

Minutes of Sevington with Finberry Parish Council
A Virtual Meeting held in on Monday, 7th September 2020 at 7.30pm

Present

Cllr Martin (Chair)
 Cllr Kennedy
 Cllr Townsend

Cllr Bartram
 Cllr Oakley-Hills
 Cllr Whybrow

In attendance: Borough Councillors Paul Bartlett and Gerald White, 5 members of the public and Tracey Block (Clerk)

To be actioned by:

To receive and approve apologies for absence Apologies had been received from	
To receive declarations of interest (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests). The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared. Cllr Bartlett declared an interest in MOJO site as close proximity to his home address.	
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2020. The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.	
To discuss matters arising from previous minutes that are not covered by the agenda. Highways Improvement Plan - to be revisited at another meeting.	
Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item. Darren Coppins – lives opposite the MOJO site and would like to discuss drawings that have not yet been shared with public. A new drainage run was being cut – new drainage was being planned. What is the outlook going to be, what security will be in place, what entrance plans will be in place, what is the maintenance plan etc., what environmental issues are being addressed. What can we learn from the area, re: saxons Cllr Martin responded, the PC shares these concerns – need to obtain more information. PC having a meeting with Damian Green/Rachel Maclean of the DfT. PB – plans will be in the public domain in September and the residents will be able to view these. KCC/ABC are both keen to be involved – Initially this was a DfT project and the local Councils had no input but now this has evolved. It has been agreed that ABC can work with DfT and will be able to understand what has changed in this scheme. It is certainly the intention of DfT to follow the previously approved application and they are going to do all that AXA committed to. PB fully expects the DfT to deliver all of the boundary treatments that AXA were going to – balancing pond, footpaths etc. Would suggest that Cllr Martin asks Rachel Maclean whether they are going to commit to the boundary treatment. The site will have 3 uses - a customs clearance post, this is expected to no longer be needed after 5 years. Expect a smart system that all inwards lorries will not need to attend this site. The other piece of site is to check food stuffs – once out of the EU we need to check UK standards of food are being met, this is being run by DeFRA at Northern site. Customs and Excise site is on Southern end. DeFRA part will possibly still need to be in use after 5 years has passed, as will the site at J11 which is undertaking the Textile checks. The MOJO site is also a lorry holding area should Operation Stack be implemented, when there are weather issues, ferries out of action etc. Operation Brock is only to be used if Customs Clearance papers are all in order, if this is not the case, the lorries will need to attend MOJO site so drivers and haulier can engage with French customs before they join Operation Brock. Eurotunnel have agreed that if any lorry turns up not ready with paper work in order, that haulier will be banned from using Eurotunnel for 3 weeks. This will damage the haulier so fundamentally this should make them comply with DfT requirements. KCC involvement is to project manage MOJO because Waterbrook lorry park was delivered so	

badly. £15 million is destined to be spent on MOJO – DfT are then accountable to KCC. ABC to review the planning situation and enforcement because the SDO has given the DfT a broad permission but nothing precise. Public engagement begins tomorrow – second question for Cllr Martin to ask is: what is stakeholder engagement? Suggest stakeholder engagement group means that the PC is involved. If this means regular Teams meetings then PC can be very involved.

RM – thanks to PB, will use this session to bring forward questions.

Nick Hughes – live opposite the current works. Main concerns having spent 8 years trying to decide what would be best for residents with regard to the boundary, wall of trees would put us in shade for 4 months of the year. Concern regarding the lack of communication and engagement? Concern over property prices and what sort of compensation would be in place?

RM – how would you feel about community investment?

NH – not interested in community compensation, this needs to be personal compensation.

DC – have spent money on my personal property, trying to retain heritage in the area and maintaining a green corridor is a priority. Went through a lengthy discussion with AXA. The anxiety being caused having spent years compromising with this, it feels like Government are running roughshod over this. Assured plans would be shared but the residents have still not seen these. From a stakeholder engagement view, this is not happening.

JO-H – agree with the points made. Feel that if your property is involved, you should have compensation. This is affecting the viewings of a local property and also the value of the properties. This is having a significant effect on the residents.

RM – how can we best put pressure on the stakeholders involved?

PB – when they built the M20, we were given £4,000. I don't know but there is a principal of compensation established. A 3rd question should be – compensation to the local residents.

4th point – when will the plans be available for public consumption.

