



MEETING OF A MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 03 FEBRUARY 2022 IN THE OLD WIVES LEES HALL

- COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** G. Meaden, G. Schofield, S. Topley-Dixon, G. Taylor & K. Uncle
- ALSO PRESENT:** K. Bell (Clerk to the Council) , PCSO C Stevens & 3 members of the public
- COUNCILLORS APOLOGIES:** D. Marriott, J. Marriott & J. Martin
- ABSENTEE:** Cllr. L. McKay,

The Chairman G. Schofield opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

2022/018 PUBLIC FORUM

G. Schofield opened the Public Forum. She began by inviting questions. Whilst there were no questions, a member of the public requested that reports referred to in future minutes be appended to those minutes. In response to a written communication regarding an issue with parking at The Paddocks, Old Wives Lees, the matter had been referred to ABC and KHS and a verbal update was provided. A discussion then followed regarding the time allowed for the public forum. It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That the time allowed for the public forum would be reduced from 30 minutes to 15 minutes. **Unanimous**

2022/019 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCES: Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. Martin (family and personal commitments), D. Marriott (Unwell) & J Marriott (Family Commitments). It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That the apologies and reasons be accepted from Cllrs. D. Marriott, J. Marriott & J. Martin. **Unanimous**

2022/020 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND / OR LOBBYING: There were none

2022/021 COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS & POLICE LIAISON

2022/021.1 County Councillors Report: The Clerk had spoken with County Councillor Claire Bell who whilst having no report for February 2022 had expressed the desire to attend a future meeting and would be keeping the Parish Council informed of everything of direct relevance to CPC.

2022/021.2 Borough Councillors Report: Cllr. Maaden's report was received and noted. The report would be appended to the minutes

These minutes are not verbatim, but a summary of discussions and decisions made at the meeting

Signed: **Chairman** **Date:**

2022/021.3 PCSO Report:

- PCSO C. Stevens report for January was received and noted. The report would be appended to the minutes
- The PCSO was hoping to arrange surgeries within Chilham whereby residents could attend and discuss any issues / concerns they might have. She would bring along the Hawkeye Van on prearranged and advertised dates.

2022/022 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 06 JANUARY 2022

2022/022.1 It was proposed, seconded, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of those proceedings. **Unanimous**

2022/022.2 Matters Arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

2022/007.2.4 Path AE13 Bowerland Lane to Old Wives Lees: No new information had been received.

2022/007.2.5 OWL Car Parking: ABC had advised as follows

- CPC had been provided with a copy of the S106 agreement.
- There were no reserved spaces reserved (either the old half which served the Village Hall, nor the new half built as a result of the planning application by Berkeley Homes).
- The Section 106 provided for Berkeley Homes to transfer the open space to the Borough Council which appeared to have been done.
- ABC had not been able to confirm but it looked like the open space might then have been transferred to CPC.
- The S106 agreement provided for Berkeley Homes to transfer the new piece of car park (spaces 12 to 22 as shown on the plan to the S.106) to the **owner** of the village hall. This did not appear to have taken place.
- If CPC wanted the new part of the car park adjacent to the open space to be transferred to CPC instead of the Diocese it would need to approach Berkeley Homes and the Diocese. Depending on the view of the LPA the S.106 **might** need a Deed of Variation.

2022/023 2022/2023 MEETING SCHEDULE

2022/023.1 Parish Council Meeting Schedule: Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That the 2022/2023 Meeting Schedule would be as follows

March 2022	-	No meeting
07 April 2022	-	
05 May 2022	-	Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
09 June 2022	-	No meeting
07 July 2022		
August	-	No meeting
01 September 2022		
06 October 2022	-	No meeting
03 November 2022		

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01 December 2022 - No meeting
 03 January 2033
 02 February 2023 - No meeting
 02 March 2023
 06 April 2023 - No meeting

2022/023.2 2022 Annual Meeting of the Parish: Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED: That the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Parish would take place on 07 April 2022 at 7.00 p.m. followed by the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council.

2022/023.3 2022 Annual Report: Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED: CPC would produce an annual report. Members were invited to submit contributions to the Clerk. The report would focus on the councils highlights over the past 12 months and would be published in time for 2022 Annual Meeting of the Parish.

2022/024 WORKING GROUPS

2022/024.1 Review of Membership of Working Groups: Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED: That membership of the Working Groups be confirmed as follows:

Finance & General Purposes D. Marriott, G. Schofield & G. Taylor

Planning G. Meaden, J. Marriott & G. Schofield

Open Spaces & Env D. Marriott, K. Uncle & G. Meaden

Events & Communications G. Taylor, S. Topley-Dixon. McKay

2022/024.2 Finance & General Purposes: No report

2022/024.3 Planning

2022/024.3.1 Planning Applications for Consideration: RESOLVED to comment as follows to ABC:

21/02083/AS Four conservation style rooflights in roof to rear single storey plain tiled lean-to roof at **5 Stable Court, Chilham Castle Estate, Chilham**
NO OBJECTION

20/00508/AS Reserved matters application pursuant to outline planning permission 18/00029/AS to consider the appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for up to 135 dwellings (including up to 40% affordable housing) introduction of structural planting and landscaping, informal public open space and

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children's play area (LEAP), vehicular access from the A20/Maidstone Road and associated ancillary works at **Land south of the Swan Hotel, Maidstone Road, Charing**
NOTED – NO COMMENT

22/00039/AS Provision of annexe for a dependent relative at **Pilgrims House, Pilgrims Lane**
NO OBJECTION provided that the annexe was linked to the host dwelling and that it did not become a separate hereditament

22/00079/AS Certificate of Lawful Development Proposed – construction of glazed link between garage and annexe and conversion of garage at **Vine Cottage, Cobbs Hill, Chilham**
NO OBJECTION

2022/024.3.2 Planning Decision: ABC had granted permission for the following

21/00859/AS Blocking up of an existing doorway, installation of an ensuite bathroom and new door opening from bedroom. Reordering of the existing family bathroom at Upper Ensign House, Selling Road, Chilham

2022/024.3.3 Planning Appeal: An appeal had been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the following

21/00745/AS Outline application for the erection of detached 4-5 bedroom live-work dwelling and detached double-garage (with all matters reserved) at Pilgrims, Pilgrims Lane, Chilham

2022/024.3.4 Temporary Road Closures: The following were noted

- A28 Ashford Road, Chilham – 07.02.22 – 09.02.22 to allow for work to be carried out by Network Rail
- Cobbs Hill & Mulberry Hill, Chilham – 15.02.22 for 2 Days for work to be undertaken by Openreach to recover telecom poles.

