

COUNCIL UPDATE 1.2022

HGV MOVEMENTS THROUGH MERSHAM & SEVINGTON

Please report incidents of lorries getting lost looking for the IBF in Sevington and Mersham to complaints.sevingtonibf@hmrc.gov.uk. They are keeping a log to support further signage on local roads but make sure you copy me on paul.bartlett@ashford.gov.uk to ensure HMRC's list is complete.

The DfT have said they are "open to additional signage on local roads" but we need to tell them where, Sevington PC, Mersham PC and ABC have all written to give them advice! Separately National Highways are "making it a priority" to replace the A-frames used on the M20 with permanent signage including new signs on J10A.

ABC officers have been working closely with Getlink and have been to Coquelles to view arrangements at the French Border for directing vehicles for checks. The method chosen by Eurotunnel has been based around colour coding the road surface amber for those vehicles called for inspection and green for those who will be allowed free travel and documentary checks only. I have asked that this methodology could be adopted on road markings and signage at J10A. This can replicate the Goods Vehicle Movement System which flags inbound UK vehicles either amber or green to indicate their need to attend an IBF. The minister has written back "thank you for your suggestions regarding colour coding road surface treatments between J10a and the site to match the system GVMS use. My officials will raise this with National Highways as the road sits on their network and will update you directly on the outcome of this discussion."

S106 CONTRIBUTIONS 2020/21

The following report has been published by ABC

Money to be provided under planning obligations that were entered into during the reported year (1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021)

Allotments: **£8,100 Towards Burton Farm and/or Bybrook** and/or Henwood & Westrees Ashford. This is from Orchard Farm, Canterbury Road.

Children's and Young Peoples Play: **£32,800 Towards Spearpoint Recreation Ground, Kennington, Ashford** from Orchard Farm. **£309,379.73 Towards provision within Ashford Town Centre** from the Newtown Works, South Willesborough

Indoor sport: **£140,876.44 Towards provision in Ashford Urban area** (Newtown)

Informal Natural Green Space: **£18,975 Towards the provision of additional furniture (bins, benches, signs) at Spearpoint Recreation Ground, Kennington, Ashford** (Orchard Farm)

Outdoor Sports: **£47,875 Towards the secure boat park and storage area for water sports at Conningbrook Lakes Country Park**, Ashford (from Orchard Farm). **£385,911.11 Towards outdoor sports provision within Ashford Urban Area**

Strategic Park: **£20,265 Towards Conningbrook Lakes Country Park**

Details of the total amount of money received during the reported year(1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021)

£40,000 for Church Works, at St Mary's Church Sevington

£21,503.27 towards parking restrictions to prevent overspill parking from the WHH (from Hinxhill Park)

£1,640,666.65 Conningbrook Lakes Country Park

Money that has been spent by the council in the reported year (1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021), including money transferred to another organisation to spend

£40,000 towards church improvement works at Sevington Church

£15,000.00 towards Ashford Town Centre projects

£3,000.00 towards Public Art – Conningbrook Lakes

ENVIRONMENT AND LAND MAPPING COMMISSION

The Commission will undertake a land mapping exercise to shape strategy including formulation of the next local plan and achieving net zero carbon target before 2050. It will strategically map out:

- Suitable locations for well-designed housing.
- Determine future land separation zones to ensure rural villages are protected from being merged into urban sprawl.
- Identify areas that are deserving of further protection to increase biodiversity and enhance natural beauty of these areas.
- Identify areas where additional wetland parks can be created.

The work will be completed by 12 December 2022 and will include engagement with local Parish, Town, Community Councils and Neighbourhood Forums. It will be down to these (and ward members) to ensure that the views of residents are communicated to the Commission.

Identifying land for housing can be controversial and is normally done by landowners through a “call for sites” which is part of the local plan process rather than a Council created Commission.