There will be no realignment of Highfield Lane as AXA had planned.

The Saxon walls did not exist – it was a disruption technique.

DfT have messed up – PB put this on Facebook as he was told he could but the deal with AXA had not been agreed. DfT are aware of how badly they have acted towards the residents.

Sevington is worse affected than Mersham.

RM – there is concern for Finberry residents too.

GW – exiting Barrey Road as only left turn and having to go round roundabout with lorries too should be addressed.

Other comments – RB - Nothing further to add for the questions. Very challenging issue.

JT - What are the contingency plans? What if it is not completed in time?

PB – Minister has no idea about acquisition in Whitfield.

RM - Clear actions highlighted, thank you to Paul. What we can do as a Parish is clear. Need to see the traffic management plans.

AW – for clarity, is the compensation for local projects and residents – money already designated from Highways England?

PB - No this is from AXA and DfT have said they will honour this. KCC/ABC looking at Section 106 equivalent funds, probably looking at A28, Chart Road as the benefit has to be for the County.

<p>This is likely to be the Community compensation.</p> <p>RM - Who will minute the meeting? Clerk will minute the meeting. Can expect detail of stakeholder engagement.</p>	
<p>Report from Borough Councillors</p> <p>Cllr Bartlett's report had been circulated. A copy is attached to the minutes as an Appendix.</p> <p>Planning review – it is very important for individuals, Parish Councils and Borough Councils to comment. Increase moves from 970 to 1211 per year. This is likely to be on land that has not been designated for building on in the past. Need to press for Finberry edge to be designated as Country Park or similar. Need to be realistic as to where the new houses are going to go – PB to write a personal letter. If the Minister is bombarded by letters, they might think again so need to encourage people to write.</p> <p>White Paper – standard matter of housing requirements and how this takes place. Also, changes to the planning system in place – number of houses that each Authority has to build, Boris wants to build 300,000 houses in the UK. This is more than was in the Labour and Lib Dem manifesto. New class for affordable homes, new process for windfall sites. Land has to be designated: allocated for development, partial development and areas of protection. Have a Planning Application in town centre on flood plain opposite the outlet. Going to appeal – if that is granted, the principal.</p> <p>Internet has dropped out</p> <p>Cllr White - have had several requests for traffic calming measures. People are speeding out of the Retail Park so have spoken to KCC Highways and they will do a survey. 3 people have asked AW today about traffic issues, people are concerned about parking problems.</p> <p>Also, have an issue in Willesborough – using shortcut through the back of South Willesborough. Cannot see traffic calming measures in place.</p> <p>Biffa Waste lorries are leaking when they are travelling through the Borough – glass is an issue falling out of the lorries. Have had to have extra staff because of the additional waste.</p> <p>Have asked for additional road sweeping.</p> <p>Telephone kiosk – asking for mobile library and Defib. Have WI hall and hoping to put library in that as a Community Asset. AW - keen to have a defib. Mobile library is fantastic – only has 3 people attend when it does attend. AW is willing to ask the residents and see what is really wanted.</p> <p>RM – is the next step re: traffic management, to engage with the owners of the Retail Park? GW will be in touch with them but it won't take the problem away.</p> <p>AW – heavy footfall now. Barriers are supposed to be shut off at night and now have issue with boy-racers again. Tend to be in the BM side and so is Wickes carpark. No CCTV coverage in the area. GW will take this up again.</p> <p>GW to take these matters forward</p>	
<p>Support for the community around Covid-19</p> <p>Defer for now, will return as required in the Autumn.</p>	
<p>Crest/HML meeting in support of Finberry residents</p> <p>This is a very important issue for Finberry residents. Pay HML upfront when you purchase the property for first year, residents have now been billed excessively more than they expected. Bills are intermittent, this is distressing people and is engaging with Solicitors.</p> <p>Letters were sent out last week whilst a member of staff was on holiday. Trying to meet with Crest/HML – Crest to create a relationship but HML to meet with Parish Council in the very near future.</p> <p>JT – issues with lack of communication with HML, increase has been 160%. Have not allowed anyone to pay for the past few years.</p>	

RB – the bills are disproportionate to the works that have been undertaken. There is no breakdown for what we are being billed for.

Will get the meeting in for Finberry Councillors – all are welcome.

JO-H – do you have original contracts?

