

**Minutes of Mersham Parish Council**  
**Meeting held in on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 via Skype**

**Present**

Pete Turley (Chair)  
Gavin Murphy

Geoffrey Fletcher

In attendance: 4 members of the public, Jake Huggett, KCC, Borough Councillor Paul Bartlett and Tracey Block (Clerk)

Cllr Turley welcomed everyone to the meeting and as Cllr Fletcher is unwell he will join the meeting after the discussion regarding Fibre and the agenda will be rearranged to accommodate co-option while the Council is quorate.

To be actioned by:

**Discussion regarding providing Fibre to the Premise in Mersham**

Cllr Turley introduced the Council to Jake Huggett. Cllr Turley explained that, having heard from the Clerk that fibre to the premise is going to be available in Hastingleigh, it is hoped that this might be possible in Mersham.

Jake introduced himself as working for KCC assisting with Broadband projects in Kent. Jake explained that there are a number of options, one being a Community Fibre Partnership so that all homes involved can claim vouchers that will allow the community to have Gigabit enabled fibre to the premise.

Jake has been supplied with a list of postcodes in Mersham, the voucher values are different – up to £1500 in the first instance for a residential property with restriction – postcodes checked means everyone can qualify – minimum speed of 30mbps. There are limitations and some properties who already have fibre to the cabinet must take a service of at least 120mbps for 12 months if they are to benefit from a voucher. Also £3500 per business in addition to the residential voucher, KCC provide a £1000 voucher (need to use the speed checker on Open Reach as that is the tool used). This is a demand led scheme.

Some communities set up a business – but the demand-led approach is run by OpenReach which will mean you need 130% of the costs. Need a cost from OpenReach in the first instance.

GM – if cost is £X but there is a short-fall, is there an opportunity for homes to add in to make up a short-fall?

JH - If demand-led, there is no contract so the shortfall won't work but the other approach where a business is set up would work be able to accept funds to make up the short-fall.

PT – the cost will vary massively when you look at the densely populated areas against the wider community, I would imagine that there may be alterations as we look at scoping/reach.

JH – Yes, potentially, you would need to look at costing against premise – this can be changed until the final offer is provided. If ducting is damaged etc, the cost may change etc. There is room between the initial approach and the final offer set up. Rural Gigabit Connectivity Scheme is only available at present until next May. Money is ring-fenced once for each project once you get to the offer stage.

GM – how much buy in do you need from the community before you start?

JH – you can ask for costings from OpenReach without any community buy-in.

PT – how long is the project?

JH – 12 months from sign-in to build completion. Everyone would need to buy a service for 12 months, there are a limited number of companies who are available as suppliers – OpenReach will build the infrastructure.

KS – can you use other suppliers rather than OpenReach?

JH – there are other suppliers. KCC works with OpenReach because they are the largest infrastructure company in Kent.

PT – When does commitment take place?

JH – Depending on which approach you take, commitment from the community will take place when they each

<p>pledge to take a voucher or when the contract is signed by the company that has been formed for this purpose if using that approach.</p> <p>GM – This time-frame is a problem with current contracts?</p> <p>JH – this may cause a problem because there might be connections/contract cancellation to get the service.</p> <p>GM – If we are to talk to about 500 households, we would need to get the cost of providing the FTTP.</p> <p>GM – does Tracey have the right contacts.</p> <p>TB – Yes, Gavin, I do.</p> <p>JH – I will provide links to Tracey and then might need to have another discussion about which way forward you wish to go.</p> <p>SR – is fibre available to parts of the village?</p> <p>JH – there is some available in the village.</p> <p>GM – there is some available but it is inadequate to the majority. FTTP is a massive benefit to households.</p> <p>JH – Kingsford Street residents have been in touch with KCC directly regarding their poor speeds.</p> <p>PT – any further questions? Thank you to Jake.</p> <p><b>Jake Huggett left the meeting and Cllr Fletcher joined the meeting</b></p>	
<p><b>To receive and approve apologies for absence.</b></p> <p>No apologies had been received.</p>	
<p><b>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.</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
<p><b>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b></p> <p><b>Minutes</b> of the Meeting of the Mersham with Sevington Parish Council on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020 were approved as a true record and were signed as such.</p>	
<p><b>Co-option of new Councillors</b></p> <p>Mr Hawkins, Mr Ross, Mrs Wells and Mr Stewart had all expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. The documentation had been circulated, the declaration of office forms were signed and the Declaration of Pecuniary Interest Forms were completed by the new Councillors.</p> <p>All completed forms will be collated by Cllr Turley.</p> <p><b>Cllr Fletcher thanked everyone and left the meeting.</b></p>	
<p><b>To discuss matters arising from previous minutes that are not covered by the agenda.</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising to discuss.</p>	
<p><b>Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item.</b></p> <p>There were no comments to be made.</p>	
<p><b>To receive report from Borough Councillor</b></p> <p><b>Detailed report attached below</b></p>	

