

MINUTES of the MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2025 at 7.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Peter Harris – Chairman
Councillor Dawn Johnston – Vice-Chairman
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Lesley Howes
Councillor Hazel Stephens

ALSO PRESENT:

Martin Harding – ATC/Responsible Financial Officer
Dartford Borough Councillor Richard Wells - Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Community Safety & Youth
PCSO Alan Mitchell – Kent Police
Lead Co-Ordinator – Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch
Deputy Lead Co-Ordinator – Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch
x3 members of the public

ABSENT:

There were none.

309/25-26. 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.

310/25-26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

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

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

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

Recommended:

That the reason for absence, for the Councillors listed, be formally accepted, and approved.

311/25-26. SUBSTITUTES.

There were none.

312/25-26. 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.

313/25-26. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

314/25-26. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 OCTOBER 2025

Recommended: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 October 2025 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

315/25-26. KENT POLICE REPORT.

Unfortunately, the beat officer for Ebbsfleet Valley, Swanscombe, Greenhithe and Knockholt, PC Simon Hodge was unable to attend but, in his absence, PCSO Alan Mitchell gave an update on recent activity including an increase in vehicles thefts resulting in new work patterns for the x 2 PCSO's in Dartford.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

316/25-26. 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 supporting the Co-Op in the High Street, Swanscombe with increased shoplifting and also liaising with partner organisations around inconsiderate parking on the High Street.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

317/25-26. COMMUNITY SAFETY LIAISON.

Swanscombe Neighbourhood Watch – The Lead Co-Ordinator updated the committee on the ongoing work of a patrol team, the ongoing issues with lorries, liaison with stakeholders on parked cars blocking public footpaths, reporting anti-social behaviour, liaising with residents as part of the ongoing campaign against cars mounting the pavement in Stanhope Road.

Neighbourhood Watch did report that they had received correspondence from KCC Freight indicating that it was the responsibility of the Parish Council to write to all lorries that entered the Town in breach of conditions, and that the Freight department would deal with repeat offenders. Officers would contact KCC Freight to seek clarity on this.

Community Speed Watch – The Chairman updated that a session had happened in November which was attended by the Inspector and PC who are responsible for Speed Watch for Kent and that they had agreed to provide the group with a speed gun.

Dartford Borough Council (CSU) – Councillor Richard Wells took questions from the meeting in relation parking enforcement processes and CCTV.

Councillor Wells did suggest that the Town Council contact Jim Dickson MP to ask for information in relation to a Government Consultation on banning pavement parking that was conducted by the Department of Transport.

Councillor Wells also confirmed that he would be speaking to the CCTV Team regarding the feasibility of bringing cameras to the Town and would also liaise with the Parking Team about redirecting some resources to the area during December.

Recommended:

1. That those who provided reports be thanked and the information be noted.
2. That Officers contact KCC Freight to seek clarity on the reporting processes for HGV's as part of Lorry Watch.
3. That Officers would contact Jim Dickons MP for an update on the Government consultation on banning pavement parking.

318/25-26. 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 and highlighted a lack of detail in the way in which incidents are categorised.

Recommended:

That the information be noted.

319/25-26. ESTIMATES 2026 – 2027.

Members briefly discussed whether the Town Council should start putting aside some financial resources for a potential future Parking Attendant for the area.

Recommended:

That the proposal as detailed would be brought to the Town Council meeting on the 11 December 2025 for discussion.

There were no confidential items to be discussed.

There being no further business to transact, the Meeting closed at 8.00pm

Signed

Chairman

Date