

## NEW ASH GREEN FOCUS GROUP

### Minutes of a meeting of the New Ash Green Focus Group held virtually via Zoom on Monday 16 October 2023 commencing at 4.00pm.

Present: Cllr S Fishenden – Ash-cum-Ridley Parish  
Miss S Brine – New Ash Green Village Association  
Mr C Clark –Chapel Wood Residents Society  
Cllr M Lindop – Sevenoaks District Council  
Cllr L Manston - Sevenoaks District Council  
Sgt K Savill – Kent Police  
Miss K Webb – Sevenoaks District Council Community Safety Unit  
Mrs J West – Community Warden

In Attendance: Mrs A de Jager – Parish Clerk,

#### 1. **Apologies for Absence and Introductions**

Cllr Mrs Brammer – Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council

#### 2. **Minutes/Actions from of the Meeting of 10 July 2023**

The minutes were received and noted. Miss Webb confirmed that following on from the Residents Society meeting, she had produced an article for the Village Association newsletter and sent it to Miss S Brine.

#### 3. **Police Update**

Sgt Savill advised that a few calls had been received regarding the gathering of cars and the use of nitrous oxide and balloons. The number has reduced from the summer months. Other reports include shop lifting and domestic disturbance, but there no trend.

Speed checks on Ash Road resulted in 3 drivers travelling at 40 mph and they have received advise.

A vehicle fire reported on Millfield was a domestic incident and spread into a garage.

A resident of Penenden has been the subject of anti-social behaviour and this has been passed to Environment Health.

#### 4. **Community & Sevenoaks District Council Update and Local Concerns & Issues**

Mrs West reported that she continues to be busy. The consultation on the future of the Warden Service produced an uplifting response, and staff have been advised that it will be business as usual until advised otherwise. Supporting residents with loneliness and isolation is a key part of the job along with support for carers.

Mrs West continues to book agencies to talk at groups, such as Sevenoaks Heroes, ADSS, and HiKent. The new Social Group runs monthly and has attracted regular attendees who enjoy pool and darts. Mrs West has been supporting the Community Cupboard, delivering to residents. A television was offered to the Community Cupboard, but there is not sufficient storage for large items. Nitrous Oxide cannisters and some local knowledge from the Farm Holt area has been shared with Police.

Miss Webb reported that the Strategic Assessments feed into the Community Safety and Action Plan with data from October 2022 to September 2023 priorities will be set and include antisocial behaviour, safeguarding – children and vulnerable adults,

mental health, modern slavery, domestic abuse, substance misuse and business crime. A draft report will be ready around Christmas time. Sliver Sunday is a national campaign for older people (55 years and older) and there are various community groups running events encouraging inclusion.

5. **Agency & Resident Society Updates**

Chapel Wood – a damaged grey van is parked on the road and is not recognised by residents in that area.

6. **Local Concerns & Issues**

- ASB locations and issues – no reports
- Graffiti – no reports
- Parking – Parking on Chapel Wood Road (the periphery road) near the roundabout makes it very difficult, at times, for large vehicles to pass. This parking is generated by Milestone Academy staff parking.
- Youth Provision – KCC has withdrawn all funding for detached youth work in the District.
- Neighbourhood Watch – no report
- Other Issues - none

7. **Other Matters for Discussion**

North Square – a request has been made to have the hedges/bushes reduced to waist height.

8. **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was set for 12 February 2024 at 4pm, via Teams. Agendas will be posted in all Residents Societies mailboxes at the VA office.

The meeting closed at 4.25pm

Signed: .....

Date: .....