2022/024.4 Events & Communications

2022/024.4.1 Report from the Working Group: Cllr Taylor reported that a meeting of the Events Working Group had been held on 27.01.22. His report was received and noted with interest and would be appended to the minutes.

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2022/024.4.2 Jubilee Commemorative Items: Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED: That at a future meeting the PC would consider purchasing and distributing to all children in Chilham Jubilee Commemorative coins. **Unanimous**

2022/024.4.3 Youth Agenda: Members were advised that the information currently displayed on the website was that which had been approved by council at a previous meeting. It was noted that on 24.01.22 Cllr. McKay had provided additional information which he would like added to the website. This information had been forwarded to the website host who had been asked to advise on how the information could best be added to the website. The website host had advised that in its current format this was not possible as Cllr. McKay's request was not clear, concise, positive, or constructive. **Noted**

2022/024.5 Environment & Open Spaces

2022/024.5.1 Taylors Hill Public Conveniences

- Repair work had been carried out
- Cllr Uncle had met with Victory Cleaning to discuss service provision, follow up discussions were due to be held shortly.
- The Clerk was liaising with Victory Cleaning on a new improved contract
- Orchard Environmental Water Services Ltd had advised that the water sampling was due to be carried out shortly at the cost of £112.
- A recent water bill from Castle Water showed a credit of £579.90.
- Cllr. Uncle advised that electrical work was required at the cost of £195.00. It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That the work be carried out
Unanimous

2022/024.5.2 Climate Change Emergency Declaration: Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED: That the matter be deferred **Unanimous**

2022/024.5.3 Meeting with Parish Tree Warden: Cllr Uncle reported that he and the tree warden had had a constructive discussion.

2022/024.5.4 Tree Management Policy: Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That the Council would consider a Tree Management Policy for trees on its land at the next meeting **Unanimous**

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2022/024.5.5 Queens Green Canopy (QGC): Following a discussion, It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That the Council would apply to ABC for an oak tree which would be planted on the village green.

Unanimous

2022/025 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

2022/025.1 Bank Reconciliation at 31 January 2022: The bank balances were as follows:

Petty Cash	£0.00
N S & I investment	£15,034.99
Reserve Account	£0.00
Bus Bank Instant	£41,082.61
Current Account	£14,080.43
TOTAL	£70,198.03

2022/025.2 Financial Transactions: The following transactions were approved **Unanimous**
January Receipts

Transfer from Matured Deposit Account to Bus Bank	£10,146.00
Donations	£611.84
Lloyds Bank Interest	£0.36
TOTAL	£10,758.20

February Payments (incl VAT where appropriate)

C. Vincent	S111/112	Delivery & Postage cost Refund	£20.00
Victory Cleaning	S19	Cleaning THT	£557.27
Itseeze	S111/112	Website / emails	£64.80
Viking	S111/112	Stationery & storage unit	£350.07
Bilting Farm Storage	S111/112/19	Storage Hire	£46.50
Mr D Kennett	S19	Emergency Planning	£40.00
Shottenden Christmas	S137	Electricity	£20.00
Mrs G Schofield	S111/112	Expenses as receipted	£223.35
K. Bell	S111/112	Clerks Salary & exps	£759.76
Itseeze	S111/112	Website Additional Work	£120.00
TOTAL			£2,201.75

2022/025.3 2021/2022 Quarter 3

2022/025.3.1 Budgetary Control as at 31 December 2021: The budgetary control statement as prepared by the Clerk was received and noted.

2022/025.3.2 VAT Reclaim as at 31 December 2021: The total amount of the reclaim covering the period 01.04.21 – 31.12.21 was £2,337.90. The Clerk had submitted a refund claim to HMRC.

2022/025.4 Investment Opportunities: It was reported that recommended financial institutions for local councils were as follows

Cambridge Building Society (Council Saver)	-	Interest rate 0.2%
Hampshire Trust Bank	-	Interest rate 1.3%
Kent Reliance	-	Interest rate 0.1 – 0.55%

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Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That the Finance WG would consider the matter further and make recommendations to council at a future meeting. **Unanimous**

2022/026 CORRESPONDENCE: The following items were received during the period 27 December 2021 to 24 January 2022

a. KALC

- (i) Events
 - o What's On – January 2022
 - o Event Schedule: January – March 2022
 - o Bitesize courses
- (ii) KALC Chief Executive Bulletins
- (iii) KALC News
- (iv) Area Committee – Minutes from meeting held on 05.01.22, copy of letter to SW Water re unflushables 2022 Meeting Dates and Copy of ABC's Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee re S106 Task Force
- (v) The Queens Jubilee – Information from Pageant Master
- (vi) Carbon Footprint Calculator
- (vii) Kent PCC Newsletter (January 2022) with Precept information
- (viii) KCC Members Newsletter – Waste Management Update (January 2022)

b. **Miscellaneous:** Castle Water, Viking, Staples, Plantscape, Creative Play, Laser Energy, Playforce, Kompan Playgrounds, Creative Playdale, Came & Company (Insurers Newsletter), SEE Newsletter, East Malling Short Courses (Winter Pruning), Broxagroup (Sunshine Gym), RJS Garden Care, Fourways, Radley Leisure, Sutcliffe Play, Lloyds Bank (Change of Business T & C's), Applause Rural Touring Theatre

c. **SLCC** Newsletters

d. **NALC:** Newsletters and Events

e. **LG Bulletins**

f. ABC

- (i) Leader Briefing notes including Queens Green Canopy & Household Support Fund
- (ii) Agenda for Planning Committee held on 19.01.22
- (iii) An Introduction to The Greater Ashford Borough – Environment and Land Mapping Commission

g. **NHW:** Regular Briefings

h. **KCC:** Making a Difference – Latest Engagement Opportunities – Adult Carers Strategy Consultation

i. **SLCC:** Virtual Branch Meeting information

j. **NHS – Wilder Wellbeing** (January 2022)

k. **SE Railway:** Feedback request on annual stakeholder research programme

l. **Sparse:** Invitation to RSN seminar (Older People in Rural Areas)

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m. **Clerks & Councils Direct** (January 2022)

n. **Policing**

- (i) Crime Updates
- (ii) PCSO Monthly Newsletter

2022/027 MATTERS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Council Debit / Credit Card: The Clerk would ascertain if the councils' bankers were able to supply a council debit / credit card which would be used to pay for small items of expenditure

2022/028 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE: *There are only a few reasons as to why, legally, the public and press can be excluded from a meeting. The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Sec 1 (2) states "A body may, by resolution, exclude the public from a meeting (whether during the whole or part of the proceedings) whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the nature of that business or of the proceedings; and where such a resolution is passed, this Act shall not require the meeting to be open to the public during proceedings to which the resolution applies." It is generally considered acceptable to exclude the press and public if the agenda item relates to the consideration of tenders, leases, purchases of assets, for matters relating to staffing covered by the data Protection Act and to consider complaints against the council or a code of conduct complaint.*

Exclusion of press and public: It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the consideration of the following items.

2022/028.1 Recruitment of New Clerk: The closing date for applications was 25 February and interviews were due to be held during week commencing 07 March 2022. Several expressions of interest had been received for the vacancy. It was noted that the current clerk would be leaving the employ of CPC on 10 March 2022 but would remain in a locum capacity after this date if required.

2022/028.2 Recruitment of Local Person to undertake cleaning of the THT Public Conveniences: One application had been received which had since been withdrawn. Contractual discussions were taking place with the existing contractor.

2022/028.3 Code of Conduct Complaint: With the support of members, the Clerk had submitted a complaint to ABC's Monitoring Officer about the conduct of Cllr. McKay.

2022/029 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Confirmed as Thursday 07 April 2022 in Chilham Village Hall following the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

There being no additional business, the meeting concluded at 21.00 hours

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Signed:

Chairman

Date:

Downs North - Ward member's report for January 2022. (Geoff Meaden)

Very little to report this month – though in fact I have been kept rather busy with one important matter. This is that I only learned during early January that, as a Ward Member, I am entitled to an amount of £3,000 which I can allocate on behalf of Ashford Borough Council to worthy causes within the Ward that need some extra funding. The problem is that all claims for funding must be submitted to ABC by Feb 28th. This may seem like ample time but it has been quite difficult to locate various worthy causes to fund. This is mainly as a result of this being a rural area having few organisations and the fact that there are lots of rules regarding the limitations to funding, plus a lot of bureaucracy to be gone through. At the moment I have five potential funding candidates although at present there is a chance that one or two other projects might additionally be supported. Please let me know of any potential recipients that you may hear about. I will be sending out additional grant information to the five present claimants during this week.

During this month I have attended two Parish council meetings, one Teams-based course on “Managing Difficult People”, plus two Borough Council meetings. Apart from this there has been a small amount of casework to administer. I would like to mention two of these at this meeting:

1. The communications company who wish to add a 70 foot mast on the wide grass verge on the north side of the A28 almost opposite the Bagham Barn antiques shop seem to be pushing ahead with this plan, i.e. despite the fact that I have pointed out to them that this is only some 40 metres from an existing high “pole”, and that their larger pole/mast will be very prominent and would not find favour with local people.
2. A few residents living in The Paddock have approached me to try to sort out their parking problems, i.e. in the road that provides access to the back of their properties. I have written a detailed letter on their behalf which I am about to send to both KCC and ABC (because responsibility for this problem seems to be in dispute). In order to get any resolution of the problem it is vital to have local support, including from the Parish Council. There is no doubt they do have a genuine grievance, though I can see that funding for resolving the problem might be difficult to achieve. I do have a couple of suggestions that I will pass on to the authorities. Would this Parish Council be willing to support their cause?

Having now been the Ward member for nearly six months it is possible to have some thoughts on the overall satisfaction (or otherwise) of the role. There is undoubtedly a feeling that one is being of help to the fairly limited number of persons or groups that, possibly temporarily, require some assistance. The Council's ability to provide this assistance is usually good, efficient and supportive and most of the casework therefore gets the necessary attention. However, what is lacking in the Council is a sense of community. I barely know the name of any councillors and I have only been able to attend one social event. The atmosphere in the limited meetings I have attended is stuffy and distant. The other complaint that needs addressing is the fact that there seems to be no opportunities for debate or participation in wider decision making. So, for instance, Westminster has frequent debating sessions to which members can attend and contribute ideas on subject areas where they perhaps have strong views or where they may wish to brush up on gaps in their knowledge. Why on earth does ABC not do this too?

Geoff Meaden



Hello there. My name is Catherine Stevens. I am the local Police Community Support Officer for Downs North. This is my monthly report which **is sent to the parish council, councillors, Neighbourhood Watch coordinators, and other members of the community who may be interested to receive it. The report is a general overview of what I have been doing this month and gives crime prevention advice.**

Crime statistics can be found at: <https://www.police.uk/>

Alternatively, Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) send out regular updates in relation to crimes that have happened in the Ashford area. If you wish to receive these updates directly then please contact Andrew Judd who is the Volunteer and Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer. His contact details are as follows:

Tel: 01233 896151

Email: andrew.judd@kent.police.uk

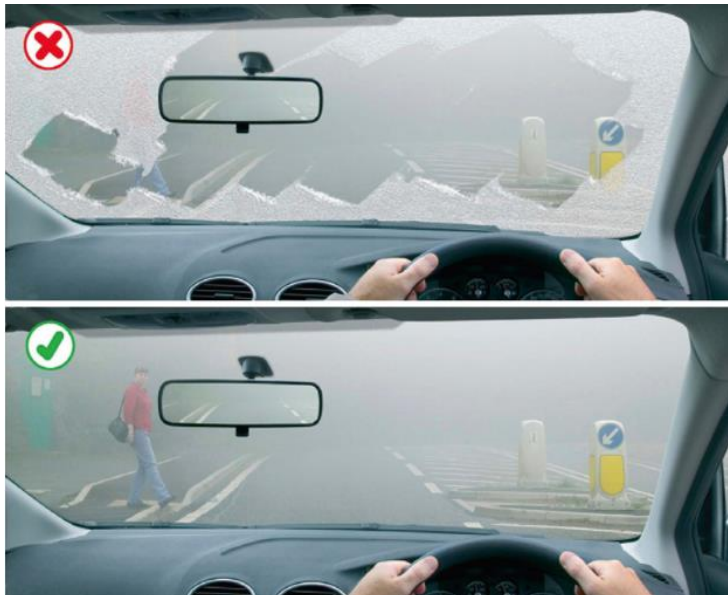
**Address: Ashford Police Station,
Church Road,
Ashford
TN23 1BT**



I cannot believe the first month of 2022 is already over! It's great to see that the days are getting longer and the sun has been shining. However, there is still a chance that icy / snowy weather will return before we hit Spring (but let's hope not!) Please find below excerpts from the Highway Code that need to be followed when driving in these challenging conditions:

Before you set off:

- you **MUST** be able to see, so clear all snow and ice from all your windows
- you **MUST** ensure that lights are clean and number plates are clearly visible and legible
- make sure the mirrors are clear and the windows are demisted thoroughly
- remove all snow that might fall off into the path of other road users
- check your planned route is clear of delays and that no further snowfalls or severe weather are predicted.



When driving in icy or snowy weather

- drive with care, even if the roads have been treated
- keep well back from the road user in front as stopping distances can be ten times greater than on dry roads
- take care when overtaking vehicles spreading salt or other de-icer, particularly if you are riding a motorcycle or cycle
- watch out for snowploughs which may throw out snow on either side. Do not overtake them unless the lane you intend to use has been cleared
- be prepared for the road conditions to change over relatively short distances
- listen to travel bulletins and take note of variable message signs that may provide information about weather, road and traffic conditions ahead.

Drive extremely carefully when the roads are icy. Avoid sudden actions as these could cause loss of control. You should

- drive at a slow speed in as high a gear as possible; accelerate and brake very gently
- drive particularly slowly on bends where loss of control is more likely. Brake progressively on the straight before you reach a bend. Having slowed down, steer smoothly round the bend, avoiding sudden actions
- check your grip on the road surface when there is snow or ice by choosing a safe place to brake gently. If the steering feels unresponsive this may indicate ice and your vehicle losing its grip on the road. When travelling on ice, tyres make virtually no noise.

Please see the following link for further advice with regards to driving adverse weather conditions:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/driving-in-adverse-weather-conditions-226-to-237>

The Highway Code Updates

Following on from the above, please be advised aspects of The **Highway Code** has changed. The 2022 updates affect driver priority, pedestrian and cyclist rights of way, mobile phone use behind the wheel and broader use of fines for poor or dangerous driving. The changes came into force on 29 January 2022 so please make sure that you are aware of these. I have included a link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/updates>



Coronavirus

Latest Update from UK Government website:

You no longer need to wear a face covering, but consider wearing one in crowded, enclosed spaces where you may come into contact with people you do not normally meet.



You no longer have to show your NHS COVID Pass at venues and events.

Please follow the link below for the most up to date information:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Local News

POACHING - During January, Kent Police received a report of poaching, this time in the Chilham / Mystole area. As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, if you believe that a wildlife crime is being committed, then please do contact Kent Police. For more information about wildlife crime then please visit our website using the following link:

<https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/wc/wildlife-crime/what-is-wildlife-crime/>

THEFT FROM A GARDEN – We have received a report of tools being taken from a property in Old Wives Lees. The victim was working in his garden and left his tools for only 10 minutes. In this time, the suspect climbed into the garden, took the tools and then made off. This is likely to have been an opportunist thief but please be mindful if you are doing work outside – which could be more likely as Spring approaches. Don't give anyone any opportunity to steal from you. If you would like any crime prevention advice then please contact me.

PCSO Stevens Out and About in the Ashford Area



Kent Police Ashford ✓ @KentPoliceAsh · Jan 25

Local PCSO from #AshfordCSU has been out and about in the Downs North area of Ashford this morning. No issues to report; the silence only broken by the odd vehicle and bird song 🎶🎵 #CommunityPolicing @KentPoliceRural CS



Kent Police Ashford ✓ @KentPoliceAsh · Jan 20

Local PCSO from #AshfordCSU is currently in Chilham Square (near to School Hill) and will be here until 5.30pm today. Please feel free to pop along for a chat. #WeekOfAction #NeighbourhoodPolicingWeek CS





Kent Police Ashford @KentPoliceAsh · Jan 14

Today PCSO's have completed speed checks on the A252 at Molash after several reports of speeding. #DriveSafe #SpeedKills AB



Kent Police Ashford @KentPoliceAsh · Jan 16

Local PCSO from #AshfordCSU has been out and about today in Orchard Heights. A sunny lovely day....feels like Spring is on its way 🌞🌸
#CommunityPolicing #SaferSpring CS





Kent Police Ashford ✓ @KentPoliceAsh · Jan 19 ...
 Local PCSO and Police Officer from #AshfordCSU have been out on foot patrol this afternoon at @SingletonLake and #Stanhope #WeekOfAction #NeighbourhoodPolicingWeek CS



Kent Police Ashford ✓ @KentPoliceAsh · Jan 24
 Local PCSO from #AshfordCSU is currently out on foot patrol in Singleton with the parish clerk from Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council @GCwSPC Please come up for a chat if you see us. CS #CommunityPolicing



Kent Police Ashford ✓ @KentPoliceAsh · Jan 21 ...
 Working in partnership with @AshfordCouncil Community Safety Unit. This evening we have been at Ashford Retail Park, Sevington following a report of loud vehicle noise. Pleased to report car park empty. #NeighbourhoodPolicingWeek #WeekOfAction #AshfordCSU CS/LL



Kent Police Ashford ✓ @KentPoliceAsh · Jan 29 ...
 #AshfordCSU PCSO has been patrolling Ashford Community Woodland after reports of nuisance bikes. If you see bikes being driven recklessly around public spaces please report it immediately with descriptions of bike and rider, number plates, direction of travel, etc @GCwSPC CS





Kent Police Ashford @KentPoliceAsh · Jan 30

Local PCSO from #AshfordCSU at Ashford Community Woodland. Pleased to report no nuisance bikes, just lots of families and dog walkers enjoying a beautiful sunny day - as it should be #CommunityPolicing @GCwSPC CS



Other Ashford Police News



Kent Police Ashford @KentPoliceAsh · Jan 21

Whilst on foot patrol in Victoria Park, we sat on the bench donated by After Life to think about #MentalHealth. Remember, there's always someone who wants to hear your story. #HopelsEverything @VictoriaParkABC @rickygervais



**Kent
Police**

36 139 2.6K



Kent Police Ashford @KentPoliceAsh · Jan 20

Licensing Officers from Kent Police and @AshfordCouncil have conducted proactive licensing visits to premises within Ashford Town ensuring they promote their licensing objectives and in doing so ensuring a safer night time economy for all #NeighbourhoodPolicingWeek #WeekOfAction



Kent Police Ashford @KentPoliceAsh · Jan 7

This afternoon a catapult was fired at a building in the #Stanhope area. Fortunately no damage was caused. Unfortunately the teen who fired it was oblivious to a police officer stood recording them and they were swiftly dealt with! #ASB #ZeroTolerance #Justice JH



2 1 80

Hoard of stolen goods recovered from woods near Ashford

A trailer full of stolen items was found by officers from the Kent Police Rural Task Force who were proactively searching woodland in **Bethersden**.

On **Thursday 6 January 2022** at around **12.30pm** two police constables were walking through **Hoads Wood** as part of their work to prevent and tackle rural crime when they discovered fresh tyre tracks which led into the wood.

The officers followed the tracks and discovered a trailer, which contained builders' tools and a generator nearby.

Checks were carried out and these high-value items, along with the trailer itself, were all believed to be stolen. They used their 4x4 vehicle to move the trailer to the entrance of the wood where all the items were seized.

Enquiries remain ongoing to locate the owners of the property and to identify and locate the people responsible for the thefts.

Helping rural communities

The Rural Task Force is a specialist team made up of officers who are dedicated to tackling and investigating rural crime.

They work closely with a number of partner agencies including the RSPCA, RSPB, Environment Agency and local authorities to address issues that blight communities.

The force recognises that people living in rural areas may feel isolated so the team has developed more efficient means of communication such as Country Eye and Farm Watch, which both ensure a quick way for residents to report and share information.

Report anything suspicious

Anyone who saw anything suspicious in relation to the stolen equipment, or has details which could assist officers, should call Kent Police on 01843 222289 quoting reference 46/2162/22.

You can also call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or complete their online [form](#).

For more details and advice regarding rural crime visit the Kent Police [website](#).

Cannabis cultivation uncovered in Ashford



Cannabis plants discovered

An arrest has been made after officers uncovered a cannabis cultivation near **Ashford**.

A warrant under the Misuse of Drugs Act was carried out at an outbuilding in **Appledore** during the morning of **Friday 28 January 2022**.

Officers found around 300 cannabis plants growing in concealed rooms within the building. They were seized and horticultural equipment was dismantled.

A 52-year-old man from Tenterden was arrested on suspicion of cultivating cannabis and has since been released on police bail until 25 February whilst enquiries continue.

Jail for man who impersonated a police officer in Ashford



David Saunders has been jailed.

A man who impersonated a police officer after crashing his car in **Ashford** has been jailed for a year and a half.

David Saunders told members of the public who went to his aid that he was an 'undercover officer', before producing a set of handcuffs and a knife.

The 37-year-old was sentenced at Canterbury Crown Court on 13 January 2022 after admitting charges of threatening with a bladed article, impersonating a police officer, dangerous driving and failing to provide a specimen for analysis.

Collision

Saunders' Vauxhall Astra collided with a traffic island in **Beaver Road** shortly before 3pm on **20 November 2021**, after pedestrians had to jump out of its way. The car then mounted the pavement and hit a fence.

Members of the public approached the vehicle to check on Saunders, who was in the driver's seat.

Saunders tried to get the car started again, without success. He then told bystanders he was an undercover police officer and attempted to take a phone from a witness who was calling the emergency services.

The pedestrians asked him for some police identification, which he could not produce, but he took out some handcuffs and a knife from his car, which he waved around erratically.

Arrest

Kent Police and British Transport Police officers attended the scene and, following a short pursuit on foot, Saunders was arrested near **Ashford International railway station**.

Following his arrest, he refused to supply a breath or urine sample, so that it could be determined whether he was over the drink or drug drive limit.

As part of his sentence, Saunders, of Beaver Road, Ashford, was disqualified from driving for more than four years.

Fraud Advice



Kent Police Economic Crime Unit @KentPoliceECU · Jan 6

...

If you receive a unsolicited email or text asking you click on a link, stop and @TakeFive & think is it a scam directing you to a fake website? Forward sus emails to report@phishing.gov.uk & texts to 7726. #ThursdayThoughts @kent_police @kentprotect @medway_council



Take Five @TakeFive · Jan 5

Dangerous links can appear in lots of places online.

Always beware of links you see online or in texts. Criminals will send them hoping to lead you to fake websites that are used to steal personal and financial information or infect devices with malware. #TakeFive



For further updates and information regarding fraud / scams please visit the Kent Police Economic Crime Unit @KentPoliceECU



Kent Police Economic Crime Unit @KentPoliceECU · Jan 18

...

From @DVLA, new year, same old scams. Look out for these types of phishing emails/texts below & remember the DVLA will never ask you for personal/financial data or click on links. #TuesdayFeeling #phishing @kent_police @kentprotect @medway_council

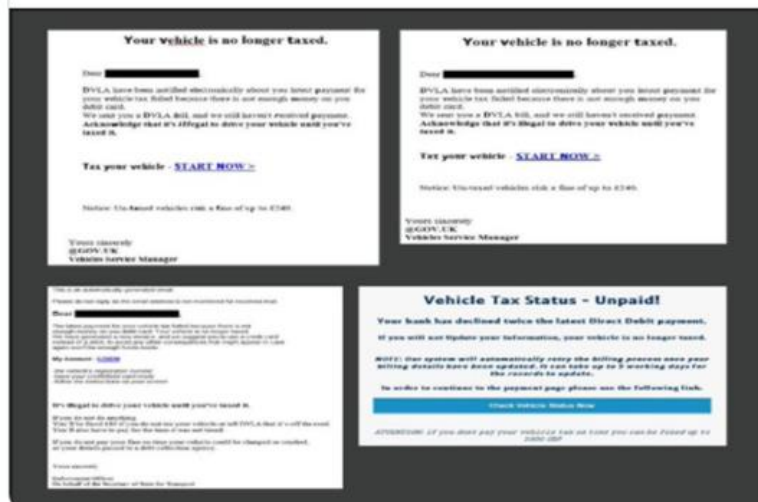


DVLA @DVLAgovuk · Jan 15

Watch out for 'phishing' text or email messages, like these. DVLA will never ask you to reply, give personal or bank details or ask you to log into an account.

gov.uk/report-suspci...

