

Willesborough Community Forum

Open Meeting – 13th May 2015

Willesborough Baptist Church – Hythe Road



The doors opened at 6.30 with a display of various items of local interest.

Also, visiting from Carers' Support - Canterbury, Dover & Thanet, was Colette Chaffey, providing information on the East Kent Dementia Visitor Scheme - for more information see <http://www.carers-supportcdt.org.uk>

The new councillors were also on hand for any questions/problems.

The meeting was opened at 7.30 pm by Chairman of the Willesborough Community Forum, Ian Stevenson.

Councillors

The meeting started with a thank you and a round of applause for the outgoing councillors: Bob Davidson, Jane Davey and Andrew Mortimer.

The new councillors, Kate Hooker (Aylesford Green), Jeremy Adby (North Willesborough) and George Koowaree (North Willesborough) then introduced themselves. (Gerald White (Highfield) had had to leave).

PCSO Report – Presented by Rachael Baker

The meeting welcomed a new PCSO for the area, Rachael Baker.

Rachael reported the following figures for the previous 2 months:

- Burglary 6
- Theft 4
- Criminal Damage 5
- Anti-Social Behaviour 3

Rachael's full report was on the display boards.

Rachael informed the meeting that she regularly patrols outside Willesborough School, to assist with parking issues. She is also liaising with the security team at William Harvey Hospital and making frequent visits to Tesco Crooksfoot. She also patrols Willesborough on foot to get to know the area and its residents.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Rachael at the following email address rachael.baker@kent.pnn.police.uk, or call 101.

Report from KCC - George Koowaree

George reported that there was little to report since many KCC councillors were, like him, "Twin Hatters" and had been involved in their local borough elections. However, he did give the following update:

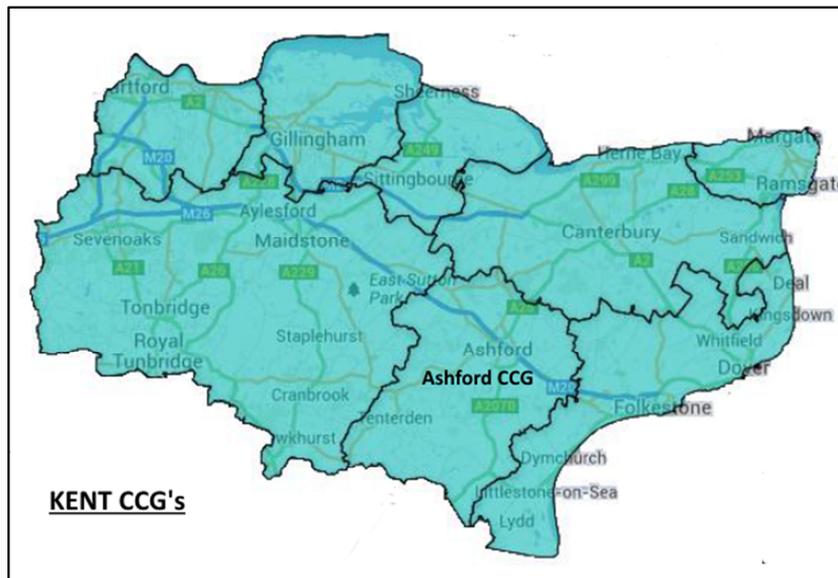
- Relevant people had been spoken to about yellow lines on Lees Road under the motorway bridge.
- A study had been initiated at KCC regarding a new crossing on the Hythe Road between Hunter Road and Albemarle Road.

Talk and Questions about Ashford CCG

Dr Navin Kumta, Clinical Chair, and Martin Harvey, Lay Member – Patient and Public Engagement, from Ashford Clinical Commissioning Group attended the meeting. The talk was given by Dr Kumta.

Dr Kumta explained the following:

The Ashford CCG was formed in 2013 along with the other Kent CCG's:



The Ashford CCG had been sub-divided into network areas better to reflect the communities it served:



The role of the CCG is to decide which NHS services are provided, by whom and where, with a view to streamlining patient care, particularly with increased collaboration between practices.

Dr Kumta explained the challenges, and the aspirations being set by the NHS Vanguard sites; practices trialling new methods of delivering care - Ashford CCG will be watching and learning from these sites.

It was also explained that public involvement was possible and encouraged, both as volunteers and to attend the various forum meetings (see Note below).

Following the presentation, questions were taken from attendees - these fell into the following main areas:

Waiting times/use of A & E - Following questions about the long waiting times for GP appointments and the increased use of A & E for non-emergencies Dr Kumta emphasised that, in many cases, this was due to patients not taking proper responsibility for their own wellbeing. He cited "emergencies" as instances where patients could have found remedies at the pharmacy or where patients had simply not remembered to order repeat prescription in time. He also informed that most larger surgeries had an emergency appointments system and/or a system whereby a duty doctor would talk to a patient over the telephone to ascertain the required care and urgency.

Other agencies - when asked what role such other health "agencies" as pharmacies and opticians played in the CCG Dr Kumta replied that they didn't because CCG was only about delivering NHS services. However, he agreed that it would be worth looking at how that collaboration could better dovetail into the system.

Communications - It was observed that the NHS/CCG had many good initiatives going but the public at large knew little about them. It was further observed that the only way to find out about them was via the surgeries or hospitals, by which time it might be too late (for example, few attendees knew that some GP practices can attend to minor injuries, thereby obviating the need to visit A & E) - this point was acknowledged (See Note below).

Note: WCF will be setting up a links on its website relating to Ashford CCG.

Community Council campaign

Ashford Borough Council moving on with the Governance Review process, timetabled to be complete February 2016. The first stage consultation is nearly complete - ABC is will then formulate their draft recommendations for publication for consultation in August.

Speedwatch

Speedwatch is up and running again.

Members of the team attended a Speedwatch Conference at the end of April - this was most useful and an opportunity to meet other Speedwatch teams and hear their stories.

The team continues to look for new volunteers; new members would receive a one hour information session. To join the team, or for further information, please contact John Mickelthwaite: 01233 661556.

Local Planning News

Junction 10a - ABC/Highways England Community Consultation Group meetings ongoing. Official Community Consultation will run from 29th June until 21st August - the consultation team has been booked to attend the open meeting on the 12th August.

U19 Sevington Warehouses - Resubmission expected in summer.

Blackwall Road South - Currently on hold. There are concerns regarding sewerage and drainage on the proposed development site. ABC Planning case reference : **14/01456/AS**.

White Horse public house - The plans to demolish this and replace it with a row of town houses have been changed - the new plans are to replace it with three two storey terraced houses with hipped roofs more in keeping with the old and surrounding buildings. ABC Planning case reference **14/01552/AS**

Rear of Waltham Close - (Off Abbey Lane) - Plans for 26 new houses - Over 20 objection comments by local residents plus notice from Southern Water that their sewer runs under the site (affects 6 of the planned houses). ABC Planning case reference : **14/00260/AS**

Details can be found on the Ashford Borough Council planning website <http://planning.ashford.gov.uk/>

AOB

Quiz - Attendees were informed that a Quiz would take place on 22nd May.

Dementia Friends - WCF is still open for volunteers for the Dementia Friends initiative. Dementia Friends is a voluntary organisation aimed at helping sufferers to go about their daily lives and to feel included in their community. As a friend you could learn a little about what it's like to live with dementia and help sufferers deal with day to day challenges like which bus to get on. For more information and to sign up please contact Christine Startup on: 01233 621772 or 07732 665777.

Sothern Gas Networks - Road works on the Hythe Road - SGN will be performing repairs on the gas main in Hythe Road from 27th July to 5th August.