JT – yes but they have not been upholding these or the Deed of Covenant.

No Internet again

MOJO Site update

Addressed previously

Telephone Kiosk at Church Road, Sevington

Defer until next meeting.

Planning Matters:

A list of Planning Applications was circulated as Appendix A with the agenda, those requiring a response were:

[18/00098/CONO/AS](#)

Waterbrook Park, Waterbrook Avenue, Sevington, Kent

Discharge of condition 55 (so far as it relates to the elements of the full permission, i.e. SME units and Truck Stop)

Parish Councillors to revisit and comment to Clerk

[20/00943/AS](#)

Waterbrook Park, Waterbrook Avenue, Sevington, Kent

Reserved matters application pursuant to outline planning permission 18/00098/AS to consider layout, scale, appearance, access and landscaping in relation to the erection of a new fast food restaurant and drive-through including associated access, signage, parking, landscaping and associated works.

Parish Councillors to revisit and comment to Clerk

[20/01143/AS](#)

Bridge Cottage, Highfield Lane, Sevington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0FN

Proposed conversion of garage loft area to habitable space including front & rear dormer windows and Sun terrace.

Parish Councillors to revisit and comment to Clerk

Financial matters:

To note/authorise the following:

- i. To note the Parish Council's financial position

The Parish Council bank balance as at 31/08/2020 was £5,924.26 with outstanding payments to clear of £113.71

- ii. To authorise any payments

Payee	Amount
Printing of newsletters	£ 107.42
Thomas Saint	£ 113.71
Tracey Block	£ 327.96
HMRC	£ 99.20
Thomas Saint (August)	£ 113.71
Tracey Block (August)	£ 321.96
HMRC (August)	£ 105.00

A copy of the budget v expenditure was distributed to all Councillors.	
<p>Update from the Chairman, to include the proposed Byway diversion at Waterbrook</p> <p>Defer until next meeting.</p>	
<p>Footpaths</p> <p>Defer until next meeting.</p>	
<p>Ashford KALC Committee, proposed attendance at meetings</p> <p>RM as new to this position. Didn't realise there was a KALC group – several meetings about the Planning White Paper, looking for support in attending these meetings if other Parish Councillors could come forward – would be most appreciated.</p> <p>Some are more useful than others but must not allow this to be too big. KALC are very useful and professional and they will go off on a tangent. Where you can influence them is to tell them what is important and what matters.</p> <p>When the meetings come up – would like some help with attendance.</p>	
<p>To consider any changes to the Risk Assessment</p> <p>There were no changes to be made.</p>	
<p>Any Other Business (for information purposes only)</p> <p>The Clerk had circulated an email regarding appointing the External Auditor. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not wish to appoint its own Auditor.</p> <p>Looking to co-opt at October/November meeting.</p>	
<p>Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council</p> <p>Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.</p> <p>Monday 14 September 2020</p> <p>Monday 5 October 2020</p> <p>Monday 2 November 2020</p> <p>Monday 4 January 2021</p> <p>Monday 1 February 2021</p> <p>Monday 1 March 2021</p> <p>Monday 5 April 2021</p> <p>Monday 3 May 2021</p> <p>Thank you Paul/Gerald for attending.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 21.15.</p>	

COUNCIL UPDATE OCTOBER 2020

PLANNING REVIEW

The Government announced ideas for delivering its target of 300,000 new homes in the UK by making changes to the planning system in England. There are 24 proposals across three “pillars”, (i) planning for development, (ii) planning for beautiful and sustainable places and (iii) planning for infrastructure and connected places. A local plan with rules, including local design standards, rather than policies will need to be in place within 30 months.

Land in the plan will be designated for (i) growth, (ii) renewal or (iii) protection. Development in growth areas will not need planning consent as this will be given in the plan. Renewal areas will only have some development permitted and protected areas will have development restricted.

Other changes include:

- **digital planning**
- **infrastructure levy to replace s106 contributions**
- **a new category of affordable housing called “First Homes” with a 30% discount on the purchase price**
- **minimum of 25% affordable**
- **new mechanism of assessing local housing needs**

The consultation includes “Changes to the Current Planning System” closing on 1 October 2020 at www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-current-planning-system and “Planning for the Future” closing on 29 October at www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future.

