

COUNCIL UPDATE 4.2022

KINGSFORD STREET

Blocked drain between Lyrics and Beechcroft Kingsford Street reported to KCC (ref 717583)



IBF BRIDLEWAY

I have asked KCC to liaise with the contractors who built the new bridleway from the IBF staff entrance towards Church Road. I have previously reported that it is being washed away during heavy rain, but no remedial action has been taken. Hopefully this reminder will do the trick!



I was advised during the call that planting around the IBF and the High Field will recommence on 31st May.



A2070 TRAFFIC LIGHTS

I have collated feedback on the new traffic lights providing right turn exit out of Finberry. Here are the issues I have raised with National Highways.

I would like to raise the following issues with the scheme and would welcome a discussion, on site if possible.

1. Can you advise the reason for the delay in completion of works. The project started in March 2022 and was due to be completed in 8 months but it took 12 months, what was the reason?
2. Temporary signage advising HGVs not to access Church Road, Sevington has been thrown in the ditch. This demonstrates that permanent signage is required. Please also advise on progress on permanent M20 signage. Furthermore, a VMS advising users that the Waterbrook Truck Stop is full is requires siting on the approach to the left-hand turn into Waterbrook; this will avoid queues in Waterbrook Ave / Arrowhead Road; I understand Ashford Truck Stop have agreed to procure the sign.
3. Traffic signs have been damaged by HGVs on the entrance to Church Road, I assume this is a NH responsibility, can you repair?
4. A significant amount of mature hedging has been removed and those areas are now being replanted. The loss of mature planting is unhelpful and I would be grateful for the reasoning. Please confirm that areas of bare soil will be planted.
5. There is a large expanse of tarmac within the centre of the scheme, can this be replaced with planting?
6. There are no promised signs at the entrance to Finberry showing no lorry parking, please can you confirm this will be actioned and when?
7. There is a missing sign approaching the new lights from the east, what is intended here?
8. East bound on the A2070, by the slip road to Church Road, lane 1 has a large hump that comes out to approx. half way into the lane. Can remedial action be taken?
9. The cycleway west from the scheme ends abruptly and requires cyclists to join fast moving traffic. The cycle lane should be extended so it is safe to use.
10. There are no white lines by the offside and nearside kerbs on any new road surfaces of the A2070 and side roads. The road before had white lines next to the kerb to guide drivers and these lines are still in place on old sections of the road past the new junction in all directions. These white lines need to be added back again. This is because modern cars have "lane keep assist" which enables the car to track the edge of the lane to ensure the driver is in lane; when the car detects the driver is veering out of lane the car will try to correct itself and will turn the steering wheel. When approaching the junction from any direction, cars with lane keep assist see the white lines stop and cars then try to steer into a lane that no longer exists. This is especially prevalent when the road is 2

lanes and then widens out to 3 lanes - at that point the car tries to continue to stay in what is now the middle lane; if this occurs at the same time as other cars are traversing lanes it will result in serious accidents.

Please confirm these white lines will be put in and when.

KALC

Key issues arising include from the meeting on 3 May.

- Kent Police and KCC Warden Service are offering bike marking. Locations to be circulated.
- The station underpass remains an issue of concern. Mirrors have been suggested to reduce crime incidences.
- Views sought on how to promote My Community Voice (with 6,000 members in Ashford so far).
- ABC will employ the former ACRK Rural Local Needs Housing Officer who will be financed by Kent Housing Group, this is subject to TUPE concerns being resolved.

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS IN VICTORIA PARK

ABC set up a stage and giant TV in Victoria Park to show the Coronation on 6th May. Well done to all involved!



BILHAM FARM PLANNING APPLICATION - OTH/2023/0733

I am concerned about the lack of community allotments in this application. Allotments were promised on the masterplan for Finberry and I have “called in” this application to committee should officers be minded to approve. The application is to remove the allotments and replace with a more functioning wildlife corridor for great crested newts. It’s good there is a wildlife corridor, but the allotments have just been lost for residents which is not acceptable.

Original masterplan:



New masterplan



The new masterplan includes a 'Mammal Tunnel'/ wildlife underpass. I can't see how this is going to be built in as the road is there now and this needs to be resolved with Crest. There is a fox den that set up at the end of that proposed mammal tunnel and would be very useful for the foxes.

Following calls with Crest a replacement site for the relocation of the allotments was discussed at the end of Brambling Ave on the proposed bus

link to Waterbrook. A planning application and meeting with Crest has been requested.