A possible scheme showing areas to protect in Sevington is below:



FINBERRY ISSUES

Extra Care

Crest have previously indicated they were reviewing how to take forward either in terms of construction and handover to a Registered Provider (RP) OR transfer to RP with RP to construct. It may well be that idea has now fallen by the way-side particularly if Crest Eastern are now driving matters rather than Crest Strategic. ABC will ask for an update.

Local Centre

Crest have been asked whether the Church Commissioners for England (CCE) had considered bringing forward an on-site solution to Nutrient Neutrality to get the developments at the Finberry Local Centre and off-site (south of Brockman's' Lane) started. The Local Centre is obviously some way away from being the Centre that was envisaged to provide on-site facilities. ABC have not had any feedback. CCE have changed agents and ABC will raise again with the CCE through them and also mention again to Crest.

Sports & Community Land

ABC have reiterated throughout (i) the importance of good contextual design so that a facility fits in well as part of the edge to the Local Centre in terms of its scale, layout and appearance and (ii) that the use catchment served involves not only Finberry. The facility is referenced in the Council's adopted Playing Pitch Strategy as well as at para 10.43 of the ALP 2030.

- 10.43 **Finberry / Park Farm:** a community and leisure hub adjacent to the new primary school at Finberry that complements the facilities planned at Bridgefield Park. This Hub aims to deliver a 3G state of the art sports pitch which will be supported by a multi-use play area, a community building with indoor sports courts and changing facilities.

See <https://www.ashford.gov.uk/media/jw3nbvq1/adopted-ashford-local-plan-2030.pdf>

Crest were happy as a matter of principle to go beyond that which they are obligated to construct in the s.106 agreement subject to the Council funding any excess. The aspiration for an artificial pitch here brings with it the need for appropriate quality sports changing rooms for participants and officials and also dictates the layout of the building (which also included an entrance from the street corner, a car park, multi-functional hall with ability to be serviced by a bar running from a hatch to a kitchen area as well as a pair of first floor level rooms and a viewing terrace over an artificial pitch).

PLANTING AT IBF



The first delivery of planting to create the “buffer area” barrier between the IBF and Mersham have arrived. A consultation will start of management and long term strategy for the site.

THE COACHWORKS

Imagine a space where you can park your bike, grab a coffee, sit amongst visionaries, share ideas with forward thinkers all whilst knuckling down to developing your own business! This place is Coachworks, Dover Place, Ashford, Kent TN231HU, supported by Ashford Borough Council. It includes "The Corn Store" which is a mixed area for members to use co-working desks for day or monthly slots, or rent individual studio workspaces of various sizes. These spaces will suit a range of uses from small creative agencies to individuals looking to be part of a new workspace community. Further details at <https://coach-works.co.uk/cornstore/>



QUANTOCK DRIVE

Following reports of dog poo in Quantock Drive, I have asked ABC environmental enforcement to consider signage to remind owners of the need to pick up.



I have asked whether the area between Quantock Drive and Simone Weil Ave is suitable for tree planting as part of HM The Queen's platinum jubilee.



I have also asked if KCC Highways could make safe the damaged fencing where pedestrians make their way towards Sainsburys / M&S via a short cut. The damaged fence is a trip hazard.



TWINNING

Photos from 24 January in the lower High Street of the presentation of £13,844 raised by the twinning association towards the Bad Münstereifel flood recovery.



SOLAR LIGHTS

I have asked KCC to look into the replacement or repair of a number of solar lights across the Borough that are not working. I have reported the following so they are included in the programme.



New House Lane / The Street, Mersham

Cemetery Lane, Kennington

AU106

Aspire has cleared the brambles preventing clear sightlines on the zig-zag path (AU 106) between Cemetery Lane and Cineworld.