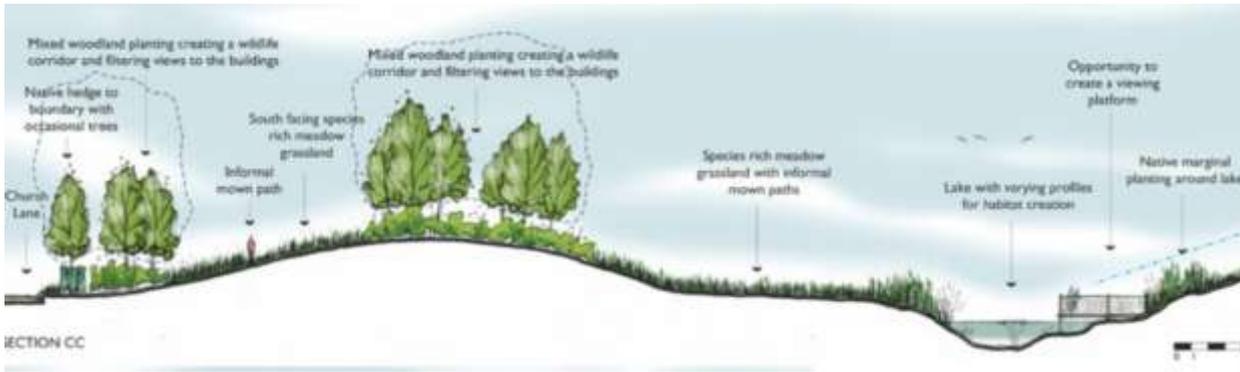
The focus for community and parish councils will clearly be on the Local Plan and not individual planning decisions. Any new system must provide local control of developments and have public participation at its heart.

MOJO

KCC has been appointed to carry out work valued up to £37m to prepare Stour Park for MOJO. This will include work on the boundaries to protect the amenity of nearby residents.

The setting of Church Road is expected to be enhanced through the implementation of a gently undulating landform created by varying profiled bunds and features in the form of ponds and shallow grassed swales. Woodland planting to be established along the slopes of the bunds and adjacent to Church Road so as to reinforce the existing sunken character of Church Road, whilst allowing for occasional filtered views across the undulating grassland / wildflower meadows and ponds. A second layer of woodland planting and landscaped bunds create a dense backdrop to these views and will filter views. KCC has the opportunity to deliver a functional environment which provides long term value for locals, visitors and wildlife.