**To discuss the Highways Improvement Plan**

Cllr Turley introduced the Highways Improvement Plan , the reasoning behind the programme and KCC wanting to work with the Parish Councils. All projects are subject to fund availability. May 2019, Cllr Bell introduced the idea and the PC has put forward 5 concerns for Mersham, Mersham PC had a meeting with 2 ladies from Kent Highways. Requested that they meet with the PC on site, however, they met separately and they then came back with an update. This has not been progressed further and the Parish Council needs to take one item forward.

KCC have suggested lane markings, gateways, dragon markings etc to make sure people take care as they enter the village. To be placed on entrances to the village at The Street, near The Farriers, Quarry View. Cllr Turley explained that they had also spoken about traffic near the Sports Ground.

Cllr Turley wanted to give history and suggest that at the next meeting, the Parish Council agree a priority.

Do KCC find line markings effective? Yes, they do. Problem will not be eradicated. It is felt that the Speed Indicator had a beneficial effect.

Given the importance residents repeatedly express as a Parish Council we need to decide on our priority and try to deliver specific improvements. KCC advise that they would support one item per annum for a parish.

What happened to SID (Speed Indicator Device)? It was not compliant with KCC standards. Worth looking at a compliant alternative. No items of 3.8kg can be placed on the Street Lamp poles. Need a structural integrity test.

**Kent Highways Plan and sources of funding for a Speed Indicator Device to be Agenda items for July.**

**Planning matters: to authorise a response to any application(s) and to note any recent planning decisions by Ashford Borough Council or any correspondence on planning matters.**

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

20/00608/AS	Barn View, Chequer Tree Farm Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 7GW	Erection of agricultural storage building
No objections		
20/00655/AS	Stables at, Court Lodge Farm, Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6NR	Erection of two bay car garage and store
As a PC we would not support any further development on that site until the tarpaulin is removed from the building.		
20/00679/AS	Hillcrest, Blind Lane, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 7HA	Certificate of Lawful Development- Proposed - Erection of caravan for ancillary use
An application has been withdrawn, this was a Planning Application. This is, however, for a Certificate of Lawful Development.		
20/00601/AS	Red Barn Farm, Laws Lane, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 7HG	Erection of single-storey outbuilding to provide storage, office and gym; part change of use of land for the keeping of horses including erection of stable block and sand-school
No objections but request that the Planning Officer considers any comments made by neighbours.		

Planning issue – Cheesemans Green Lane, new entrance created. Are there any Councillors who may like to take a look at this and raise with the Council?

There was a planning application historically on site but this was refused. There is a new entrance and a gate put in and it is expected that this access will be used for the Business Centre because Bilham Lane has

become so rutted. Nearby residents have submitted a complaint to Planning regarding this. Geoffrey was going to look – Cllr Turley to look into this further. Cllr Fletcher/Murphy may look at this too. PB to send the complaint he sent in.  
**Response to be formulated at the next meeting.**

Financial matters:

a. To note/authorise the following:

i. To note the Parish Council's Financial position

*The Parish Council bank balance as at 31/05/2020 was £16719.89*

ii. To authorise any payments

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
502011	Came and Co – Insurance	£ 495.42
501999	Ian King	£ 118.31
502000	HMRC	£ 76.80
502001	Tracey Block	£ 321.96
502002	Caretaker payment	£5000.00

A copy of the budget v expenditure was distributed to all Councillors.

Any Other Business (for information purposes only):

Cllr Hawkins – LED lighting is missing in Bower Road. Has been updated, failed visits to repair it. Must be fitted to a dedicated lamp posts, not a joint user pole. Cllr Wells and Turley to submit complaint.

Cllr Stewart – Blind Lane vegetation is over-grown and there is a trench that is on the road edge. Not sure who the farmer is – report the verge to Kent Highways and take photographs. If no action, report to Clair Bell. Hedges are sub-contracted by Kent Highways – report to Kent Highways.

Highfield Lane – Kent Highways cutting the hedges, agricultural traffic.