SAFER STREETS

Matthew Scott awarded £550,000 to make the streets of Ashford town centre safer, particularly for women and girls. This was to cover:

- Personal safety equipment, such as drink testing kits and personal alarms
- Creating safe havens and installing more CCTV.
- A digital app will be developed which will show safe routes between key locations such as the lower high street and international train station.
- Improving the visual appearance of the town centre for those who live, work and visit there: removing graffiti, litter and flytipping and expanding programmes to keep shops and businesses safe.
- Provide educational sessions within schools to better safeguard young people by improving their knowledge, skills, and awareness of violence and abuse.



Replacing fencing around the main section of the Memorial Gardens and refurbishing the main gates on Vicarage Lane has started which will improve security and provide a fresh new boundary. This falls under item 4, above.

MOVING TRAFFIC OFFENCES

KCC are planning to use new powers, soon to be approved by Parliament, to improve safety and reduce congestion by enforcing traffic contraventions, such as:

- driving through a 'No Entry' sign
- turning left or right when instructed not to do so (making banned turns)
- entering yellow box junctions when the exit is not clear
- driving where and when motor vehicles are prohibited
- driving on routes that are for buses and taxis only.

These powers form Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004, which allows highway authorities outside of London to enforce moving traffic offences. However, the legislation has never been introduced to Parliament and these moving traffic contraventions can only be enforced by the police under criminal law.

The Department for Transport (DfT) announced in 2020 that they would be fully enacting the remaining elements of the Traffic Management Act, permitting local highway authorities outside of London to use approved camera devices to enforce moving traffic contraventions.

KCC will be preparing for these powers to make our roads safer and less congested. The first step is to apply to the Department for Transport to be included in the list of authorities that can enforce key highway restrictions or prohibitions.

Once the legislation has been passed by Parliament, these powers will be granted to Kent County Council to be used across Kent. This is likely to be in the summer of 2022.

KCC will use the latest Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology to identify drivers that break the law, and a penalty charge notice (PCN) will be issued. These enforcement powers will be used to:

- increase the number of drivers complying with the rules of the road
- improve road safety
- tackle congestion issues.

Further information is available here <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/travelling-around-kent/enforcing-traffic-offences>

SOLAR TOGETHER

Solar Together Kent is a collective solar panel 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 previous round of Solar Together Kent was supported by 9 Kent districts (including Ashford) and is expected to complete in February 2022. So far 200 solar panel installations and 11 storage batteries have been installed, which will save around 150 tonnes of CO2 per annum. Participants in the scheme in 2021 received an average discount of 33% against the typical market price.

Round 2 of the collective buying scheme opens for registration on 7th February. More information about the scheme is available on our webpage Solar Together Kent – Kent County Council (<https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/climate-change/reducing-emissions/household-energy/solar-together>).

VASCULAR SERVICES

NHS England and Kent and Medway CCG are consulting the public on a proposal to improve vascular services in East Kent, Medway and Maidstone areas. Vascular services include treatment to blood vessels to restore blood flow.

The proposal recommends all inpatient vascular surgery taking place at a single specialist centre at Kent and Canterbury Hospital (K&C), with most care, such as clinics and investigations, continuing at the patient's nearest hospital in Ashford, Canterbury, Maidstone, Margate and Medway. Day surgery would continue at Medway and Canterbury hospitals. Currently neither of the hospitals providing inpatient vascular surgery (Medway and K&C) fully meets best practice standards. Making this change will ensure patients have the best outcomes and chances of survival by ensuring that there are specialists available 24/7 with the right skills, equipment and infrastructure. Consultation on vascular services runs between 1 February and 15 March and can be viewed at <https://jointheconversation.scwcsu.nhs.uk/vascular-services>

FOOTPATH AE349

A diversion order for this footpath has been approved.



Paul Bartlett
Mersham, Sevington South and Finberry Ward & Deputy Leader, ABC
Ashford Central Division, KCC
Grosvenor Hall Ward, Kennington Community Council
Sevington South Ward, Sevington with Finberry Parish Council
0773 929 3502
paul.bartlett@ashford.gov.uk or paul.bartlett@kent.gov.uk