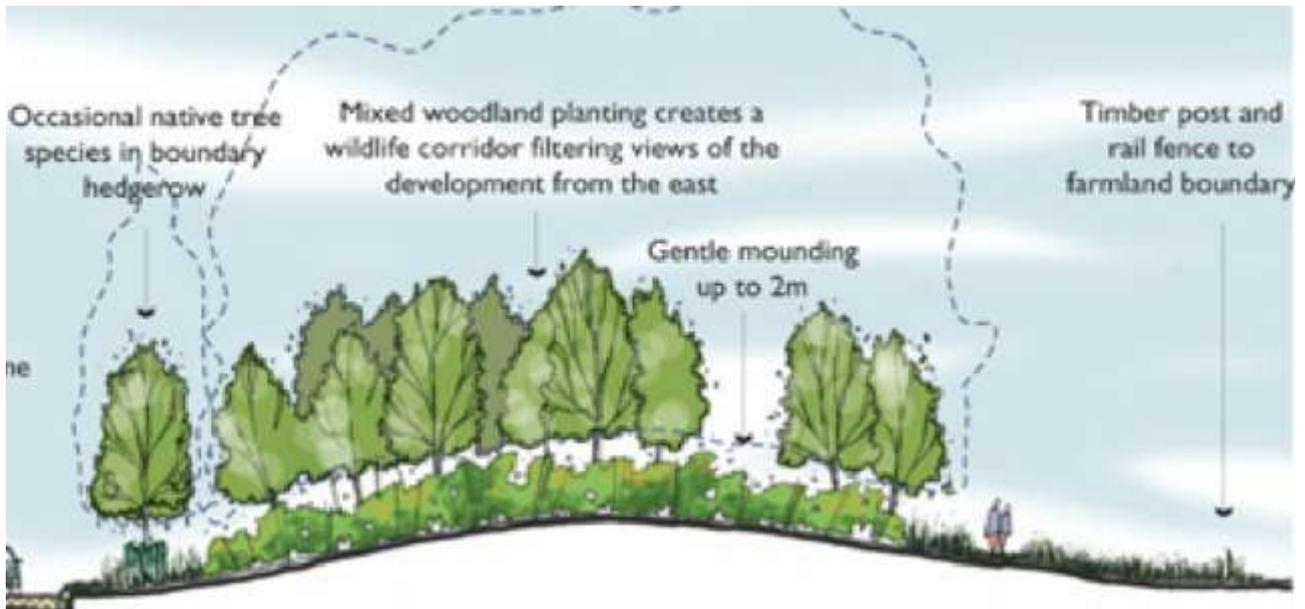




Other work includes creating a community hub at Sevington Church. The new church setting will create an area for contemplation and leisure. This will include a new car park, a small orchard reflecting historical precedent with pond and wildlife habitats within an eco-park environment.



Highfield Lane will be reinstated with an enhanced sense of enclosure provided by new native woodland and hedgerow planting to the east and west respectively. The woodland will be set within gentle bunds to create the sense of a sunken green lane which is a key positive landscape characteristic of the Mersham Farmlands and responds to the council's landscape character policy objectives.



A portal with plans showing the layout will be available during September. Other issues to come out of Damian and my meeting with Rachel Maclean were:

- **MOJO is a contingency lorry park for traffic diverted from TAP and Brock which is not "Ferry Ready".**
- **Brock to be put in place before MOJO is used for contingency lorry parking.**
- **HMRC offices will be to the south of the site nearest to Church Road. DEFRA site nearer the centre of the site with remainder for contingency parking.**
- **Part of the contingency parking to the south east of the site will only be used for 6 months.**
- **A further letter drop will be done with residents once the portal is open.**
- **SDO to be laid before Parliament in September. There is no time to include a clause that the eastern site will not be used. Minister to re-iterate on Teams call with Parish Councillors on 8 September that Eastern site will not be used.**
- **The site will be used for 5 years only (but who knows what will happen in 5 years time?)**
- **Access for lorries only via J10A, Church Road to be realigned and provide staff access (300 car movements).**
- **Church views obscured for first 6 months only. Closed footpath AE639 restored at that point.**
- **Highfield Lane will not be realigned (as AXA planned) as DfT scheme sees no need.**

BROCK

Work to install a new moveable barrier on the hard shoulder London-bound M20 between junctions 9 and 8 started on 1 September. The barrier will keep traffic moving on the M20 in the event of cross-Channel disruption from strikes and bad weather. Work lasts to the end of November 2020.

The system will allow port-bound lorries to be held on the motorway and ensure other traffic continues to run in both directions. Unlike previous Operation Stack solutions it means that, when it is not deployed, the M20 motorway will with three lanes running in each direction, at 70mph.

There will be overnight or lane closures between the junctions from 9pm – 6am from 1-11 September except 6 September. It will also be closed 16–25 November except on 22 November when the motorway will stay open.

Whenever the London-bound carriageway is closed traffic will be diverted from junction 9 via the A20 to re-join the M20 at junction 8. Vehicles over 4.7m high need to follow a different route, which is to turn around at junction 9 to re-join the M20 towards Dover, then the A20, the A2, then the M2. Drivers should then leave the M2 for the A249, to re-join the M20 at junction 7 and head back towards junction 8.

It is expected that Brock will be deployed before MOJO is used to accommodate coast bound traffic. This is because MOJO is for customs clearance and needs to be available for inward clearance and space for those lorries not permitted to join the Brock queue who need to get their papers sorted.

FINBERRY TRAFFIC LIGHTS

It has been reported that work is expected to start on the second stage of the Bellamy Gurner Scheme at the Orbital roundabout in the autumn. This will allow all direction exit from Finberry. The trigger point for the work starting is 500 occupations at Finberry. What was previously being suggested earlier this summer was an early 2021 start with a 12-month build. Highways England have been asked for an update.

KFC

Plans setting out the layout, scale, appearance etc for a new fast food restaurant and drive-through at Waterbrook have been published.



Further details can be seen at <https://planning.ashford.gov.uk/Planning/details.aspx?systemkey=116060>

HIGHWAYS

A £1.1 million 'retread' programme – using the existing road as a base for a new one – has seen 18 kilometres of rural roads reconstructed in an economical and environmentally friendly way. The work started in May and ran to the end of July.