MERSHAM WI

I joined the mayor, Jenny Webb and members of Mersham WI at the dedication of a new tree planted in Cherry Glebe on 8th May. It celebrates 100 years of Mersham WI.



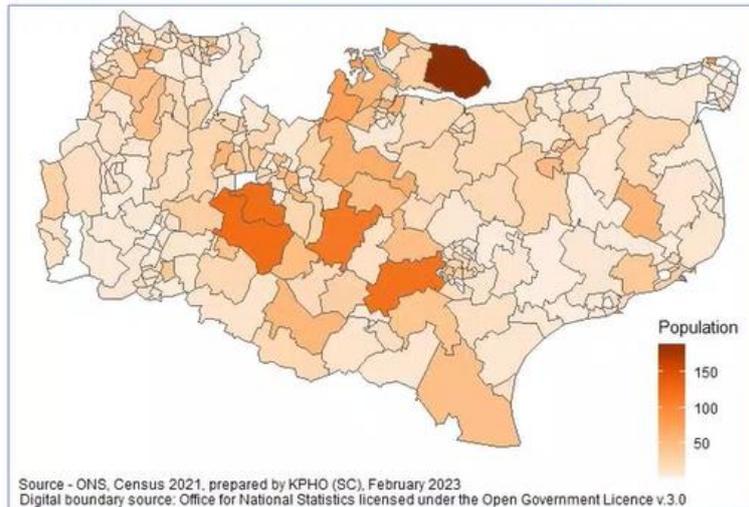
KENT & MEDWAY BETTER MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK

I attended the quarterly meeting of the network on 9 May. 1 in 6 adults experience a common mental health disorder such as anxiety or depression and 1 in 6 children have a mental health disorder. It is the second most common cause of years lived with a disability with significant costs. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened mental health and wellbeing in the general population and among children and young people. Certain groups

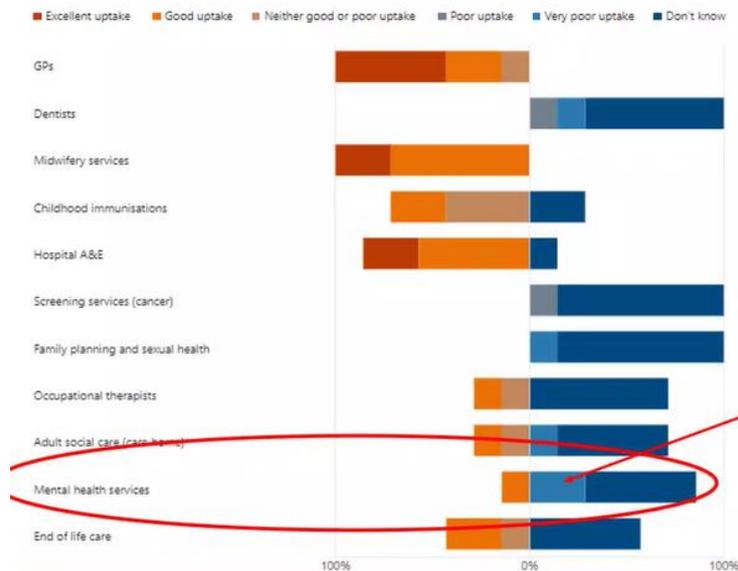
have been disproportionately affected and this meeting was to focus on the Gypsy and Roma travelling community.

Populations in Kent

Gypsy and Irish Traveller Population in Kent;
Population numbers within Kent wards, 2021



The meeting focused on what KCC doing to improve this population’s mental health and emotional wellbeing where there is a proved unmet need as illustrated below.



Recommendations included:

- Work with VCSE to ensure individuals from the community are aware of support they can access.
- Targeted work with KCC Gypsy and traveller team to disseminate messaging regarding access to help and support for wider determinants.
- KCC introduced a fuel voucher (offered winter 2022) and will consider extending this.

- An application to be submitted to develop research capacity and increase trust in Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller.
- Improved community engagement regarding lived experience, health needs and barriers in accessing services.

QUANTOCK DRIVE VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATION

No response has been received (to date) from the new landowner of land between Quantock Drive and Simone Weil Ave by KCC. Officers will therefore prepare a report to the Regulation Committee Member Panel. The next Regulation Committee meeting is expected to be on 17th October. I will advise when I have confirmation. The Land Title extract is shown below.

