

MINUTES of the MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 2 JULY 2025 at 7.00 PM

**PRESENT:** Councillor Peter Harris – Chairman  
Councillor Dawn Johnston  
Councillor Lorna Cross  
Councillor Lesley Howes  
Councillor Paul Parsons  
Councillor Hazel Stephens  
Councillor Elizabeth Wickham

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Richard Lees  
Councillor Graham Taylor  
Graham Blew – Town Clerk  
Martin Harding – ATC/RFO  
PC Adam Rafter – Kent Police  
Lewis Gilbert – Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch  
x3 members of the public

**ABSENT:** There were none

**87/25-26. 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.

**88/25-26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Ann Duke, due to other commitments.

**Recommended:** That the reason for absence, for the Councillor listed, be formally accepted, and approved.

**89/25-26. SUBSTITUTES.**

There were none.

**90/25-26. 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.***

A resident expressed their dissatisfaction with the content of the Dartford Borough Council response to the request from the Town Council for additional parking enforcement on Swanscombe High Street.

**91/25-26. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.**

There were none.

**92/25-26. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 APRIL 2025**

**Recommended:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 April 2025 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

**93/25-26. KENT POLICE REPORT.**

PC Rafter gave a summary of the current policing levels in the Borough and explained that challenges were being faced ensuring that Neighbourhood policing was not being drafted into other areas of work.

PC Rafter explained that work was ongoing with reducing car thefts across Dartford and investigations had taken place in the area regarding an incident of dangerous driving, a mistakenly suspected firearm and issues with catapults.

PC Rafter also confirmed that he would be holding his regularly surgeries over the coming weeks in both Swanscombe and Greenhithe.

**Recommended:** That PC Rafter be thanked for his attendance and contribution to the meeting.

**94/25-26. 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 neighbour disputes, youth anti-social behaviour and a request for more volunteers to help at the Swanscombe Senior Lunch Club.

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

**95/25-26. VEHICULAR ACCESS AND ENFORCEMENT – SWANSCOMBE.**

Further to minute 407/25-26 (Community Safety Committee – 9 April 2025) Members requested further requests be made to Dartford Borough Parking Enforcement in relation to vehicle access and enforcement with Swanscombe.

Members echoed the comments raised by the resident during the public section that the most recent email from Dartford Borough Council (DBC) regarding additional enforcement in Swanscombe High Street was disappointing.

Members had been provided with some additional statistical information regarding the amounts of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) and enforcement visits, which had

been sent to the Town Council from a resident following a Freedom of Information request to DBC.

Members discussed the financial implications of providing additional parking enforcement and the legal process / statute under which enforcement is undertaken.

**Recommended:**

1. That a further request for additional parking enforcement be sent to DBC via the Dartford Borough Councillors for Swanscombe.
2. That an invitation be extended to Dartford Borough Councillor Richard Wells - Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Community Safety & Youth, to discuss this at a future meeting.
3. That contact be made with the Kent County Council Member for Swanscombe & Greenhithe to request their involvement as the overarching authority with responsibility for road safety and traffic management.

96/25-26. **COMMUNITY SAFETY LIAISON.**

Ingress Park Neighbourhood Watch – Councillor Hazel Stephens confirmed that the regular issues facing the area were continuing.

Lewis Gilbert from Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch advised that a plan was in place to hold two separate meetings of the Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch, one with and one without outside stakeholders.

Work had been ongoing to tackle issues around the garages in Keary Road and the anti-social behaviour in Stanley Road. It had also been noted that more incidents of drug dealing had been evidenced in the area.

A meeting was due to happen shortly to launch the Swanscombe Shop Safe Scheme with x7 local businesses.

Community Speed Watch – The Chairman advised that two sessions had occurred during recent months with x6 people caught speeding. Two of these had been doing over 30-mph in a 20-mph zone and would be receiving letters.

Lorry Watch – Councillor Elizabeth Wickham, Lorry Watch Lead Member, advised that since the last meeting of this committee seven Lorry Watch sessions had taken place with six lorries being identified and reported. A further five reports had been received from residents and passed on. An update was also provided on two recent incidents that occurred in the Town where lorries had got stuck.

**Recommended:**

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



97/25-26. **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.

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

98/25-26. **DELEGATION TO CONDUCT NORMAL BUSINESS DURING RECESS PERIOD.**

Members were requested to delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in accordance with section 101 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972, to conduct the normal business of the Council during the recess period. The Town Clerk would consult with the Chairman and Town Mayor, if appropriate, before any business was transacted.

**Recommended:** That, in accordance with section 101 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Town Clerk be delegated authority to conduct the normal business of the Council during the recess period.

There were no confidential items to be discussed.

There being no further business to transact, the Meeting closed at 8.05pm

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