

MINUTES of the MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2025 at 7.00 PM

**PRESENT:** Councillor Peter Harris – Chairman  
Councillor Dawn Johnston – Vice Chairman  
Councillor Lorna Cross  
Councillor Ann Duke  
Councillor Paul Parsons  
Councillor Graham Taylor (substituting for Councillor Lesley Howes)  
Councillor Elizabeth Wickham

**ALSO PRESENT:** Graham Blew – Town Clerk  
Martin Harding – ATC/RFO

**ABSENT:** There were none

**401/24-25. 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.

**402/24-25. 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 Hazel Stephens, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from Kent Police Officer, PC Adam Rafter

An apology for absence was received from Kent County Council Community Warden, Angela Jarrett.

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

**403/24-25. SUBSTITUTES.**

Councillor Graham Taylor substituted for Councillor Lesley Howes.

**404/24-25. 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.***

**405/24-25. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.**

There were none.

**406/24-25. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2024**

**Recommended:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 December 2024 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

**407/24-25. KENT POLICE REPORT.**

Unfortunately, Kent Police were unable to attend but, in his absence, PC Adam Rafter had submitted a report which included:

A current Police priority was tackling vehicle theft. An update on enforcement levels in relation to HGV's moving through the town and issues with signage around the roundabout leading from Castle Hill. Patrols disrupting drug activity and suggestions of an increase in off-road motorcycle activity that did not match reporting levels.

PC Rafter had also submitted details relating to a Police Cadet initiative to survey vehicle users of Swanscombe High Street regarding parking choices. Members reviewed the proposed survey questions and asked for confirmation of the date of the survey so members could attend if possible.

Members asked that a request be sent to Dartford Borough Council (DBC) Parking Enforcement Team about the possibility of undertaking enforcement activity in the evening.

**Recommended:**

1. That PC Rafter be thanked for providing the report.
2. That a request be sent to DBC Parking Enforcement regarding undertaking activity in the evening on Swanscombe High Street
3. That a request be sent to Kent Highways regarding plain English signage on the roundabout at Castle Hill confirming no HGV access to Manor Way Industrial Estate.
4. To agree the survey questions proposed for the Police Cadet activity on Swanscombe High Street and request for the date so members could attend in support.

**408/24-25. KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (KCC) COMMUNITY WARDENS REPORT.**

Unfortunately, the KCC Community Warden was unable to attend but, in her absence, Angela Jarrett had submitted a report which included:

ASB – Youths on motorised bikes and thefts, ASB – Family's targeted by neighbours. Agencies interventions are addressing these concerns, Neighbourhood disputes and conflicts are occurring in various areas that are being addressed, provision of safety talks and issuing trading standards doorstep warning stickers to vulnerable adults, reported drainage and road surface defects on Keary Road and Gunn Road to Kent Highway Services.

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

**409/24-25. COMMUNITY SAFETY LIAISON.**

Ebbfleet Development Corporation – The Chairman confirmed that the current Mounts Road construction entrance was scheduled to change to emergency access only by Easter 2025.

Neighbourhood Watch – The Chairman explained that no meeting had been held for the Ingress Park Neighbourhood Watch.

A report was read out from Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch confirming that they continued to work with partner agencies to tackle issues important to the area and had recently formed a partnership with Lorry Watch. The next meeting of the Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch would be on Monday 24 February 2025 at 7.00pm in the Heritage Community Hall.

Community Speed Watch – The Chairman confirmed that no recent session had taken place.

Lorry Watch - Lead Member, Councillor Elizabeth Wickham confirmed that inclement weather had limited watch activity, but a few had taken place with no lorries observed. Residents were still submitting images which were being sent on to Kent Police via the portal. Councillor Wickham confirmed that she was due to attend the Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch meeting to talk about Lorry Watch.

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



**410/24-25. DETAILED ANALYSIS OF CRIME STATISTICS FOR SWANSCOMBE AND GREENHITHE.**

Members were provided with, and discussed, the up to date (as of November 2024) 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 but noted that early indications were that the figures for December were higher.

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

**411/24-25. DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL – COMMUNITY SAFETY PRIORITIES SURVEY.**

Members were asked to consider whether to submit a response to the survey from Dartford Borough Council regarding the Community Safety Priorities – Public Consultation 2025.

The survey was previously emailed to members with a deadline of 2 March 2025.

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/Interview/83e34a1c-094a-40f6-a551-565258b4046b>

After discussion it was agreed that members should complete the survey individually rather than as a group.

**Recommended:** That members complete the survey as individuals.

**412/24-25. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.**

MOVED BY Councillor Dawn Johnston and seconded by Councillor Ann Duke

**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 items of business.

413/24-25. **KENT POLICE – STAFFING MATTERS.**

Members considered a verbal update on Kent Police staffing matters and the latest edition of Kent PCC News.

**Recommended:** That an invitation be sent to the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner to attend the next meeting of this Committee.

There being no further business to transact, the Meeting closed at 7.45pm

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

