

NEW ASH GREEN FOCUS GROUP

Minutes of a meeting of the New Ash Green Focus Group held virtually via Teams on Monday 13 May 2024 commencing at 4.00pm.

Present: C Clark –Chapel Wood Residents Society
Cllr R Brammer – Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council
S Brine – New Ash Green Village Association
Cllr M Lindop – Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr S Manamperi – Sevenoaks District Council (arrived 4.30pm)
Cllr L Manston - Sevenoaks District Council
PC W Owen – Kent Police
K Webb – Sevenoaks District Council Community Safety Unit

In Attendance: Mrs A de Jager – Parish Clerk,

1. **Apologies for Absence and Introductions**

Cllr S Fishenden – Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council, Sgt K Saville – Kent Police and J West, Community Warden, L Moylan – Over Minnis Residents Society.

2. **Minutes/Actions from of the Meeting of 12 February 2024**

The minutes were received and noted.

3. **Police Update**

PC Owen advised that antisocial behaviour continues in the car parks around New Ash Green, the use of nitrous oxide and balloons moves round to different car parks and is more prevalent on weekends. More weekend patrols, on Thursday, Friday and Saturdays have taken place in response to the ongoing ASB in the shopping centre and are working with the Co-op to obtain CCTV. Work is being done with the landlords around CCTV. A lot of the young people involved in the ASB do not live in New Ash Green, but come from Longfield and Meopham.

A member mentioned that 16 year old was assaulted by three men and his bicycle was stolen on Meadow Lane. PC Owen will provide an update at the next meeting.

4. **Community & Sevenoaks District Council Update and Local Concerns & Issues**

Anti-social Behaviour week is the first week in July, colleagues of the Community Safety Unit will do something in New Ash Green and Hartley on Thursday 4 July between 1.00pm and 2.30pm and will link in with Jackie West. The tasking meetings are working well. A Family Fun Day will be held in New Ash Green on 20 August 2024 on The Minnis and other events in the District are listed on SDC website.

5. **Agency & Resident Society Updates**

Chapel Wood – it was reported that stones and larger rocks had been placed on the road.

6. **Local Concerns & Issues**

- ASB locations and issues – the speed and use of electric scooters in the shopping centre is a concern for the safety of pedestrians, especially elderly people.
- Graffiti – no reports

- Parking – It was pointed out that cars parked on Chapel Wood Road restricts the access for emergency vehicles to/from the roundabout. It was noted that Chapel Wood Road has a 40mph limit and no street lights.
- Youth Provision – The Young Adventurers, run by West Kent Housing are looking into the provision of an additional evening youth group in New Ash Green. Cllr L Manston enquired about the provision of a basketball hoop in the village. The Village Association will look into this.
- Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr L Manston reported that there are 112 members on the local scheme. There are over 2,200 on local Neighbourhood Watch groups.
- Other Issues – No reports

7. **Other Matters for Discussion**

1. Cllr L Manston attended the Violence Against Women and Girls walk around New Ash Green that was arranged by Kent Police. The Police will follow up some ideas with lighting and working with schools.
2. Cllr L Manston reported that the Parish Council had agreed to the road markings on North Ash Road, but not to the signage being installed.

8. **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was set for 02 September 2024 at 2pm, via Teams.

The meeting closed at 4.36pm

Signed:

Date: