

COUNCIL UPDATE 11.2022

BYBROOK WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORK

The council served an abatement notice on Southern Water in November 2021, which was promptly followed by similar action by the Environment Agency. This resulted in an action plan to the value of >£3m being implemented on site - during which the EA, Southern Water and ABC have been meeting regularly.

That scheme is now all but complete, with the final element (connection of the post digested sludge tank to the gas system) to be finished prior to the next planned meeting.

However, as we have reached the end of the another summer period, and all but completed the action plan, it would be helpful to provide this summer's complaint information to give an indication of the impact of the action/works. This is especially relevant as last year's complaint reduction happened to coincide with a wet/cooler summer – albeit the data still highlighted significant improvement.

Summer (April-Sept)	Complaints received via ABC, EA, or SW
2019	57
2020	152
2021	25
2022	8

ROAD CLOSURES

Immediate/urgent Road Closures - Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice (TTRN) are issued where works are of an urgent nature the overriding aim is for the works promoter to attend site and remedy the issue. The work providers are required to advise KCC within two hours of works commencing that the road is closed. KCC is not able to prevent the works from commencing as the immediate priority is to remove the danger to public or restore essential services to customers. These include situations such as gas leaks, burst water mains, loss of communications / electricity supply or dangerous potholes / road collapses.

KCC can impose conditions such as extended working hours to expedite the works if achievable. Officers will challenge the duration of these works to ensure they are completed and cleared as soon as possible where it is deemed necessary. It must be noted that there is not a legal requirement for KCC to attend every closure site; but they will however become involved in

those locations that have potential to cause most disruption or where a problem has been identified.

Utility companies have regulatory obligations and service standards that are monitored by their regulators and must be complied with to return essential services to customers.

Where works are of a planned nature then a minimum of 12 week's notice is required. The area coordinator will check the diversion to ensure this is suitable and will look to see the impact on local businesses and bus routes. Any alternative route must be of a class of road the same or higher than the one being closed. Where works will have an impact on schools, the works promoter will be guided to carry out their works during school holidays to reduce the impact on school transport. Once works have been agreed the coordinator will process the legal aspect of the closure. Road sign information boards will be placed on the highway up to two weeks in advance of the closure to advise motorists. Information in relation to the works can also be found on www.one.network which is a public facing website providing information of all Street Works.

Road closure applications have grown year on year since 2017/18 and the table below details the number of applications received. Essentially the increases are due to utility companies' asset repair and maintenance, development works due to growth and housing and KCC's investment into Highway Asset repair and pothole blitz programme.

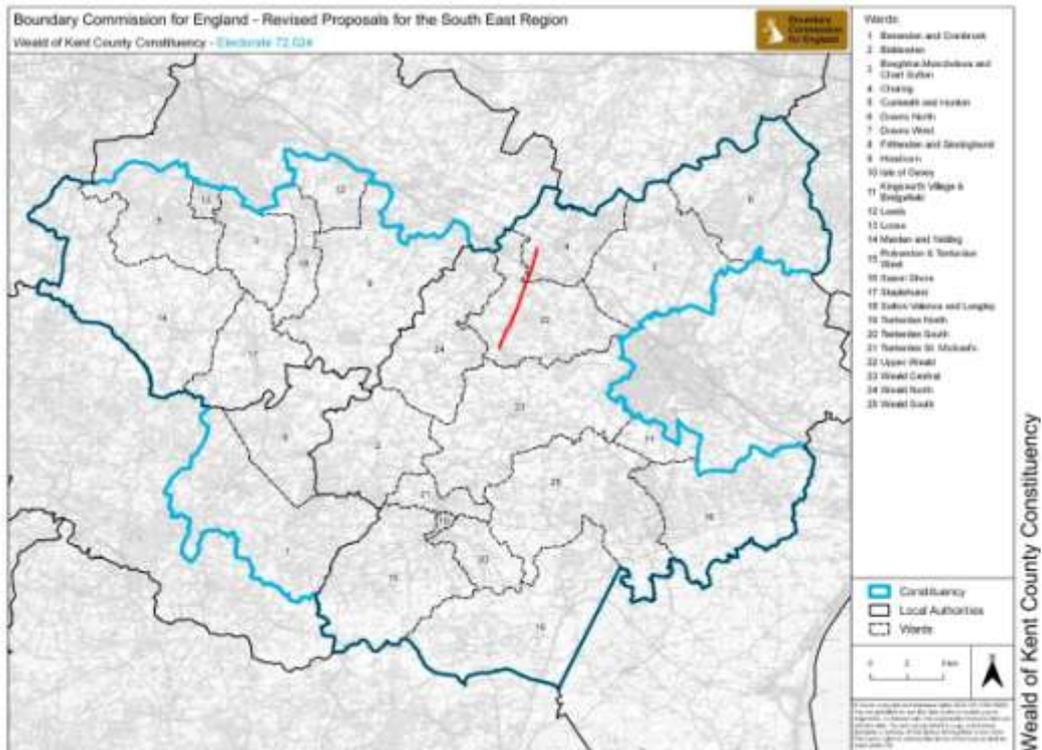
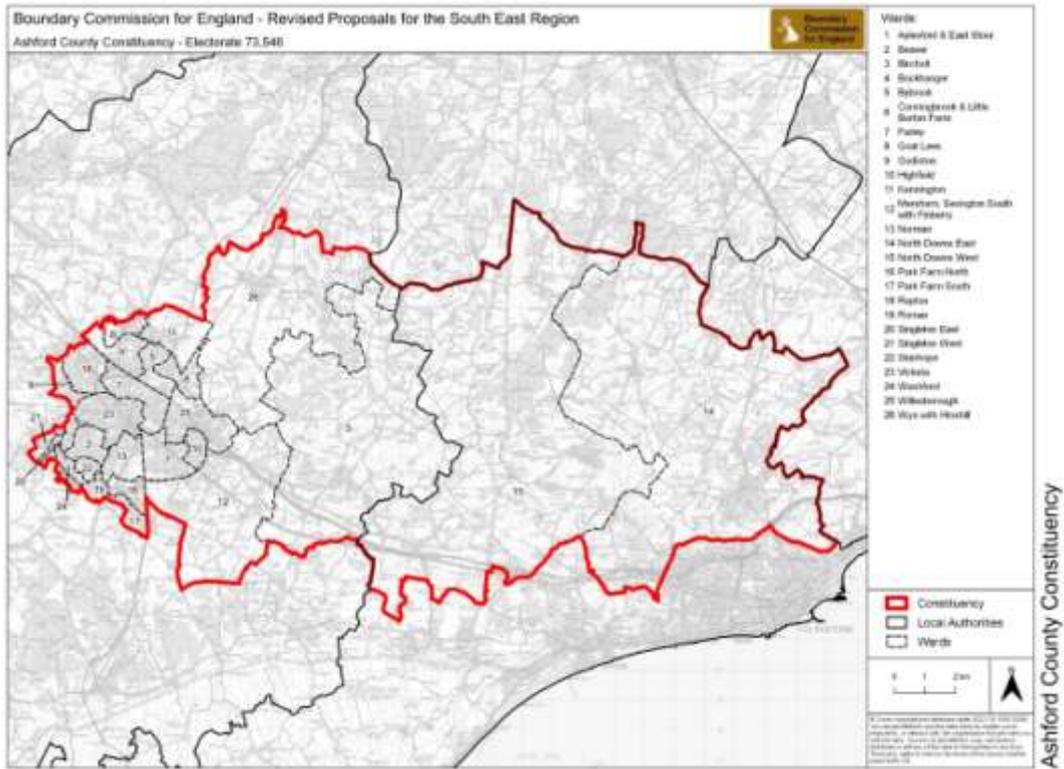
Year	Number of applications received: Yearly total
2017/18	4,833
2018/19	6,224
2019/20	7,284
2020/21	12,027
2021/22	15,751
2022/23 (YTD)	7,571
	53,690

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

The latest plans for a major shake-up of parliamentary constituencies across the UK have been revealed. The Boundary Commission is changing the number of seats meaning England will get 10 more, while Scotland and Wales will have fewer. Here is a map of what Ashford will now look like.

This is the third time that the Boundary Commission has revised its proposals - and voters are now being urged to give their views by 5 December. The new

proposals mean that Ashford Borough will remain represented by 2 MPs and not the 3 that was proposed in the previous version.



