues with accessing services, including the Arriva App.

Are you in a position to provide the Town Council with any update on how Arriva is proposing to improve its current service to this community so we can help you to inform residents of any changes to restore trust in the local public transport network.

Many thanks in advance.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Harding
Assistant Town Clerk / RFO

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Swanscombe

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Overview

Top reported crimes

Most commonly reported crimes during Jul 2024

Violence and sexual offences 22

Anti-social behaviour 10

Criminal damage and arson 8

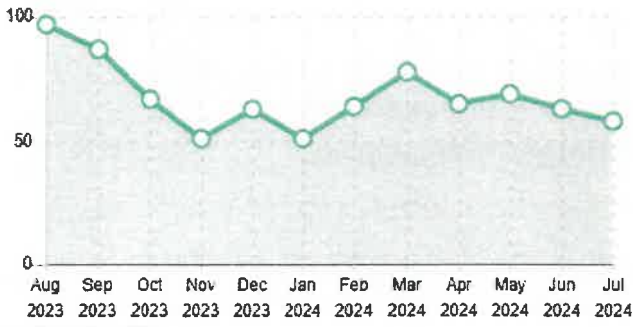
Vehicle crime 6

[Get crime prevention advice](#)

Crime levels overview

Crime for last year

Crime per Month



[View as a list](#)

Crime levels overview

Month	Total	Percentage
Aug 2023	97	11.9%
Sep 2023	87	10.7%
Oct 2023	67	8.2%
Nov 2023	51	6.3%
Dec 2023	63	7.7%
Jan 2024	51	6.3%
Feb 2024	64	7.9%
Mar 2024	78	9.6%
Apr 2024	65	8%
May 2024	69	8.5%
Jun 2024	63	7.7%
Jul 2024	58	7.1%

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

Community Liaison Officer

Karen Sandland

▼ **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.

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Greenhithe and Knockhall

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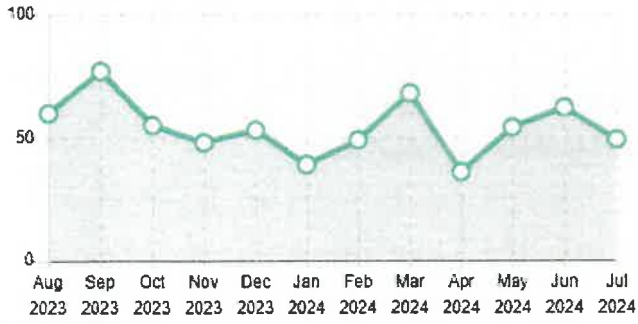
Public order 4

Get crime prevention advice

Crime levels overview

Crime for last year

Crime per Month



[View as a list](#)

Crime levels overview

Month	Total	Percentage
Aug 2023	60	9.2%
Sep 2023	77	11.8%
Oct 2023	55	8.5%
Nov 2023	48	7.4%
Dec 2023	53	8.2%
Jan 2024	39	6%
Feb 2024	49	7.5%
Mar 2024	68	10.5%
Apr 2024	36	5.5%
May 2024	54	8.3%
Jun 2024	62	9.5%
Jul 2024	49	7.5%

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