Village Caretaker – if anyone is interested in finance of the Caretaker - presentation available.

Cllr Bartlett – Sports Club funding? Mersham still to provide £2,500. The Sports Club are changing into a charitable status and they are having a number of trustees. Cllr Turley is a trustee that represents the Parish Council. When Ashford Borough Council provides £100,000 it can be stated that the Parish Council is involved in the governance of the Sports Club. Ask for an update, PT to invite Fred Ambler.

PT

**Agenda item for July meeting.**

Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

All

**The meeting closed at 9.05 pm**

## Ashford Borough COUNCIL UPDATE JULY 2020

### **CORONAVIRUS**

ABC have launched Ashford Applause, an initiative to recognise people who have done amazing things to help their communities during this challenging time to recognise and illustrate the wonderful contribution people are making to the community during the Coronavirus crisis. An Ashford Applause shows our community champions how valued they are and shines a spotlight on those special people who make a positive difference to our lives when we need it most.

The nominations are open to all individuals, whether it's a dedicated key worker on the frontline, a selfless volunteer delivering food parcels or an outstanding neighbour collecting shopping, prescriptions or cooking meals for others in their area.

Each week until 3 August, a community champion will be selected at random from the entries received and their story showcased on Loveashford and the council's websites and social media channels, praising and recognising their hard work. Those receiving an Ashford Applause will also be given a personalised digital portrait, hand drawn by a local artist.

If you know someone who deserves praise for their work, nominate them by visiting our website and complete the short application form: [www.ashford.gov.uk/ashfordapplause](http://www.ashford.gov.uk/ashfordapplause)



### **FLANDERS ROUDABOUT**



This a picture of the new trees planted on the Flanders Roundabout on the Romney Marsh Road junction with Bad Munstereifel Road. The silent soldier silhouettes will be added later in the year. It is not best horticultural practice to plant trees at this time of year, however the trees have been in stock and held at Aspire (ABC groundworks team) depot since February, when they were hoping to plant them. Unfortunately the ground conditions were unsuitable

at the time due to continued wet weather. Then came the lockdown. So this is the first opportunity they have had to plant them. They will, of course, be watered continually.

## HIGHWAYS WORK

Please see extracts from the quarterly update affecting my ward and division (including wider Kennington).

<b>Machine Resurfacing – Contact Officer Byron Lovell</b>			
Road Asset Renewal (Machine Surfacing) describes the range of responses we may use when the surface or sub-surface layers that have deteriorated to a point that they need to be replaced. The existing surface is cold milled to the required depth and a new surface / pavement layer installed.			
Road Name	Parish	Extent of Works	Current Status
A2070 Kennington Road	Ashford	William Harvey Hospital to M20 Junction 10	Programmed 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
A2070 Kennington Road	Willesborough	Quest through to Railway bridge past Julie Rose Stadium	Programmed 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2020

<b>Surface Dressing</b>			
Surface Dressing is the application of bitumen, which is sprayed onto the road surface followed by the laying of chippings onto the bitumen. These layers seal the surface to prevent water penetration, restore texture and improve skid resistance.			
Road Name	Parish	Extent of Works	Current Status
Hythe Road	Various	VARIOUS SECTIONS From Bockham Lane to Ashford /FH Boundary	Postponed for engineering reasons
Maidstone Road (Ashford Road)	Various	VARIOUS SECTIONS From Sandhurst Lane to Charing Roundabout	Provisionally Programmed for August 2020
Trinity Road	Boughton Aluph	Pemberton Road to A251 / A2042	Provisionally Programmed for August 2020

<b>Footway Improvement - Contact Officer Neil Tree</b>			
<b>Road Name</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Extent of Works</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Brunswick Street	Ashford	Footway Resurfacing - Sections between Brunswick Road and Access Road to Kings Avenue	Programmed to commence 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
Godinton Road	Ashford	Footway Resurfacing - Full length (Inc. Sackville Crescent)	To be designed and programmed
Kings Avenue (part only)	Ashford	Footway Preservation From the junction of Kings Avenue to Pavillion View	Designed and to be programmed.
Eastern Avenue	Ashford	Footway Preservation - from the junction of Sackville Crescent to No's. 2 & 9	Designed and to be programmed.
Western Avenue	Ashford	Footway Preservation Full length	Designed and to be programmed.
James Street	Ashford	Full length	Designed and to be programmed.

