

Sheppey Local Engagement Forum – 10 June 2014

You Said	We Did
Kent Police	
<p>Tony Henley, District Commander, attended the meeting to provide an update.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Henley informed all that some communication around Kent Police/Swale Police has been misunderstood and a full briefing will be provided at the next Sheppey LEF. • There was a review of public sector spending in 2010 and there was a £50,000,000 nationally cut. This cut led to 2 directorates being formed; 1 to deal with the 999 service and 1 as a neighbourhood team, resulting in a 1300 staff cut. After another review took place, the Police have been looking at how to do things more effectively with less resource and have provided additional, proactive police dedicated to Faversham, Sittingbourne and Sheppey town centres. This has freed up resource to introduce Sargeant-constables. Tony Henley introduced Darren, community Sargeant, who is part of a team of 4. Proactive policing has enabled 25 arrests to take place, seizing £1500 worth of stolen goods. • Tony Henley confirmed that PCSO numbers have not been reduced in Swale. • Further to the concerns of Island residents regarding response times, shift patterns have been introduced which include overlaps which will speed up response times at an incident.
<p>A resident requested a more detailed explanation on the 'Lights Out' situation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Henley advised that the decision for the lights to be turned off is out of his control and statistics are being coordinated. A rise in crime will necessitate a response. • Bill Ronan suggested that there would be an update in September when more statistics have been collated. • Cllr Pat Sandle stated that it is a trial period only.
<p>Cllr Steve Worrall asked, according to statistics, what crime has the highest incidence rate on the Isle of Sheppey.</p> <p>Cllr Worrall also asked for the Police's advice on burglaries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shop Theft is the highest crime occurring on the Island. However, figures are down dramatically due to the 25 arrests made in response to proactive policing mentioned earlier. • Tony Henley suggested visiting the Kent Police website for suggestions, such as 'Smart-water', which can be used to mark your personal property.
<p>Cllr Pat Sandle asked where to go to find</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Henley suggested contacting Kent Police by email, emailing in the same way as

out figures.	previous (www.kent.police.uk/WebFeedback/contactus.do)
Mick Galvin, a resident, asked where to go for basic information around police issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Henley advised residents to go to the internet to find out information needed. He also agreed to provide a response to Mr Galvin regarding a question at the last LEF.
Kent Fire and Rescue	
A representative from Kent Fire and Rescue attended the meeting to provide an update.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A trail has been conducted for the past 10 weeks on a new staffing system. A new shift system has also been put in place to enable a better, more efficient service with someone on duty throughout a twenty-four hour period. • Kent Fire and Rescue was heavily involved in the flooding over Christmas which was successfully dealt with through emergency planning. • All departments are contributing towards improving systems to provide a service which is more efficient and beneficial to the community. • Kent Fire and Rescue are currently delivering fire prevention campaigns which relating to themed months, for instance May – BBQ Fires.
AmicusHorizon	
Kerry Newbury, AmicusHorizon, attended the meeting to provide an update.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Georges Court is set to be completed in November 2014. • Rushenden Shops provision: currently working with Swale Borough Council on the legalities. A survey of all Rushenden residents has been completed to find out that what is being proposed is the outcome the community want. • Financially, there is now a dedicated department who are out in the Community with the aim to reduce loan sharks etc. • CAB is currently located at the Prison (the Swale Advice Partnership). • The housing association are helping with housing payments for residents. • Local Improvement Fund: one application was Briton Court in Sheerness which is currently being refurbished. • AmicusHorizon are planning 3 summer events, dates of which will be circulated shortly.
Cllr Pat Sandle stated that the prison isn't a very accessible location for the CAB to take place at. Is the session for residents or prisoners?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerry Newbury agreed to pass on the suggestion of developing a mobile CAB service, which would move around instead of staying solely in one location. To her knowledge, it is an open service for all.

Parking Enforcement	
Jeff Kitson and Brian Planner provided a presentation on parking enforcement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff Kitson explained that Parking is an emotive issue. • Civil parking enforcement is necessary as it encourages the free flow of traffic on the highway, ensuring that all drivers have equal opportunity to park on and off street, to protect the Councils P&D income (£1.5m), to ensure that access to property is maintained and to ensure the safety of motorists and pedestrians. • There was an explanation of when a penalty notice would be given and at what severity the contravention is.
A resident suggested that it would be a good idea for Swale Borough Council (SBC) to adapt in the same way hospital systems work regarding parking (pay as you leave).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff Kitson welcomed the suggestion but explained that it is extremely expensive to purchase and maintain. • He informed residents of alternative solutions, such as the introduction of a system that enables the purchase of parking tickets on a mobile phone. This will not mean parking ticket machines will be removed, it is just an additional way of reducing the number of people receiving penalty notices.
Cllr Ken Pugh asked for clarification on whether it was illegal to park on grass verges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Kitson confirmed that if a grass verge is signed with notices to ask people not to park on the grass, it is illegal. However, it is not as easy as giving a fixed penalty as it has to go through the magistrates court.
A resident suggested that a campaign be created to make people aware of free car parking over night in many SBC car parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Kitson confirmed that parking is free at night and that he would take the suggestion back to team.
A resident asked about commuters parking in Halfway car park and travelling to London all day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Kitson stated that he had been to look at this situation and has noted the situation. • He outlined that there is potential for high parking at this particular car park and putting a limit on the parking may be an effective solution. However, it is currently going through a consultation as this decision could have an effect on local business. • The maximum of a 4 hour stay and a no return policy will be also be reviewed in the future, which will include a community consultation.
PS Breastfeeding CIC	
Phil Parrett attended the meeting to provide an update on services available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PS Breastfeeding CIC has a contract with KCC for public health. In Sheppey, there is a culture change to instigate. There has been a specialist clinic children centre in Queenborough and the aim is to have one in each district across Kent. • Peer supporters, who are all volunteers, have come together to provide support and

	<p>advice for those looking to breastfeed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phil Parrett spoke about the legalities with breastfeeding in public and informed all that it is against equality legislation to ask a woman to stop breastfeeding in a public area. • She informed all of a 'baby shower' at Castle Connections on 26th June from 11:00-2:00.
Cllr Pat Sandle asked if the peer supporters will go to various other children centres on the island.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phil Parrett stated that the intention is to get as much of the community involved as possible.
Abdool Kara asked if breastfeeding rates are dramatically low in Swale compared to the rest of Kent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phil Parrett stated that cafes and restaurants are much more supportive since the campaign and an improvement is being made to breastfeeding rates.
Green Doctor (Sustainable Sheppey)	
Danny Lenain attended the meeting to provide an update.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 projects are currently being carried out: sustainable homes and sustainable schools. 1900 homes will be given the opportunity to receive impartial advice on savings and detailed prescriptions of savings. • The project offers various 'freebees' to residents' properties, such as those which provide Heating Savings. These include radiator panels, lighting solutions, replacement LED bulbs, power down plugs and OWL monitors which show how much energy is being used.
Abdool Kara asked if they are targeting particular areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danny Lenain noted that all areas are being targeted.
A resident asked if there was a criterion in which a house can receive this service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danny Lenain stated that there is no criterion and any house can benefit from the service provided.
Cllr Pat Sandle asked if he would be interested in sharing this information with the 'Over 50's/60's club.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danny Lenain said that he had been to one of the club sessions and is planning to attend many more.
Minster Broadway	
A resident asked if there were any updates that could be provided on the Minster Broadway road surfacing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abdool Kara and Cllr Ken Pugh replied that the item is on the agenda for August. More money however will be required for resurfacing.