

MINUTES of the MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER 2024 at 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Peter Harris - Chairman
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Ann Duke
Councillor Hazel Stephens
Councillor Elizabeth Wickham

ALSO PRESENT: Martin Harding – ATC/RFO
PC Adam Rafter – Kent Police
Paul Parsons – Member of the Kent Police Independent Advisory Group
X2 members of the public

ABSENT: There were none

185/24-25. 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.

186/24-25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Lesley Howes, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Dawn Johnston, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from the Town Clerk, due to other commitments.

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

187/24-25. SUBSTITUTES.

There were none.

188/24-25. 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.

189/24-25. **ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.**

There were none.

190/24-25. **TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 JULY 2024**

Recommended: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 July 2024 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

191/24-25. **KENT POLICE REPORT.**

PC Adam Rafter introduced himself to the meeting as the new officer for the areas of Swanscombe, Greenhithe and Ebbsfleet.

PC Rafter gave a brief summary of the work that was being undertaken in relation to enforcement of vehicles on the High Street, Swanscombe, the recent knife related incident in Greenhithe, additional training to enforce weight offences on lorries coming through the Town.

Members briefly took the opportunity to point out hot spot areas within the Town for congregation of cars and potential drug taking.

Recommended: That PC Rafter be thanked for this attendance and the report provided.

192/24-25. **KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (KCC) COMMUNITY WARDENS REPORT.**

Unfortunately, the KCC Community Warden did not 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 rough sleepers, anti-social behaviour and general support were highlighted.

Recommended: That the report be noted.

193/24-25. **COMMUNITY SAFETY LIAISON.**

Ebbsfleet Development Corporation – The Chairman confirmed that a planning application had been submitted for the closure of the vehicle access point on Mounts Road to move construction traffic to the Watling Street entrance.

Neighbourhood Watch – The Chairman explained that Cllr Stephens led the Neighbourhood Watch for Ingress Park but that there was nothing new to report. The ATC/RFO read out and emailed report from the Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch which included the pledge to hold another public meeting in the coming months.

Community Speed Watch – The sessions in Ingress Park were struggling for volunteers and work was continuing to secure a Speed Gun.

Dartford Borough Council (CSU) – The Chairman briefly read out the excerpt from the recent meeting of the Crime & Overview Scrutiny Committee which detailed the results of the Kent Police Survey.

Lorry Watch - Lead Member, Councillor Elizabeth Wickham confirmed that Lorry Watch was coming up to its one-year anniversary and she would be placing details of work undertaken on Social Media. The group now had 10 registered volunteers with 5 regulars. The group was still forwarding data through the Town Council Officers to the Freight Department at Kent County Council, but also reporting via the Kent Police dedicated portal.

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

194/24-25. **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 7.55pm.

Signed _____
Chairman Date