#cyberaware #scams





**Kent
Police**



Kent Police Economic Crime Unit @KentPoliceECU · Jan 12

...

Fraudsters are proactive & will target your business with emails/texts to trick you into believing that a supplier has changed their details & need a urgent payment. Remember ABC and always Confirm a request is genuine. [#TuesdayFeeling](#) [@kent_police](#) [@kentprotect](#) [@medway_council](#)

Take Five @TakeFive · Jan 11

Involved with the finances at your work? Ensure you're clued up on the [#BusinessCostOfFraud](#).

Criminals target businesses with CEO scams - where they impersonate your boss to ask you to make urgent payments.

If you receive a request like this [#StopChallengeProtect](#). @TakeFive

**80% OF SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS
HAVE RECEIVED UNSOLICITED
TEXT OR EMAIL REQUESTS**



If you receive a request to make an urgent payment, change supplier bank details, or provide financial information, take a moment to stop and think.

Could it be fake? Verify all payments and supplier details directly with the company on a known



...



Kent Police Economic Crime Unit @KentPoliceECU · Jan 19

Valentines means fraudsters will be building on line relationships, as they know that people maybe more susceptible at this time of year. Never send monies to someone you've only met on line & report to [@actionfrauduk](#) . [#Wednesday](#) [@kent_police](#) [@kentprotect](#) [@medway_council](#)

IAF Action Fraud @actionfrauduk · Jan 18

Romance fraudsters will spend weeks gaining their victims' trust before asking for money for a variety of emotive reasons.

Stop and think before parting with your money [#romancefraud](#)

**LOOKING FOR YOUR
VALENTINE?**

Daters striking up online romances between Christmas and Valentines Day tend to be more susceptible to romance fraud.



ActionFraud
www.actionfraud.uk

Kent Fraud Alert System



Fraudsters impersonating Police Officers

This week there have been several reports of people in the Maidstone and Ashford areas getting calls from fraudsters impersonating London based Police Officers and trying to persuade them to hand over their bank cards. The fraudsters have been stating that they want them to assist with an investigation as offenders had been arrested in possession of their bank cards. Some of those called were told that someone would be sent to collect their credit card(s) so that these could be safeguarded.



Any calls like this are a SCAM. Police will never call you asking you to hand over your cards or to withdraw cash for them to collect for safe keeping. If you get a call like this, then disconnect the call. If you're ever unsure if a caller is genuine, remember the principle of ABC and Never Assume or Believe a caller is genuine and confirm by calling them back on a trusted number. Never ring them on a number that they have provided. Try to use a different phone to the one you have been rung on as fraudsters can remain on the line, even if you think they have been disconnected. If you have no alternative phone to hand, then wait 5 -10 minutes and then ring the number of a family member or friend to confirm the line has been cleared.




If you think that you may have been a victim of this type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or calling 0300 123 2040.

Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:

-  never Assume
-  never Believe
-  always Confirm

Get the latest
scam advice: 
[@KentPoliceECU](https://twitter.com/KentPoliceECU)



Kent Police

Contacting Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report
Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**
If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**
www.kent.police.uk   

Kent Fraud Alert System



Fraud Alert from Action Fraud

Action Fraud reported this week that they received over 700 reports in 72 hours about Phishing emails impersonating McAfee. The emails will state that there is a problem with your membership and that you need to click on a link, otherwise, you maybe at risk from Malware. By clicking on the link, you will be directed to a fake but realistic website, where they will seek to steal not only your personal information but your financial data as well.

The golden rule is never to click on links in unsolicited emails and if you ever receive an email that is suspicious then forward to report@phishing.gov.uk




If you think that you may have been a victim of this type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or calling 0300 123 2040.

Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:

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-  never Believe
-  always Confirm

Get the latest
scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU

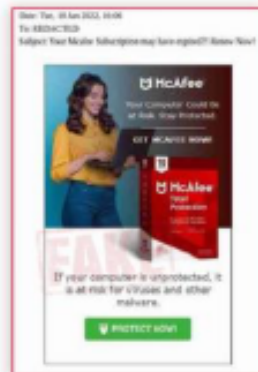
SCAM WARNING

Watch out for these FAKE McAfee emails

Action Fraud has received 749 reports in three days relating to fake emails purporting to be from McAfee. The emails state that the recipient's computer "could be at risk" from "viruses and other malware" if they don't renew their anti-virus subscription. The links in the emails lead to phishing websites that are designed to steal your personal and financial information.

Your bank, or any other official organisation, won't ask you to share personal information over email or text. If you need to check that it's a genuine message, contact them directly.

Spotted a suspicious email? Forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) - report@phishing.gov.uk



Kent Police

Contacting Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact

In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**

If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**

www.kent.police.uk   

Future Community Events

I am currently arranging public engagement sessions in the rural locations that I look after. These events will be drop-in sessions and I will be holding them in the back of our camera van. They are likely to take place in village hall / church car parks. I will be able to confirm dates and locations very soon.



In the meantime, there is the opportunity to meet my police colleagues in Ashford own centre – details below:

Visit our Police Community Shop

We will be at: County Square, Tufton Street entrance

**Wednesday 16th
February – Friday
18th February 1-4pm
Daily**



Wednesday

- Neighbourhood Watch will be present to talk about setting up a scheme in your area and offer crime prevention advice.
- Ashford Police Anti-social behaviour Officer will be present to discuss any issues you may have and provide advice.
- Bike Marking, bring your bikes along to get security marked and talk to our Crime Prevention Officers

Thursday

- Ashford Borough Council Anti-Social Behaviour Officers will be available to chat about your issues.
- Ashford Police Vulnerable adult intervention officer will be available to discuss any concerns
- Bike Marking
- Neighbourhood Watch

Friday

- Ashford Borough Council Anti-Social Behaviour Officer will be available to talk about personal safety
- Ashford Police Domestic Abuse Support Officer will be present to provide advice and sign posting
- Bike Marking
- Neighbourhood Watch



**Kent
Police**

**Protecting and serving
the people of Kent**

[My Community Voice](#)

If you haven't yet signed up for My Community Voice, please do consider doing this. Kent Police will be sending out



Be the first to find out what's happening in **your area**

My Community Voice is a two-way engagement tool brought to you by Kent Police.