Retread involves planing the old road surface and breaking it up, with the broken material levelled out to form the new road base. A fresh bitumen emulsion is mixed into the broken material to bind it and the road mix is compacted and sealed to provide a new, levelled and pothole-free surface.

As this method recycles the existing road, with fresh stone brought in only if required, a significant reduction in costs, material and CO2 admissions is the end result. The cost is around £16 to 18 per square metre compared to traditional resurfacing which can range between £35 and £50 a square metre.

Before is on the left and after is on the right from a road in Marden.



JASMIN VARDIMON DANCE CENTRE

Funding has been secured for a new creative laboratory at Henwood for renowned creative and dance organisation Jasmin Vardimon. The space will be on Javelin Way and will include rehearsal and performance space and a hub for creative communities in Ashford. Work is set to start on site soon with an opening expected in early 2022. KCC has secured funding from the government's Getting Building Fund of £578,724 which is administered by the Local Enterprise Partnership. ABC is contributing £750,000 from the Business Rates Retention Pilot and £3m has come from the National Lottery through the Arts Council's Capital Large Grants programme.

The new building will include incubator space for local creative communities and will develop Javelin Way for employment use with 29 light industrial units. The light industrial units are being used as enabling development to fund the education space and will support the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises. The scheme will accommodate 31 full-time equivalent employees, in addition to 21 freelance and contractor opportunities. It will also deliver opportunities for business development in the creative sector, as well as business rates and educational impacts.

BROADBAND

The Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme is funding for residents in the hardest-to-reach places in the UK towards the cost of installing gigabit-capable broadband to their premises when part of a group project. Premises with broadband speeds of less than 30Mbps can use vouchers worth up to £3,500 for each small and medium-sized businesses, and up to £1,500 per residential premise to support the cost of installing new gigabit-capable connections.

A Kent Top-up Voucher Scheme will enable Kent residents to benefit from up to £1,000 of additional funding. This means that Kent homes can get vouchers worth up to £2,500 instead of the standard voucher amount of up to £1,500 elsewhere. The Kent Top-Up Voucher only applies to residents not businesses and the Council has new allocated funds of £2,290,152 to deliver this.

BEECHOLME DRIVE

There have been reports of Anti-social behaviour in Beecholme Drive. Youths have been at the shelter and are causing anti-social behaviour. Flooring has been ripped up and thrown over the park and on the road. There have been reports of youths putting large objects in the road in order to cause traffic issues. There is possible drug use in the area. The PCSO is aware of some of the youths that are involved in this issue and they have all been spoken to about their behaviour. At the start of August, the Ashford Community Safety Unit received a new member, PC Joshua Hammond who has attended the area and has spoken to the youths; he has made them aware of the potential consequences if their behaviour continues. So far, the amount of calls received in relation to this issue has decreased. The PCSO will be monitoring the area and patrolling regularly.

KENT SOLAR TOGETHER

A scheme that will be of financial benefit to residents of Kent and help KCC achieve their Net Zero ambitions for the county has been launched. Domestic energy consumption accounts for 28% of carbon emissions in Kent. Installing solar panels has the potential to reduce carbon emissions in Kent by 777 tonnes a year whilst reducing energy bills for residents.

A problem is that the average cost of a 3.5kWp solar PV installation is £4,800. Prices have fallen since 2008, but the initial cost is a barrier to uptake. However, since January 2020 the Smart Export Guarantee ensures residents have access to tariffs that will pay them for electricity exported to the grid. Solar has therefore never been more affordable.

Solar Together Kent is a new collective solar PV buying scheme to help households get a reduced-price installation of solar panels. It relies on large numbers of households signing up to negotiate a better deal for everyone taking part. The scheme is being run in partnership with iChoosr (the collective buying provider).

The scheme is primarily aimed at domestic residents but is also open to small businesses, landlords and community buildings, provided the installation is less than 50 panels. Owners who already have solar panels will be able to get quotes to add battery storage to their existing solar panel systems.

Objectives of the scheme are to

- **increase the number of solar panels installed in Kent and reduce carbon emissions by around 777 tonnes per year**
- **provide access to competitively priced quotes to make solar energy and battery storage systems more accessible for residents**
- **stimulate the local solar economy by raising public awareness and interest.**

Project timings

- **1st September 2020: Marketing and registration opens for residents**
- **6th October 2020: Reverse auction takes place among the procured suppliers to get the best quote**
- **26th October- 11th December 2020: decision phase for residents to decide if they want to go ahead with their quote**
- **December 2020 – June 2021: Solar panels and battery systems are installed on homes**

Further information from www.solartogether.co.uk/Kent or phone 0800 014 8721.



