



<p>Cllr White had asked as to why J10a was being undertaken when no-one will say what is happening with the U19 development (rumoured to have been a major warehouse). The land had originally had a ransom strip and this had delayed J10a and the land was sold by AXA to an investment company.</p> <p>The biggest fear is that there is no control over the environment. It was noted that there is a diesel generator being run 24 hours a day by B and M Bargains, although it is not known if this is owned by B and M Bargains and also the reason as to why it is running continually. The air quality is very poor and there are no air quality checks being undertaken at Junction 10.</p> <p>There was a request for the Parish Council to support Willesborough Church. This is not within the Parish Councils boundaries.</p> <p>A zebra crossing was suggested from the business park to Wickes – Cllr White is to contact Highways England about this.</p>	
<p><b>Update from Cllr White</b></p> <p>The Elwick development has now opened and the Council is in discussion regarding additional developments, with possible housing incorporated.</p> <p>There are plans for a theatre on the old B&amp;Q site but there is thought that it would be best incorporated into the Elwick Road site, it would need to be a multi-venue site to help assist with the revenues.</p> <p>May 2nd is election day and both Borough Councillors and Parish Councillors are up for election.</p> <p>Cllr White and Fergus Wilson have both been in the papers recently and the BBC is making a Panorama documentary about it. ABC has been unable to be interviewed as Mr Wilson is appealing against the Court decision that was given after ABC took him to court. Mr Wilson will not sell the 180 houses he owns in the borough despite efforts made to purchase them.</p> <p>There is a purge on rough sleepers in the town – they won't always go into shelters but are being offered places in shelters. The number has increased by 30% and there are now 20 in the town. The Council is looking at acquiring property within which to house them.</p> <p>There is currently a waiting list of 1500 people for social housing and office space is being used.</p> <p>Ashford needs to develop into a night life centre with the new cinema and potential theatre. There is a new French Restaurant opened recently.</p> <p>Ownership of Trafalgar House was questioned – this is not owned by the Borough Council but it is used for over-flow housing.</p> <p>Social housing is offered at 40% reduction in market rate rents.</p> <p>The borough council has been building 150/200 houses a year as the amount allowed to build had been capped by the Government, but now Councils are being encouraged to build. Local Needs Housing is also needed.</p> <p>Ashford Leisure Trust is looking for a new operator to operate Julie Rose, Stour Centre and Kingsnorth. The Council is also looking at Clip and Climb.</p> <p>There was some discussion about the potential loss of an A&amp;E department at William Harvey Hospital.</p>	
<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>There was no further business to be discussed.</p>	
<p><b>The next meeting</b> will be confirmed once Church availability has been confirmed.</p>	