VICTORIA PARK

Councillors and officers met at Victoria Park on 8th November to review progress on improvements and advise on remedial work needed. The

scheme is due to be completed in Summer 2023. Two streetlights between the car park and the Bowls Club have been fixed by KCC.



Bin needs replacing on riverside footpath



Damaged kerb and damage to turf near Hubert Fountain Heras fencing damaged / blown over in recent winds

AU32 (“CHICKEN” ALLEY)

I have contacted KCC to address the tree growth in the footway (between Lower Queens Street and Heathfield Road). This is to ensure the lights are effective in the alley. I have asked Kent Police to advise me of other sites that need attending to.



COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

Social Enterprise Kent has created a centralised resource for the Cost of Living crisis, to aid with signposting and supporting people in Ashford

<p>Kent Community Pantry Stanhope</p>	<p>Making food affordable for local residents. For a small membership fee, of less than £3.50 per week, members receive around £15 worth of food. This includes Fresh produce, dairy, bakery, ambient, meat, drinks and hygiene products.</p>	<p>Friday, 9:30am-11:00am</p>	<p>https://www.kentcommunitypantry.org/</p> <p>Kent Community Pantry, Stanhope, Ray Allen Children's Centre Car Park, Ashford, Kent, TN23 5RS</p> <p>01233 500477 kcp@children-families.org</p>
<p>C&F Family Food Bank in Partnership with.....</p>	<p>The Family food bank works across Kent & Medway, providing food boxes via a network of distribution centres, to support the local community. This is a completely free service supporting the most vulnerable residents in need.</p> <p>Below are the distribution centre partners and their operating times to deliver food parcels.</p>		<p>https://www.familyfoodbank.org/ashford-ffb.html</p>
<p>Willows Children's Centre</p> <p>Lite Bites Willows Children's Centre Cafe</p> <p>Bluebells Children's Centre</p> <p>Sure Steps Children's Centre</p> <p>Waterside Children's Centre</p>		<p>Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm</p> <p>Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 6:00pm</p> <p>Monday - Thursday, 8:30am – 4:30pm Friday, 8:30am – 4:00pm</p> <p>Monday – Thursday, 8:30am – 4:30pm Friday, 8:30am – 4:00pm</p> <p>Monday – Thursday, 8:30am – 4:30pm Friday, 8:30am – 4:00pm</p>	<p>Willows Children Centre - Brookfield Rd, Ashford TN23 4EY. (Mon-Fri 8.30-4.30) Tel: 03000 418800 FAMILIES ONLY</p> <p>Lite Bites Willows Children Centre Cafe - Brookfield Rd, Ashford TN23 4EY. Tel: 07732 385091 FAMILIES ONLY 12-2pm, Singles Only with a Voucher</p> <p>Bluebells Children Centre - School Rd, Hothfield, Ashford TN26 1HA. Tel: 03000 418300 (Mon-Thur 8.30-4.30 & Fri 8.30-4.00) FAMILIES ONLY</p> <p>Sure Steps Children Centre - 10 Belmont Rd, Kennington, Ashford TN24 9LS. (Mon-Thur 8.30-4.30 & Fri 8.30-4.00) Tel: 03000 418600 FAMILIES ONLY</p> <p>Waterside Children Centre - Turner Cl, Ashford TN24 0PQ. Tel: 03000 418700 (Mon-Thur 8.30-4.30 & Fri 8.30-4.00) FAMILIES ONLY</p>