THIS IS A PRINT OF THE VIEW OF THE REGISTER OBTAINED FROM HM LAND REGISTRY SHOWING THE ENTRIES SUBSISTING IN THE REGISTER ON 6 MAR 2023 AT 15:28:19. BUT PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS REGISTER VIEW IS NOT ADMISSIBLE IN A COURT IN THE SAME WAY AS AN OFFICIAL COPY WITHIN THE MEANING OF S.67 LAND REGISTRATION ACT 2002. UNLIKE AN OFFICIAL COPY, IT MAY NOT ENTITLE A PERSON TO BE INDEMNIFIED BY THE REGISTRAR IF HE OR SHE SUFFERS LOSS BY REASON OF A MISTAKE CONTAINED WITHIN IT. THE ENTRIES SHOWN DO NOT TAKE ACCOUNT OF ANY APPLICATIONS PENDING IN HM LAND REGISTRY. FOR SEARCH PURPOSES THE ABOVE DATE SHOULD BE USED AS THE SEARCH FROM DATE.

THIS TITLE IS DEALT WITH BY HM LAND REGISTRY, NOTTINGHAM OFFICE.

TITLE NUMBER: K349718

There is no application or official search pending against this title.

A: Property Register

This register describes the land and estate comprised in the title.

KENT : ASHFORD

1 (28.10.1959) The Freehold land shown edged with red on the plan of the above Title filed at the Registry and being land on the south side of Simone Weil Avenue, Ashford.

B: Proprietorship Register

This register specifies the class of title and identifies the owner. It contains any entries that affect the right of disposal.

Title absolute

1 (05.09.2022) PROPRIETOR: BLUESKY PROPERTIES ESTATES LIMITED (Co. Regn. No. 12129234) of First Floor, Winston House, 349 Regents Park Road, London N3 1DH.

2 (05.09.2022) The price stated to have been paid on 27 July 2022 was £23,000.

3 (05.09.2022) The Transfer to the proprietor contains a covenant to observe and perform the covenants in the register and of indemnity in respect thereof.

C: Charges Register

This register contains any charges and other matters that affect the land.

1 A Conveyance of the land in this title and other land dated 14 July 1914 and made between (1) Henry Curteis Burra and others (2) Septimus Henry Burra (3) Launcelot Toke Burra (4) William Pomfret Burra (5) Percy Harold Jones (Purchaser) contains a covenant by Purchaser with Trustees with intent to bind land thereby assured into whosoever hands same should come that name "Bockhanger" should not be used as any time thereafter in any way in connection with any Sanatorium or Institution carried on upon hereditaments thereby conveyed or any part thereof.

End of register

WHH MATERNITY SERVICES

Councillors had a briefing on progress improving maternity services in East Kent on 10th May.

- £3m has been invested in more midwives and doctors for the maternity service.
- Board oversight of performance improved ensuring serious incidences are reviewed rapidly, and immediate safety actions taken.
- Training and compliance improved to meet national standards.

- £1.6m of capital allocated to develop a second obstetric theatre at QEQM, additional training facilities and more birthing rooms at WHH. Further improvements require £60m.
- Councillors asked to understand why the Nursing and Midwifery Council have withdrawn consent from Canterbury Christchurch University's midwifery course.
- 5 internationally educated midwives and 23 out of 25 3rd year students have indicated they will take up positions across east Kent including WHH.
- Issues around nitrous oxide being managed safely have been resolved.

COMMUNITY SAFETY UNIT

The meeting was held on 11th May and key emerging issues were:

- Home Office have provided capital funding to purchase 15 units for single homeless people in Ashford.
- The only homeless persons should now be those who have refused accommodation ("entrenched" rough sleepers) or have been brought in from rough sleeping into accommodation but evicted.
- The KWG site on Tannery Lane has been transferred to ABC who have employed 24/7 security to ensure it is secure.
- A site meeting was agreed to discuss actions for the Street Works Team on Bockhanger Lane ASB.
- A bike marking event is to be scheduled at the Civic Centre / Sk8side.
- The nuisance cars doing burn outs / skids, speeding and anti-social driving in Sevington Retail Park have moved on to Eureka. "Section 59" warnings may need to be issued as the notice to the Sevington organiser has expired.

ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE

The NHS has published the joint NHS and Department for Health and Social Care Delivery plan for recovering access to primary care.

Empower patients by rolling out tools they can use to manage their own health, and invest up to £645 million over two years to expand services offered by community pharmacy.