Whether you live, work or socialise in Kent or Medway, My Community Voice provides real-time messages directly from our police officers, staff and volunteers, about matters that may affect you or your community.

Your voice is important to us and we want to hear what concerns or views you may have in the area that is important to you. You can also share messages with others or reply to our alerts if you have information to share.

From crime prevention advice, to the latest updates on scams, appeals or events – you control what information you receive and how you receive it, by email, text or voice message.



Sign up today or to find out more visit www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk

Report a crime

Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact

In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service 18000. Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.

www.kent.police.uk   

more and more messages using this platform.

TAKE CARE AND STAY SAFE



Catherine Stevens PCSO 46059869

Community Safety Unit | Ashford Police Station | East Division

Please do not use this email to report incidents.

Please follow us on Twitter @kentpoliceash or visit our website <https://www.kent.police.uk/>

For non-emergency crime, please contact us via the Kent Police website:

<https://www.kent.police.uk/ro/report/>

A screenshot of a tweet from Kent Police (UK) (@kent_police) dated 10 Jan. The tweet text says: "Need to report a non-urgent crime? Our Live Chat allows you to speak directly to our staff. You can report crime here: kent.police.uk/report". Below the tweet is a promotional graphic with a blue background. On the left, a hand holds a smartphone displaying a 'Live Chat' icon. On the right, the text reads: "Need to report a crime? Do it online". Below this, two circular icons are shown: one with a clock and the text "A quicker way for you to report crime and incidents", and another with an envelope and the text "Receive your confirmation email and reference number immediately". At the bottom right, a white box contains the text "Go to www.kent.police.uk/report".

Kent Police (UK) @kent_police · 10 Jan

Need to report a non-urgent crime? Our Live Chat allows you to speak directly to our staff. You can report crime here: [kent.police.uk/report](https://www.kent.police.uk/report)

Need to report a crime?
Do it online

A quicker way for you to report crime and incidents

Receive your confirmation email and reference number immediately

Go to www.kent.police.uk/report

Report from Meeting of the Parish Councils Events Working Group held on 27 January 2022

MEETING NOTES

Attending: Councillor Greg Taylor (Leader)
Councillor Gill Schofield
Councillor Keith Uncle
Councillor Sarah Topley Dixon
Kay (Badger's Hill)
Paul (Badger's Hill)
Miquel Nance
Jody Foulds
David Hayes
Dawn Hayes
Shanise Barrett
Jan Armishaw
Ryder Gilronan
George Kennedy
Fiona Walker
Mark Walker
Tony Simms
Daniella Nevill
Yvonne White
[Additional attendees not signed in]

Regrets: Derrick Kennett
Tuesdayann Castle
Dee de Moubray
John Willis
Rev. Cathy Sigrist
Paul Frogett
Margaret Frogett
Laura McKenzie
Leila Fox
James Fox
Jeanine Mogford

Christmas 2021

The meeting opened with a round of thanks to everyone that worked hard to deliver the parish Christmas events, including trees and carolling in all three villages and the St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee June 2, 2022

The rest of the meeting focused on the Queen's Jubilee on Thursday, June 2, 2022. That day and the following day Friday will be national holidays and the normal May Bank holiday late May will not occur. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Working Group would focus on celebrations on June 2nd but support other events occurring later in the weekend with publicity. Kay and Paul intend to have events at Badger's Hill during the weekend.

The main focus will be a community party we hope to have in Chilham Square plus the lighting of the beacon at 9.15pm on the site near Old Wives Lees traditionally used for that purpose, subject to the owner's permission and support (James Richard). Old Wives Lees and Shottenden may also wish to organise local events but the intention is for the square celebration to be for and by the whole parish.

Topics covered in the order discussed:

- **Closure of Chilham Square:** Attendees shared past experience from the May Fayre, Chilham Chase and other activities where the square was fully or partly closed. James Fuller has already reached out to Kent Highways to initiate a discussion. It was suggested that May Fayre ceased due to the high cost of paying

off-duty policemen to man the lower entrance points at all four roads leading to the square (someone estimated £2,000). Perhaps a cheaper solution may be found to manage road closure with volunteers. It was also suggested that we might set up tables in the middle of the square without closing completely to vehicular traffic. We will seek the cooperation of residents that normally park in the square.