Ashford Youth Hub		Monday - Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm (evening support also available)	Ashford Youth Hub - Mabledon Ave, Ashford TN24 8BJ. Tel: 03000 417567 FAMILIES ONLY
Little Explorers Children's Centre		Tuesday - Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm	Little Explorers - Recreation Ground Road, Tenterden, TN30 6RA. (Wed & Fri 8.30-4.30) Tel: 03000 417400 (Tues - Thurs 8.30 - 4.30) FAMILIES ONLY
Pneuma Church		Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 12noon	Pneuma Church - Ashford Works, Cobbs Wood Industrial Estate, Brunswick Road, TN23 1EH. Tel: 01233 331919 (Mon-Fri 9.00-12noon)
Tenterden Social Hub		Monday – Thursday, 8:30am – 9:30am & 3:00 – 4:00pm	Tenterden Social Hub - Church Road, Tenterden, TN30 6AT. Tel:01580 762882 (Mon-Thur 8.30-9.30am & 3.00-4.00pm Individuals Only)
St Mildreds Church		7 days a week 8:00am – 7:00pm	St Mildreds Church Vicarage - Church Road, Tenterden, TN30 6AT. Tel: 01580 765518/07919 381827 or 01580
St Marys Willesborough		Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, 9:30am – 12:30pm	761591/07888998874 (7 days a week 8am-7pm) St Marys Willesborough - Willesborough, Ashford TN24 0YR. Tel: 07583418386 (Wed & Thurs Fri 9.30 - 12.30)
The Well (Willesborough Baptist Church)		Tuesday & Thursday, 9.30am – 12noon	The Well (Willesborough Baptist Church) - Hythe Rd, Willesborough, TN24 0QR. Tuesday & Thursday 9.30am - 12noon. Tel: 01233 632739
Boxes of Hope		Please make an appointment	Boxes of Hope - First Floor, 162 Godington Rd, Ashford, TN23 1LN. Tel: 01233 340194 (Please call to make an appointment before collecting. Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 9.00-12noon)
St Francis Church		Please contact the church	St Francis Church, Cryol Road, Ashford, TN23 SAS. Tel: 07562 333201
The Moat Foundation		Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm	The Moat Foundation, Stanhope Community Hub - 67 Otterden Close, Stanhope, Ashford, TN23 5TH

One You Shop		Tuesday – Friday, 9:30am – 5:00pm Saturday, 9:30am – 1:00pm	One You Shop, Park Mall Shopping Centre, Ashford, TN24 8RY. Tel One You Lifestyle Facilitator 07880275766 (Open Tues to Fri 9.30-17.00 / Sat 9.30-13.00 / closed Sun & Mon)
East Kent College		Monday – Friday, 9:00 – 4:00pm	East Kent College EKC - Pluto House, Station Road, Ashford, TN23 1PP. Tel: 01843 230876 - College Students Only
Ashford Social Services – Children’s Team		Monday – Friday, 9:00 – 4:00pm	Ashford Social Services
Lilys Kitchen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Wi-Fi • Device Charging • People to chat to • Pay it forward scheme • Space to work • Food/Drink for sale, pay as you can 	Tuesday- Saturday, 8am-4pm	Singleton Village Hall, Hoxton Close Ashford, England, TN23 5LB 01233630533 info@lilysbistrocatering.com
Salvation Army Foodbank	Food parcels and fresh food available	Fridays 10am – 12pm	The Salvation Army Hall, 115 Cudworth Road, Ashford, TN24 0BE 01233 643 480 ashford.corps@salvationarmy.org.uk
Repton Community Centre	<p>Community Fridge- everyone can access.</p> <p>Community Shop- Popping by once a week, you have the freedom to choose the items you need. Starting at just £1.50 for every £5 worth of items, able to get a maximum of £20 worth of shopping for just £6!</p> <p>Emergency Food Parcels- No rules, no fuss, no referrals. If you need something, you’re welcome to request it. We haven’t forgotten people who aren’t able to leave their house, contact us and we’ll try to help.</p>	<p>Community Fridge- Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm</p> <p>Community Shop- Open Mon, 1-2pm, Tuesday-Friday, 10-11am</p>	<p>https://www.reptonct.uk/</p> <p>Repton Avenue, Ashford, Kent, TN23 3RX</p> <p>info@reptonct.uk</p> <p>To request items for food parcels: 01233808023 peoplespantry@reptonct.uk</p>

M20 FOOTBRIDGE

I have reported the fact that the lights are only working on once side of the Eureka footbridge to Highways England



IBF – DRAINAGE

The DfT have published the drainage plans for the IBF. These can be viewed at <https://inlandborderfacilities.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Appendix-K-Flood-Risk-Assessment-and-Drainage-Strategy.pdf>. The surface water run-off is discharged to Old Mill (Aylesford) Stream in the north and to two culverts that run beneath the HS1 (High Speed) railway line in the south which are tributaries to the East Stour River. The discharge is controlled to a greenfield run-off rate of 4l/s/ha, as specified in the Ashford Borough Council Sustainable Drainage Sustainable Planning Document. The whole drainage system is designed to attenuate and impede discharge. Foul water uses an outfall to a Southern Water pumping station to the north-east of the Site.



November 12th saw the IBF lights switched off....what a difference! It was due to planned works on site.