1. Enable patients in over 90% of practices to see their records and practice messages, book appointments and order repeat prescriptions using the NHS App by March 2024.
2. Ensure integrated care boards (ICBs) expand self-referral pathways by September 2023, as set out in the [2023/24 Operational Planning Guidance](#).
3. Expand pharmacy oral contraception (OC) and blood pressure (BP) services this year, to increase access and convenience for millions of patients, subject to consultation.
4. Launch Pharmacy First so that by end of 2023 community pharmacies can supply prescription-only medicines for seven common conditions. This, together with OC and BP expansion, could save 10 million appointments in general practice a year once scaled, subject to consultation.

Implement 'Modern General Practice Access' so patients know on the day how their request will be handled, based on clinical need and continuing to respect their preference for a call, face-to-face appointment, or online message. We are re-targeting £240 million – for a practice still on analogue phones this could mean ~£60,000 of support over 2 years.

5. Support all practices on analogue lines to move to digital telephony, including call back functionality, if they sign up by July 2023.
6. Provide all practices with the digital tools and care navigation training for Modern General Practice Access and fund transition cover for those that commit to adopt this approach before March 2025.
7. Deliver training and transformation support to all practices from May 2023 through a new National General Practice Improvement Programme.

Build capacity so practices can offer more appointments from more staff than ever before.

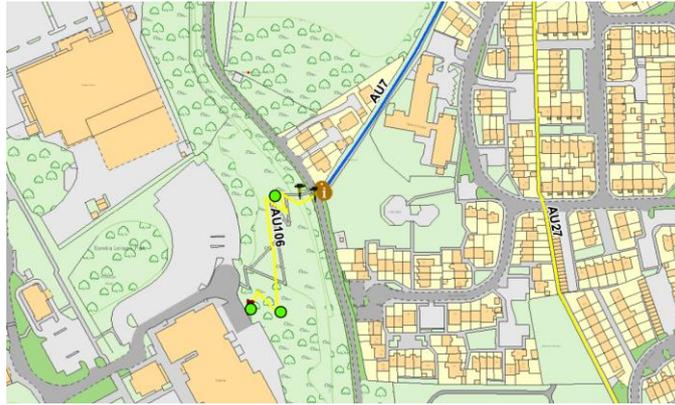
8. Make available an extra £385 million in 2023/24 to employ 26,000 more direct patient care staff and deliver 50 million more appointments by March 2024 (compared to 2019).
9. Further expand GP specialty training – and make it easier for newly trained GPs who require a visa to remain in England.
10. Encourage experienced GPs to stay in practice through the pension reforms announced in the Budget and create simpler routes back to practice for the recently retired.
11. Change local authority planning guidance this year to raise the priority of primary care facilities when considering how funds from new housing developments are allocated.

Cut bureaucracy to give practice teams more time to focus on their patients' clinical needs.

12. Reduce time spent liaising with hospitals – by requiring ICBs to report progress on improving the interface with primary care, especially the four areas we highlight from the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges report, in a public board update this autumn.
13. Reduce requests to GPs to verify medical evidence, including by increasing self-certification, by continuing to advance the Bureaucracy Busting Concordat.
14. Streamline the Investment and Impact Fund (IIF) from 36 to five indicators – retarget £246 million – and protect 25% of Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) clinical indicators.

LIGHTING “ZIG ZAG” PATH AND BOCKHANGER LANE

Three new lights have been ordered for the Zig Zag path (AU106) plus a replacement for the broken light on Bockhanger Lane



FLY TIPPING ON FEATHER BED ROAD

I have reported black bags of fly tipping. The drums have been used to prevent unauthorised access to the field so were not removed (ref 17196503). Action was taken by ABC within 3 working days.



TYRE STORE / DUMP IN BOCKHANGER LANE

The large pile of tyre stored at Grosvenor Hall is reducing following intervention from ABC environmental health.



CCTV

Following the site visit agreed at the CSI, Diccon and I have asked if the CCTV signs at the Hurst Road end of Bockhanger Lane are real or not.



FLY TIPPING – KINGSFORD STREET

I reported fly tipping near the turning circle at the IBF end of Kingsford Street (ref 17208288). It was removed within a week.



KESTREL DRIVE OAK TREE

Crest haven't yet appointed an arborist on site as far and have asked for a quote for the work on trimming back the tree. I have asked them to include in the price a site visit so ABC tree officer all meet to discuss the tree In question.