<b>Street Lighting Column Replacement – Contact Officer: Sue Kinsella</b>			
<b>Road Name</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Description of Works</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Chart Road	Godinton	Replacement of 3 no street light	Works programmed for completion by end Sept 2020
Kennington Road	North Willesborough	Replacement of 2 no street light	Works programmed for completion by end September 2020
Magazine Road	Stour	Replacement of 2 no street light	Completed

<b>Developer Funded Works (Section 278 Agreement Works) – Contact Officer: Jamie Hare</b>				
<b>Scheme Name</b>	<b>Mastergov File Ref No</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Description of Works</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Repton Park	AS003074	Ashford	Road N6 tie-in with Ordinance Way	Technical audit stage - layout agreed, waiting for lighting
Henwood	AS003090	Ashford	New junction at Flipout	Works complete; in maintenance period - remedials required
Hinxhill Park, Hythe Road	AS003238	Ashford	New signalised junction	Design approved; waiting for Agreement to be signed
Spindlewood to Repton Park	AS003281	Ashford	Short length of link Road	Works complete. In maintenance period
Prince Albert redevelopment	AS003379	Ashford	Footway and carriageway works and new loading bay	In technical audit stage
Willesborough Road	AS003149	Conningbrook	New access to Conningbrook Development	Works complete, snagging works required
A28 Chart Road, Brunswick Road	AS002081	Godinton	Rearrange junction alignment	Works complete, snagging works required
Houchin Field	AS003070	Kennington	Access	In technical audit stage
Sports Ground	AS003056	Mersham	Access	Works complete
Rutledge Avenue	AS003325	Park Farm	Temporary vehicle access	Agreement signed, works commenced on site
A2070/Finberry Park junction	AS003154	Sevington	Junction improvement	Agreement being prepared

<b>Bridge Works – Contact Officer: Geoff Blatchford</b>			
<b>Path No</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Description of Works</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
Flood Street	Mersham	<p>Mersham Forstal bridge No.131 is prioritised for reconstruction and capital funding was set aside for design in 19/20. Although funding for the construction works is not yet confirmed KCC Highways currently anticipates allocating capital funds in 20/21. The design commission is underway and is likely to be completed in early summer 2020. Subject to funding, construction could then be programmed for 20/21 although environmental constraints from the Environment Agency controlled Main River could dictate works being delayed into 21/22.</p> <p>The current condition and management of the bridge has been reviewed. This review concluded that following further deterioration there were now unacceptable risks associated with accidental vehicle loading of the footway which led to the introduction of the temporary barriers as an interim measure until such time as the bridge is reconstructed. KCC is continuing to monitor the condition of the bridge on a 3-monthly frequency but do not currently envisage the need for any further measures in the period before the reconstruction works are completed.</p>	

<b>Traffic Systems - Contact Officer: Toby Butler</b>		
<b>Location</b>	<b>Description of Works</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
A292 Mace Lane near Henwood Roundabout	Renewal of traffic signal controlled crossing	Proposed January 2021

### **Member Highway Fund programme update for the Ashford District.**

#### **Paul Bartlett**

<b>Details of Scheme</b>	<b>Status</b>
Nine Acres Ashford – New traffic calming feature	Works completed
Bybrook Road Ashford – 20 mph scheme design	Outline design
Quantock Drive – Installation of a handrail	Works programmed

<b>Street Works – Contact Officer Alison Hews</b>						
<b>Road</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Works Description</b>	<b>Works Promoter</b>	<b>Dates from</b>	<b>Dates to</b>	<b>Traffic management comments</b>
Brunswick Road	Ashford	Remedial reinstatement to concrete carriageway	South East Water	10/8/20	21/8/20	Road Closure – duration required for concrete curing

### **CYCLING AND WALKING STRATEGY**

In the last few years KCC and ABC has delivered a number of improvements to encourage walking and cycling in Ashford. These include:

- New footway / cycleway bridge over the M20 to link Sainsburys on Simone Weil Avenue with The Eureka Leisure Park
- Willesborough Dykes footway / cycleway providing a link between Park Farm and Ashford Town Centre
- Footway / cycleway into Finberry from the A2070 together with an improved crossing across the A2070
- Footway / cycleway between Bridgefield and Finberry to provide a direct route to Finberry Primary School

The time is right to consider the next round of projects as these completed projects have all been very well received. The new projects include:

- Hythe Road to Mace Lane: 20mph Limit public realm improvements at crossing points from the Ashford / Canterbury railway bridge, past the petrol garage, to the Mace Lane roundabout and then a segregated cycle way to the town centre. Cost £15,500,000.
- Canterbury Road across the M20 bridge and into the town centre: light segregation at the toucan Crossing, “Living Street” approach improvement and bridge and pavement improvements linking the bridge to Heathfield Road. Cost £10,000,000.
- Orchard Heights past Highworth School to Magazine Road / Barrowhill: from Orchard Heights, widen footpath & cycleways, move bus stop, provide toucan crossing, potentially continue footpath cycleway northbound, decide whether a segregated cycle lane is best north or south bound. At Barrowhill reduce capacity roundabout north bound to provide space, raised table entry and shared footpath. Improve junction car parks Lidl and Barnardos. Cost, £780,000.
- Repton Way Tank to Western Avenue: new toucan crossing, 20 mph “Living Street”, drop kerbs and raised table speed cushion with 20mph signage. Total cost, £310,000.

I have asked for a small piece of tarmac from edge of the carriageway in Kingsford Street (opposite Ransley Kennels) to the pavement for the new footbridge over the M20. If you are cycling from Mersham you would need to cross about 2 foot of unmade up verge. This is actually quite annoying and in the winter could be quite dangerous.



### **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)**

ABC is discussing a new policy on ASB. Examples of ASB where the Council will work with the Police include:

- Noise nuisance, e.g. loud music, persistent shouting or excessive noise or frequent loud parties and other domestic noise,
- Environmental ASB e.g. dumped rubbish and littering, vandalism, dog fouling, dog control, bonfires, graffiti, fly-posting, abandoned vehicles, and
- Commercial ASB e.g. construction noise, environmental waste.

The policy will NOT cover:

- Children playing in the street or communal areas and young people gathering socially, unless they are being threatening or deliberately intimidating,
- Parking issues (not being able to park outside your own home),
- Civil disputes between neighbours e.g. shared driveways,
- Complaints about normal household noise, and
- Disagreements between two neighbours where there are no impartial witnesses or evidence to support either party.

The policy will be reviewed every three years.

Please report any anti-social behaviour to the ABC Community Service unit on <https://www.ashford.gov.uk/report>. This is not a direct line to the Police, for that use 999 or 101. This Report it App is to build up a picture of anti-social behaviours in the Borough so that ABC's Community Service Unit can create a picture of where they would like the Police to deploy their resources.

### **NUISANCE MOTORBIKES**

This is a problem that blights many and also gets responsible and careful motorcyclist a bad name many who have performed sterling work through the coronavirus crisis. If you need to report a matter like this remember to call the police (101 or 999 in emergencies) giving as much information as possible

- Description of helmet, clothing, registration number, colour/make/model (if you can) and any distinctive livery features;
- Location, including road seen on, direction of travel and if they are forming up of groups.

## **NO USE EMPTY**

No Use Empty, Kent County Council's award-winning empty homes initiative has announced a new £12 million fund to bring derelict sites back to life. The scheme provides loans to developers to bring derelict land and empty homes back into use. Since No Use Empty launched in 2005 it has returned 6,326 homes back into use and this additional £12 million investment by Kent County Council is a tremendous boost to the scheme.

With the construction industry now returning to work in a safe and structured way, No Use Empty is ready to administer loan applications and help Kent's economy recover as well as delivering the homes required, whether it's a refurbished empty property or a new build. For more information visit: <https://www.no-use-empty.org.uk>

## **DOG POO**

Although improved in recent years there are still some problem areas in the Borough. I have asked for stickers to go on the bins at Sackville Crescent as ordinary bins can now be used for bagged up dog poo. This is an opportunity to remind residents that ALL bins can now be used to deposit dog poo.



## **ASHFORD LIFELINE**

Ashford Lifeline is a 24-hour service, providing an instant response at the touch of a button. You may need to use the system when you cannot get to the phone due to an injury, feeling unwell, suffering after a fall or if there is an intruder. By pressing an alarm button, a signal is sent to Ashford Borough Council's Lifeline Call Centre. A microphone in the system allows you to talk to the operator who can contact the emergency services, letting a family member or friend know. Find out more from [lifeline@ashford.gov.uk](mailto:lifeline@ashford.gov.uk) or call 01233 642095.

The cost is £3.69 per week (including VAT). There are a series of excellent add-ons that you can use such as a Key Safe. This is a box outside your front door with a spare key and a four-digit code given to the emergency services to enter your house if you have had a fall.