- **Parking:** For access to Chilham Square, parking may will be available at Taylor's Hill Parking lot and Chilham Village Hall (coordinate with Village Hall management), recreation Ground (coordinate with Rec Field management) and Badger's Hill (thank you Kay and Paul). For access to the beacon, parking in Old Wives Lees in previous years occurred in a field owned by Robert [Benecke?]. Permission and support to be sought.
- **Official Song:** Pipe Major Stuart Liddell has written *Diu Regnare* as the official pipe music intended to be played at sunset (9.09pm). Yves White reported that The Old Wives Lees Community Choir is willing and able to perform a choral version of the piece for the celebration. Afterwards, discussed whether we might also seek a bagpiper for the location not attended by the choir at that time.
- **Official Proclamation:** Town criers are invited to make the official proclamation at 1pm which includes announcing the lighting of the beacons. Miquel Nance has kindly offered to play this role. Timing TBD as it may be better to have this to kick off the square celebrations, proposed to commence at 2pm.
- **Advertising of Event:** It was decided to advertise and promote the celebration within the community but not more broadly such as was done previously for the May Fayre. However, it was accepted that word would likely get out given the popularity of the May Fayre in the past and publicity around St Mary's Flower Festival to the wider King's Wood Benefice. Cllr Sarah Topley Dixon as Leader of Communications will lead the advertising effort.
- **Beacon:** More than 1,500 beacons will be lit at 9.15 across the UK and beyond. We need to reach out to James Ricard, owner of the site (Greg will do this with details from Yves). Site is a 30 minute challenging walk from Chilham Square. In previous years, CPC sponsored a BBQ at the site but it was decided to keep the food and beverage offerings in Chilham Square. Volunteers cleared brambles and installed a handrail in past years (Ian Marsh). It was suggested that Pete Vogel as Community Tree Warden has indicated his willingness to assist (and hopefully coordinate).
- **Fireworks:** Previously these have occurred at the beacon site set on a nearby field. Owners of animals including horses attending the meeting were consulted and represented that, with enough advance warning, animal owners should be OK with fireworks at that location. The nearest location with horses is the Williamsons and we should check with them. It was proposed that we try to source low noise fireworks. (Subsequent to the meeting: individuals said that fireworks were previously set off in the castle grounds visible from the square with good effect and this could also be explored with the new owner if and when).
- **St Mary's Flower Festival:** The church will be organising a Flower Festival similar to the successful Christmas Tree Festival of December 2021. This will run from Thursday to Sunday and the church will be open for visitors on Thursday June 2nd. It was also suggested that the church grounds offer a BBQ site if desirable and this had been done previously. This event will be publicised within the King's Wood Benefice so a larger target audience than just the parish.
- **Interactive Theatre:** The proposal from Applause Rural Touring was discussed, in particular the Walkabout selections *The Dustbusters*, *Sound Catchers* and *Tree Fellas*. Cost is roughly £600 per act but funding may be available through Arts Council grants and other sources. Applause is willing to assist and sponsor our application, due late February. *Sound Catchers* had been proposed by Applause for sunset at the beacon site since it features sound and light but attendees were concerned not many participants would make it to the beacon site relative to the crowd in the square and theatre might be best left in the square.
- **Children's Offering:** It was suggested that the group reach out to the St Mary's Primary School PTA as they previously staged activities in the square, such as a Maypole dance, as well as at the school just around the corner. Jody will reach out to Louise and Delia. Cllr Gill suggested commemorative tokens to be given to the children. Someone also suggested facemasks of the royal family be distributed.
- **Programme of Events in the Square.** It was decided to create and publicise a schedule of events to occur in the square. Ideally something would occur hourly or, events permitting, more frequently. Some potential events discussed were:
 - a. Official proclamation by town crier. This could open the celebrations.
 - b. Experiential walk-about theatre from Applause, perhaps several performances during the afternoon? Multiple acts? Likely dependent on funding.

- c. Queen's Parade: Jody offered to dress up as HRH and perch atop Greg's vintage Mercedes convertible for a tour around the square. It was also suggested that other vintage cars (and after the meeting even pony carts) could participate as there is precedent for a decorated car parade during previous square events.
- d. Fancy Dress as Queen contest
- e. Competition for the best Jubilee Cake. Apparently there is an official cake to be selected by the Queen and contestants can put forward their best effort, perhaps the winner to be selected by the winner of the Queen dress up contest? Or Jody as Queen?
- f. Live bands. Ryder has good contacts among performers at The White Horse and is willing to initiate discussions. Afterwards it was suggested that music from the time of the Queen's coronation (1952) might feature and encourage big band / swing dancing in the square. A Queen Tribute Band was discussed (David Hayes)
- g. Maypole dance by the school children. This has occurred in the past and was mentioned as a possibility, although not Jubilee specific.
- h. Morris Dancers. Kay mentioned the [East Kent?] Morris Dancers may be willing to participate.
- **Community Picnic:** A long table could be erected in the square to which community members contribute prepared food that they bring to the event. This was previously done for an event at the castle. Tables would likely need to go up Wednesday evening. Tables could potentially be borrowed or rented from the Chilham Village Hall if they are not hosting an event. Likely focus on late lunch / early afternoon.
- **Other Food and Drink Offerings:** To be coordinated with local businesses willing and able to offer food and beverage: White Horse, Badger's Hill, Woolpack, future tenant of Shelley's Tea Rooms and possibly The Tudor Peacock (Kentish wine offering). Priority given first to local businesses but possibly supplemented by other providers via vans. Timing perhaps later in the afternoon to avoid clashing with community picnic?
- **Rain Contingency:** Discussed the possibility of having some gazebo's on standby. This needs to be explored and costed.
- **Recorded Music:** During intervals without live music it would be desirable to have music playing. It was proposed to post on village facebook and website seeking volunteers that have the equipment and also people willing to DJ. Otherwise this equipment can be rented. To be coordinated with any live bands to avoid duplication.
- **Bunting and Decorations:** Encourage residents to put up (or permit to be put up) bunting around the square. Afterwards, discussed the possibility of screening black and white historic film or footage from 1952 in the evening.
- **Power in the Square:** Hopefully we can build on the precedent of the Christmas tree in the square and use some of that equipment. Greg to check with Paul and Margaret Froggett.
- **Hours of Chilham Square Celebration:** It was proposed to commence at 2pm. Closing time was discussed and 11pm seemed to gain wide consensus. It was noted that the Government is proposing to extend licensing hours to 1am that evening as well as Friday and Saturday evenings.
- **Clean Up:** Previously volunteers helped with this. It was suggested to reach out to ABC and KCC regarding street cleaning equipment availability and cost.
- **Licensing, Risk and Insurance:** All requirements need to be explored (Jody and Greg initially).
 - a. Music License: This may be required and requires research.
 - b. Risk Assessment: This may be required and requires research.
 - c. Public Liability Insurance: hopefully through existing policy of CPC
- **Funding:** Need to work up a budget (Greg and Jody willing to make first attempt). The event will need to have a balanced budget and sources of funding potentially include
 - i. Arts Council Grant
 - ii. CPC Contribution
 - iii. ABC contribution
 - iv. KCC contribution
 - v. Revenue generating possibilities
 - vi. Donations
 - vii. Other sources may be researched and pursued

Recommendations by the Events Working Group for ratification by the CPC:

1. Formally request closure of Chilham Square by Kent Highways
2. Provide insurance cover for the events
3. Heads Up likely funding request forthcoming once budget is known
4. Support for reach out to other community organisations to participate including Volunteer Fire Brigade, Sports Grounds, Old Wives Lees Village Hall, School PTA, Friends of St Mary's Church and others.

Captains Needed for Various Workstreams:

As a note subsequent from Working Group Leader, Greg asks for volunteers from within the group (or without – spread the word!) to captain the following specific workstreams:

1. Closure of the Square
2. Parking and Traffic on the Day
3. Beacon, including preparation of site
4. Fireworks
5. Community Picnic
6. Other food and beverage offerings
7. Bunting and decoration of the square
8. Power in the square
9. Sound system for the square
10. Coordination of Clean Up