

# North Willesborough Community Forum



## Open Meeting and AGM - 5<sup>th</sup> July - Meeting Notes

### Willesborough Baptist Church – Hythe Road

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

Councillor George Koowaree (North Willesborough and KCC) was on hand for any questions/problems - no other NWCF area councillors were present.

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

### Presentation by Inspector Andy Bidmead of Kent Police

Andy is in charge of Ashford Community Safety, which focusses on Harm and Safety. He talked about the following:

- The community Safety Unit comprises:
  - 24 PCSO's throughout the Ashford borough. This group is run by Sgt Jasmine Bloomfield. At the time of the meeting urban PCSO's were not attached to specific areas - this would change in September.
  - 9 police officers.
- In September 2017 some changes are planned - amongst them:
  - Increase in number of officers and PCSO's
  - Online reporting of crimes
- Main priorities are:
  - Road Safety
  - Domestic Abuse
  - Child Safety
  - Organised Crime
  - Modern Slavery
  - Vulnerability
- Andy expanded on Organised Crime and Modern Slavery. This was organised by 9 or 10 London based gangs who trafficked people to work in such establishments as car washes and nail bars. Things to look out for in such cases:
  - Do the workers wear appropriate PPE?
  - Do the workers look happy in their work?
  - Is a property near you housing many people, especially if picked up and dropped off by a van/minibus?
  - Anything out of the ordinary.
- Always call **101** to report a crime unless IMMEDIATE assistance is required (e.g. life in danger/crime in progress), only then use 999.
- Neighbourhood watch is run by Andy Judd.
- For more information see:
  - [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk) for details about Kent police and general information.
  - [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) -for crime statistics for your neighbourhood.

### AGM Matters

The Treasurer's Report was presented - 2016/2017 in summary:

- Brought Forward: 1,544.73
- Expense: 721.89
- Income: 0.00
- Current Balance: 837.33

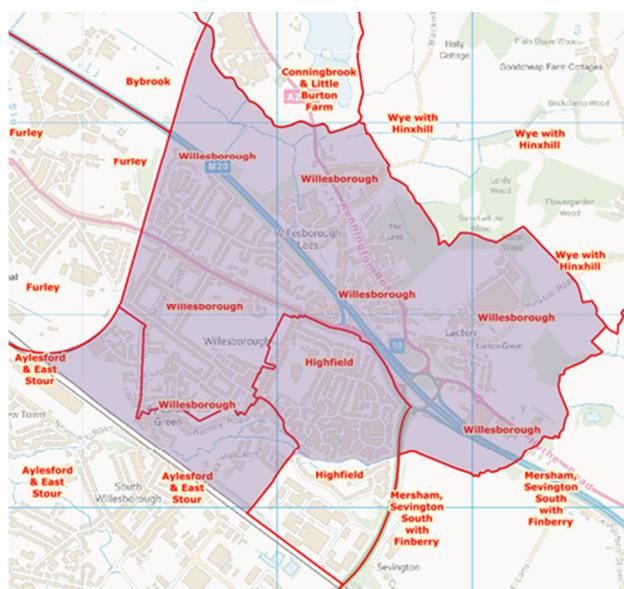
Current Steerco members:

- John Bailey
- Alan Dinnie
- Daniel Dryden
- David McDonald
- Colin Mills
- Joy Saunders
- Christine Startup
- Ian Stevenson
- Edward Young

### **LGBCE Boundary Review of Ashford**

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has conducted a review of Ashford and published its final recommendations on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017:

- Due to population growth in Ashford since the last review (2000) LGBCE recommended increasing the number of councillors from 43 to 47.
- The recommended warding for the NWCF area is as follows:



With the number of councillors per ward as:

Ward name	Number of Cllrs
Aylesford & East Stour	2
Highfield	1
Willesborough	2

These changes should come into effect for the 2019 elections.

### **Junction 10a/Barrey Road**

Junction 10a - The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) examination was completed on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017 and will issue a report of recommendation to the Secretary of State by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017. The Secretary of State then has 3 months in which to issue a decision. If all goes ahead construction is planned to start January 2018.

Barrey Road Junction - From the Joint Transportation Board (JTB) meeting of the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017:

- A temporary 40mph speed limit on the A2070 by the end of July.
- NO relocation of the bollards in Church Road Sevington (consultation showed 68% against).
- Part signalisation of the junction at the same time as the Junction 10a works, subject to the availability of funds..

## **Planning**

The following was reported:

Sevington Development (U19)	Agreed, pending outcome of Junction 10a PINS process.
Blackwall Road South (U5)	Construction proceeding apace.
Rear of Waltham Close	Permitted subject to a Section 106 agreement.
Care Home by WH Hospital.	Agreed, subject to conditions.
Kennington Rd Widening	Ongoing - due to be complete by 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2017.
Highmead House (Part of U14)	Agreed, subject to conditions.
Land at Willesborough Lees (U14)	Appeal - Inquiry date 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2017.

## **Obstructed Highways**

The Forum had received several reports of obstructed highways, in the following forms:

- Vehicle Access - Inconsiderate parking had prevented residents getting on and off driveways and negotiating streets with larger vehicles (e.g. camper van/caravan).
- Parking on Pavements
- 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> or contact the Forum.

The Forum is looking at ways to collect evidence and educate people. Residents with problems/evidence can contact the Forum - attendees can note concerns on the sheet at the meeting entrance and on the A6 flyers.

It was suggested from the floor that volunteers could maybe help with overgrown bushes, particularly for the elderly or infirm - to be followed up.

## **Speedwatch Update**

- Several members of the Speedwatch team attended the Speedwatch conference on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April - it was most informative.
- The team has been asked to help one of the classes at Willesborough Juniors with their road safety project later in July.
- New volunteers always welcome.
- See us on Facebook - [www.facebook.com/NorthWillesSpeedWatch](http://www.facebook.com/NorthWillesSpeedWatch)

## **Councillor Report**

George Koowaree (GK) reported:

- Pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Church Road - Started!
- Hospital Parking - To be discussed at the Joint Transportation Board meeting following a meeting between Residents, Hospital Admin, ABC and KCC, scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup> July.
- Potholes - Please report online via [www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults).

## **AOB**

- Dog Waste can now be put in general litter bins - new bins are being rolled out over the borough.
- NWCF will be having a stand at the Craft and Heritage Fair at Willesborough Windmill on the 13<sup>th</sup> August.
- Attendees were asked to sign a petition requesting the installation of an Air Quality Monitor at Junction 10.

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The meeting concluded at 9pm. The next Open Meeting will be on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

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