BROAD OAK CROSSROADS

I reported overgrown hedges at the crossroad which were causing visibility issues (ref 721354). These were action quickly by KCC following intervention from Cllr Bell.



TRADE OPERATING MODEL UPDATE

The stakeholder engagement on 17th May noted the following:

- Checks are necessary for public safety
- 24 hour operation at Sevington is not necessary when neither Dover or Eurotunnel provide 24 hour freight movement.
- The Dover facility at Bastion point "might not open".

- Signage on road network needs to be clear

ALDI WATERBROOK

I had an update from the developers on 17th May. Reptile relocation will start shortly. Their aim is to open within 12 months but agreement needed on a local store for Finberry. Progress on that requires consent from Natural England that the CCE's plan to remove land from agricultural use is satisfactory for nutrient neutrality requirements.

The Kennington store is on hold pending resolution of issues with KCC Ecology.

WATERBROOK RESIDENTIAL

No progress on this planning application while there remains environmental / ecology objections from Environment Agency, KCC Ecology and KWT. Waterbrook has been identified in the ecology report at being at the highest level possible in terms of impact on reptiles and amphibians and therefore appropriate and sufficient mitigation is needed.

ESSELLA RD POTHOLE

The pothole at the junction of Essella Road / Mabledon Ave which I reported to KCC was repaired. All potholes reported on the app are examined and where they require repair these will be carried out.



On reporting

Identified for action

The result!

BYBROOK ROAD

Work is scheduled to reduce the height of the new crossing on Bybrook Rd in the first week of June. I have asked that potholes on Bybrook Road and the Pasture be addressed at the same time. The worse are outside No 42 The Pasture, Junction with Rylands (with The Pasture) and junction of Bybrook Rd and Old School Mews (ref 722230).



Outside 42 The Pasture



Junction The Pasture/Rylands



Junction ~~Bybrook Rd~~/Old School Mews

ASB IN EAST KENT BABY MEMORIAL GARDEN

My last job as Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Safety and Wellbeing was to hold a meeting in Ashford Memorial Park regarding ASB on 26th May. The following actions were agreed (for my successor):

- Investigate access towards the college and whether this could be better positioned once the new extension is open.
- Investigate if the CCTV camera could be positioned so it covered the memorial area.
- Ask that Aspire clean up the stained slabs
- Ensure that ASB reporting is to Kent Police is communicated to ABC CSU.
- Investigate if the charity can benefit from reduced rent on garages rented from ABC for storage.



LAURENS VAN DER POST WAY

I have reported the damaged sign approaching Repton PS (ref 723810). This was referred to the developer consortium as the road is yet to be adopted.



REPTON / CHART ROAD POTHOLES

I reported multiple potholes on Repton Ave outside Waitrose (ref 723812)



These on either end of Sir John Fogge Ave (ref 723981) were reported.



These potholes were reported near the pedestrian crossing at the tank roundabout end of Chart Road (ref 723982). Those nearest the tank roundabout have been fixed.



QUANTOCK DRIVE

Most of the potholes I reported earlier in the year have been repaired but three remain. I have reported these but I am not sure if they are bad enough to need repair.



WILLOW BLOSSOM

I have been investigating the discontinuation of the Special Education Needs (SEN) provision at the Willow Blossom class at the John Wesley school. The program enables pupils who are unable to attend a mainstream school due to communication and emotional coping skill deficit. With the assistance and perseverance of the staff at the Willow Blossom unit, pupils make significant strides including one to one support in the class room in year 1.

The work at Willow Blossom was a pilot and KCC has commissioned a very large review into all Early Years provision. The Willow Blossom pilot is within scope of the review and the work at the class has been paused. This review will include all the research which has been conducted from Willow Blossom

alongside other pilots which have explored different models of delivery in other parts of the county. Early evaluation clearly demonstrates both the strengths and challenges of the approach taken at Willow Blossom and will be of great value in informing the way forward for SEN support as part of the wider review. The intention at KCC is for more children to have their needs met in mainstream settings. Therefore, KCC need to fully evaluate the outcomes for children before making long lasting strategic decisions.

Once the results of the Early Years review have been received and analysed, KCC will be able to make better decisions for the benefit of all children across the county.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

I have reported the pedestrian crossing not working at the Drovers, on the A20 towards Maidstone (ref 723978)



Work installing and commissioning the new pedestrian crossing across the ring road at Somerset Road (where Edinburgh Road joins) has been completed.



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