## **KENT COMMUNITY WARDEN SERVICE (KCWS)**

KCWS has, since 2002, become a recognised and highly valued service to Kent's communities, helping to create stronger and safer communities. The service forms a key part of KCC's response to its statutory responsibilities delivering a frontline response to local issues in partnership with the other statutory responsible authorities.

KCWS has adapted and evolved over the years to effectively build upon the original aims as it responds to local issues including preventing crime and scams, supporting vulnerable residents, tackling social isolation and leading community development activities. The result has been that requests for assistance from various KCC departments,

partnership agencies, external organisations and charities as well as public demand has been on the rise. The current COVID-19 pandemic, the demands and need for the service have never been greater.

Enhancement is required to ensure the service is fit for purpose and supported through improvements to efficiency and effectiveness. Expansion is required to meet the existing high demand, which is expected to continue increasing, not just in terms of the progressively complex criminal and societal problems but also as the 65+ population increases by an estimated 24.9% over the next 10 years. The service will:

1. Assist with navigating public services, Wardens will work closely with internal and external partners, using their knowledge to support residents.
2. Support the elderly and vulnerable Wardens will work with those most vulnerable in their communities with the aim of improving wellbeing, supporting independent living, reducing social isolation and loneliness, and facilitating access to care and services.
3. Foster community cohesion and wellbeing Wardens will improve community wellbeing by working in a range of environments and across all age groups (as is appropriate for the location), setting up new groups and events where needed through community development projects.
4. Strengthen community resilience (Stronger, Safer Communities)

Wardens will equip residents to prevent and recover from being victims to scams. They will address low level crime and antisocial behaviour through deterrence, prevention and partnership working. They will support communities in challenging times, from floods to pandemics. The expanded scheme will assist with the implementation of the new Volunteers and Apprentice Schemes.

#### **WATERBROOK**

The planning application submitted for the area east of Waterbrook Avenue to be used as a 377 temporary staff car park to support the HMRC clearance depot has been withdrawn. Waterbrook had been planned to be used as a temporary customs clearance facility if the United Kingdom had left the European Union without a deal. The site has previously been consented for a supermarket, other retail and fast food outlets, hopefully these can now come forward.

News that a revised application for the site proposed for the Chapel Down winery for a distribution warehouse does not signal that Chapel Down will not have a new winery in Ashford but the site is yet to be agreed. There is no information on who might operate the distribution depot.

#### **TOYS FOR THE DISABLED**

The Kent Toys for the Disabled Scheme was launched on 1 May 2020 and is being administered on behalf of the council by disabled children's charity We Are Beams. Parents of qualifying disabled children aged 5-17 years who are unable to access their usual social activities during the COVID-19 lockdown can apply for the purchase of toys or equipment of their choice up to the value of £250 per child to support their needs whilst isolating. Families needing extra support caring for their disabled children and young people are usually able to access a 'short break' funded by KCC which offers the children various activities such as days out and playschemes and allows parents and carers a small respite from their caring responsibilities. For more information on The Kent Toy Scheme eligibility criteria and how to apply for funding visit: <https://wearebeams.org.uk/kent-toy-scheme/>

**Paul Bartlett**  
**Mersham, Sevington South and Finberry ward & Deputy Leader, ABC**  
**Ashford Central Division, KCC**  
**Grosvenor Hall Ward, Kennington Community Council**  
**01233 500667 or 0773 929 3502**  
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Taylor Woodrow will provide a tie-in from the bridge just outside Ransley Kennels. We are hopeful they keep to their word. *Will they join in the whole piece?* No, just the new lay-by will have some tarmac from Kingsford Street to the bridge. *It is a nonsense, because that will leave a stretch of unfinished road.* This is just a verge on the footpath edge and does not need concreting over, as it was not part of the specification. This issue should have been raised

at the planning enquiry. But it is good news that they have conceded there is an issue on the bridge edge. However, they won't tackle the verge because that is the verge. *But they often have a Highway verge, the drains will get blocked.* Needs to be taken up with Kent Highways rather than Taylor Woodrow as this is a Highways issue. Needs discussing with Clair Bell, if necessary. *The water will wash the earth into the drain, needs kerbs put in rather than just footway. Need to take a look and come up with a suggestion. Could Cllr Ross get photographs and send them to the Clerk. Also trees that have been left. Seems to be separate issues. GM grateful as a cyclist for the pathway. Cllr Bartlett to send contact details regarding Taylor Woodrow to the Clerk for the tree issue.*

The bridge at Flood Street has been tested and needs some structural work – capital expenditure to be authorised as long as work has been scheduled. Cllr Bartlett confident it will be repaired.