

North Willesborough Community Forum



Open Meeting - 9th November 2016 - Meeting Notes

Willesborough Baptist Church – Hythe Road

The doors opened at 6.30 with a display of various items of local interest, plus Stephanie Karpetas of Sustainability Connections was on hand to discuss ways to save on energy bills.

Councillor George Koowaree (North Willesborough and KCC) was on hand for any questions/problems. Gerald White (Highfield) sent apologies but no word from Jeremy Adby (North Willesborough) nor Alex Howard (Aylesford Green). Cllr Paul Bartlett (Mersham and Sevington) popped in but did not stay for the meeting; Cllr David Smith (South Willesborough) attended as a guest.

The meeting was opened at 7.30 pm by Chairman, Ian Stevenson (ICS).

Law and Order

A message from PCSO Samantha Hunt had been received indicating that PCSOs were no longer ward specific and that “there are no longer any local PCSOs to the areas”. Samantha therefore did not attend. She did, however, supply an alternative contact - NWCF will follow up. Crime information is available online:

- North Willesborough: <https://www.police.uk/kent/90/crime/>
- Highfield: <https://www.police.uk/kent/85/crime/>
- Aylesford Green: <https://www.police.uk/kent/74/crime/>

More information can be obtained from the police and via:

PCSO Samantha Hunt: Samantha.Hunt@kent.pnn.police.uk, or call 101.

Cheaper Energy Bills? - Presentation by Stephanie Karpetas of Sustainability Connections

Cheaper Energy Bills - The main points of Stephanie’s presentation were:

- Consumers waste over £3 Billion per year by not reviewing their energy supplier.
- Consumers should check for better deals whenever their current deals expire (or annually).
- Ways to switch Tariff:
 - Challenge your existing supplier for a better deal.
 - Call a switching service (usually a Freephone number).
 - Use an online service (Stephanie’s preferred service is www.MyUtilityGenius.co.uk)
- Switching can save **£200 to £300 per year**.
- Other assistance:
 - Warm Home Discount - see <https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme/eligibility> to see if you are eligible for the £140 discount.
 - Energy Company Obligation - see <https://www.gov.uk/energy-company-obligation> to see if you are eligible.
 - Priority Service Register for older and disabled people - contact your energy supplier.
- It was noted that The Utility Warehouse does not feature on switching sites.

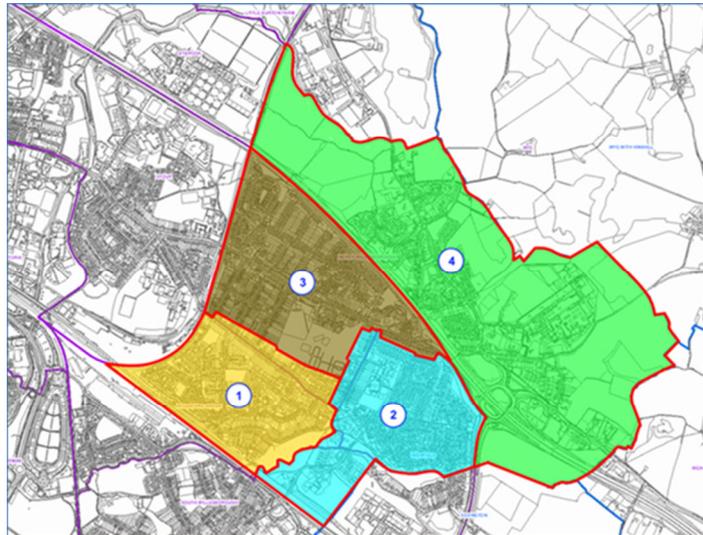
For more information or advice see <http://www.sustainabilityconnections.co.uk/> or email Stephanie on stephanie@sustainabilityconnections.co.uk.

Orchard Community Energy - Stephanie also mentioned the Orchard Farm Solar Array, a community project situated near Sittingbourne, and that it was still possible to buy 3 year bonds at an annual return of 5.5%.

For more information see <http://orchard.coop/> or contact Stephanie.

LGBCE Boundary Review of Ashford

- The Local Government Boundary Commission for England was conducting a review of Ashford.
- Due to population growth in Ashford since the last review (2000) LGBCE recommended increasing the number of councillors from 43 to 47.
- A consultation on ward boundaries ran until the 5th September. NWCF's suggested warding is shown below - NWCF's full submission may be found on the NWCF website.