AU 106 – THE ZIG ZAG PATH

Two new lights have been installed on the zig zag path either side of the crossing on Cemetery Lane (the road from Canterbury Road to Grosvenor Hall) to the playing field behind Rectory Way in Kennington. Diccon and I are meeting on 19th December to see if the light at the bottom of the path near the Cineworld car park can be fixed.

The picture shows the warning signage approaching the crossing. It's over 100 metres from the crossing itself and the relocation has been suggested to the owners.





QUANTOCK DRIVE VILLAGE GREEN



The period for objections to the Village Green application closed on 18th November. No contact has yet been made with the new owner.

TOWN CENTRE RESET

A report was discussed at the Council on 24th November. The space required for retail in town centres is shrinking, vacancy rates in retail and leisure premises in the Town Centre is 15.5% in July 2022. The last report on the Town Centre in November 2020 set out that the priority area is Bank Street and Elwick Road.

A draft Action Plan of suggested projects to be delivered over the next 3 years and includes:

- The junction of Bank Street, High Street and Middle Row to become an area embracing independent boutique retail and eateries.

- Provide improvements to complement the development of the Former Odeon building to see the development of cultural, community and entrepreneurial space.
- The Lower Bank Street should become a more pedestrian sensitive bus and transport core with improved public realm.
- Elwick Place to focus on the leisure core to the Town Centre with the cinema and investigation with the new owners of the former Debenhams space as outward facing leisure entertainment and office use in the County Square Extension.

Key priority actions include:

- Integrated play
- Feature lighting
- The suspension and reuse of parking bays in Upper Bank Street and Middle Row again in 2023
- A study of vehicle usage beyond the Bank Street Barrier and a review of the barrier itself.
- A Town Centre Shop Empty Premises Grant Scheme
- Streetscape improvements to the area around the Band Stand and a Street Art Event.

The delivery and development of the strategy and action plan will require continued consultation with key partners as well as with residents and businesses.

Our work has identified five primary nodes that comprise:

1. The T - defined by a series of spaces and streets that form the shape of a T and comprised of three zones - Upper Bank Street, Upper High Street and Middle Row. These zones will become areas of renewed commerce in legacy discretionary retail, areas of independent boutiques and the emerging core of an office, business district.
2. Elwick Place will remain the leisure core to the town centre and made a more notable landscape setting.
3. Lower High Street will adopt a focus of more neighbourhood commercial as well as a community of entrepreneurial and incubator brands, including the development of the Odeon and St. Mary's Fields.
4. Lower Bank Street will see upgraded public realm and a more pedestrian sensitive bus and transport core.
5. Academic & Commercial Quarter is a growth quarter envisaged as a future phase.



The 4 key areas for intervention

It proposes a spend of £3.1m over the next three years.

FREEDOM LEISURE

Councillors had a presentation from Freedom Leisure on their operations. Amongst other issues the following was raised.

- Work is being done with LTA to investigate if charges in 2023 can be structured to ensure community use is maintained.
- Freedom are happy to look at concessionary fees for some users and are happy to liaise with the Community Council.
- The opportunities there are for easy access to the Stour Centre by existing walking and cycling routes from nearby areas to be explored by putting some videos on social media.



LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Kent Local Medical Committee acts as the official democratic representative voice of Kent General Practitioners. The LMC is a Committee of general practitioners elected on a constituency basis by local GPs. I met the LMC on 10th November to better understand problems in GP surgeries.

- GPs have 800k interventions with patients in Kent and Medway on average each month (there are 1.6m people in the area)
- 30% of work involves chasing up hospital appointments which consumes a lot of surgery time to locate information.
- E-consult is not nuanced enough to efficiently direct patient to the correct medical practitioner. Specifically, it does not deal well with co-morbidity.
- A Medway PCN is trialling e-consult where the results go to one local office. The results are awaited.
- The 111 service can operate better as it offers reactive knowledge from the operator.
- BMA requires GPs to see no more than 24 patients / day to ensure safe working. This is audited by CMQ but some doctors see less because they are training new doctors.
- A lot of GP workload is being taken up by enabling patient's notes being available via e-consult due to safeguarding and redaction for GDPR reasons.
- A local attraction package is hoping to attract GPs in from outside EU but they arrive in Kent with no family contacts to assist with childcare.

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