STROKE REVIEW

On 25th August the Court of Appeal refused permission for an appeal hearing against the judicial review ruling on Kent & Medway stroke services review. This decision draws a line under the legal process challenging the decision to implement three hyper acute stroke units in Kent and Medway, and brings the NHS closer to being able to make improvements to services that will save lives and reduce disability from stroke.

The Kent and Medway Stroke Programme is still awaiting the decision from the Secretary of State on the referral for an independent review of the process. The Stroke Programme is working closely with NHS England and Improvement to progress this so that they can move forward with implementation of the HASUs. The project will cost £38m to implement and includes a new 52-bed specialist stroke ward at the WHH.

GP APPOINTMENTS

Although some face-to-face appointments will still be necessary during this unprecedented time, many GP surgeries and healthcare services are offering virtual and online appointments. You can use your smartphone, tablet or computer to have an online consultation. Updated guidance has been published on how to get the most out of online appointments, including what to expect and what to do if you are prescribed medication. Please see the following websites:

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/gps/gp-online-and-video-consultations/>

<https://www.healthwatch.co.uk/blog/2020-07-27/doctor-will-zoom-you-now>

Has your NHS operation or treatment been cancelled due to Covid? Or maybe your treatment has continued despite the pandemic.

Either way, Healthwatch Kent wants to hear from you. If your case has been postponed, how was it communicated? Have you heard anything since? Get in touch and tell your story. Call the freephone Helpline on 0808 801 0102 or email info@healthwatchkent.co.uk



Be aware of BSL!

British Sign Language

Spotted someone not wearing a face covering? It might be because they have a sensory impairment.

Some hard of hearing or deafened people rely on lipreading which is completely covered by masks, therefore making conversations incredibly difficult to understand. Deaf people who use British Sign Language (BSL) have different lip-reading skills, but all rely on mouth patterns and the whole face for visual clues, including tone of voice, emotions and affirmations.

As a result, there is the potential for a complete communication breakdown between yourselves and a deaf person, which could leave them feeling emotionally distressed, upset, frustrated and further isolated.

However, there are some simple adjustments you can make to aid communication such as;

- Consider if you are able to maintain the recommended social distance and remove the mask
- Use an alternative mask with a clear window or use a face shield *please note, some of these steam up, making visibility difficult
- Have either paper and pen or a small whiteboard and pen nearby and ready to use
- Use gestures where possible
- Use the voice recognition on your phone alongside a 'Notes' application or use a voice recognition transcribing app

For those in medical settings with a BSL user, use BSL Health Access via Interpreter Now*

*Please note, for BSL users who have appointments in advance, a qualified and registered BSL/English interpreter must be booked either in person or remotely.

For more information, you can contact the KCC Sensory Services Team on 03000 418100.

Alternatively, please text via SMS on 07920 154 315, stating how you would like us to contact you (e.g. BSL via facetime etc)



GREAT BRITISH SEPTEMBER CLEAN

Due to the current Covid-19 situation Ashford Borough Council will loan out equipment very differently this year for the September Clean. ABC will only hire out equipment to pre-existing litter picking groups and parish councils. They are asking for groups to keep hold of the equipment for 3 weeks and have an adequate place to store the equipment when not in use. Only 6 litter pickers will be issued at a time to each group to ensure government guidelines are maintained. To loan the equipment you must fill in a Community litter pick form on ABC website. Due to the enhanced health and safety precautions we are taking, it is a first come first served system.

You will need to pick up the equipment on Friday 11th September 2020 between 1000 – 1300 hours from Unit 26 Carlton Road Business Centre, Carlton Road, Ashford, TN23 1DP. All equipment will be cleaned before collection. All equipment must be returned on Friday 2nd October 2020 from 1000 – 1300 hours to Carlton Road. Contact street.scene@ashford.gov.uk for further information.

Paul Bartlett
Mersham, Sevington South and Finberry ward & Deputy Leader, ABC
Ashford Central Division, KCC
Grosvenor Hall Ward, Kennington Community Council
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