- LGBCE's draft recommendations were originally scheduled for publication on the 8th November but have to be delayed until the results of the 2015 Governance Review are formalised.

Hythe Road Pedestrian Crossing

George Koowaree advised that the project had again failed the KCC Safety Audit and would therefore not go ahead. George read out the relevant parts from the KCC decision - the full decision formed part of the display. The meeting thanked George for trying.

John Goodman, who had spearheaded the latest campaign, but could not be at the meeting, sent his comments, which started with:

"It was a huge disappointment to read in the latest edition of The Pilgrim that yet again Kent County Council has rejected the wishes of many hundreds of Willesborough residents, as expressed in a recent Petition, to reinstate the pedestrian crossing - which existed in the 1940's - near The Windmill Pub across Hythe Road."

His statement concluded with expressing a desire to continue the campaign:

"Nearly all the residents I meet ask me to keep up the campaign, and I will. However these battles can only be won by people power- continuing support is vital. If you feel this is a cause worth fighting for, please contact me." (John can be contacted via jdgoodman@hotmail.co.uk. or 07802 180697).

Junction 10a/Barrey Road

Junction 10a - The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) had granted Development Consent Order. The PINS Inspection process will start on the 2nd December at meetings convened by PINS - as a registered interested party NWCF will attend. The inspection process will take about 6 months - the exact timetable will be presented at the meetings on the 2nd December.

Barrey Road Junction - This is not being allowed to die and was discussed again at the Junction 10a Community Group meeting on the 18th October. There are also petitions still doing the rounds and it is likely to feature strongly in the J10a PINS process (see above).

Planning

The following was reported:

Sevington Development (U19)

There is a rumour that Kent Wool Growers will not be going to this

	site after all - (if anybody has any information please contact NWCF).
Blackwall Road South (U5)	Construction proceeding apace.
Rear of Waltham Close	Permitted subject to a Section 106 agreement - seemingly no progress as yet.
Highmead House (Part of U14)	Nothing new.
Care Home by WH Hospital.	New plans showing 31 parking spaces (from 29) - no decision yet.
Kennington Rd Chicane	There has been a Listed Building Consent application to move a wall as part of the widening of the s-bend. This is a first indication of something finally happening.
Stanford Lorry Park	We were told at the Junction 10a Community Group meeting on the 18 th October that work would start before the end of the year.

Obstructed Footways

- Parked Cars - Edward Young presented the advisory notices NWCF had prepared for placing on "offending" vehicles and explained that they had been drawn up with advice from the police. He explained that they were worded so that it was clear that they were advisory. The intention is education so that drivers would park with consideration for those using the footway and that, in a confrontation, this must be stressed. The secondary intention is to provide evidence to the police of the scale of the problem. Anyone wanting to use the advisory notice must first inform NWCF for guidance.
- Overgrown bushes and trees - NWCF was still receiving reports on this matter and reiterated that complainants should make a report on the KCC web page <http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem> ; cllr David Smith stated that the system does work. Another alternative is to contact your ABC councillor. (Contact the Forum if you need help.)

Speedwatch Update

- It has been a busy and interesting summer for Speedwatch, especially with the new sites. Due to work pressures there had not been time to present any figures but the public's response was mostly positive. The team would still be out during the winter, but not necessarily in "all weathers".
- Kent Speedwatch was introducing a new system which would share data with Sussex and Surrey, meaning speeders would now be checked over three counties.
- New volunteers always welcome.
- See us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/NorthWillesSpeedWatch

Councillor Report

George Koowaree reported:

- Still no movement on the pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Church Road.
- Yellow line painting on Lees Road under the M20 was now out for "statutory consultation", at last.

AOB

- It was announced that ABC land will now be managed by a team called Aspire Landscape Management - information flyers were available.
- The dates of future Open Meetings had not been set but it was agreed that they could revert to the old January/April/July/October pattern.
- It being the last Open Meeting of the year, ICS concluded by wishing everyone a good Christmas and New Year.

The meeting concluded at 9.10pm. The next Open Meeting will (probably) be on the 1st February 2017.
