

NEW ASH GREEN FOCUS GROUP

Minutes of a meeting of the New Ash Green Focus Group held virtually via Teams on Monday 12 February 2024 commencing at 4.00pm.

Present: Cllr S Fishenden – Ash-cum-Ridley Parish
S Brine – New Ash Green Village Association
C Clark –Chapel Wood Residents Society
D Davis - Resident
Cllr L Manston - Sevenoaks District Council
R Morgan – Westfield Residents Society
L Moylan – Over Minnis Residents Society
PC W Owen – Kent Police
M Quinton – Sevenoaks District Council Community Safety Unit
M Richards – Spring Cross Residents Society
Mrs J West – Community Warden

In Attendance: Mrs A de Jager – Parish Clerk,

1. **Apologies for Absence and Introductions**

Cllr Mrs Brammer – Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council, Sgt K Saville – Kent Police and K Webb – Sevenoaks Community Safety Unit,

2. **Minutes/Actions from of the Meeting of 16 October 2023**

The minutes were received and noted.

3. **Police Update**

PC Owen advised that he is temporarily covering the areas of New Ash Green and Hartley. Reports of nitrous oxide uses have increased and remains a local problem. Patrols will prosecute if people are found to be in possession of nitrous oxide. CCTV of the ram raid at the Co-op assisted the arrest of a suspect, who is being held on remand awaiting trial. Speed checks have been carried out on Ash Road with the majority of vehicles travelling within the 30mph limit.

4. **Community & Sevenoaks District Council Update and Local Concerns & Issues**

M Quinton advised that the Community Safety Unit (CSU) and the Community Warden liaise a lot during the week. The CSU team have not had many reports of young people causing trouble in the Village Centre. The CSU rely on CCTV and images to identify people causing anti-social behaviour (ASB). The Community Warden is also involved in visiting schools and following ASB procedures.

C Clark had received second hand reports that tyres have been slashed in Millfield and Ayelands. There were posts on social media and two official reports made in this regard. Tyres were also slashed outside 1 – 6 Punch Croft. It was noted that there was a significant amount of rubbish in North Square car park, near Church Road, no nitrous oxide cannisters and no apparent ASB. The Street Cleansing Team will be asked to visit this location.

A report was made of young boys aged between 11 and 12 riding on one wheel in the middle of Ash Road with no protective gear. M Quinton requested that residents are encouraged to report this behaviour to the CSU and to forward any dash cam footage. S Brine had received a report that two motorbikes were riding through the shopping centre on Sunday between 2pm and 3pm.

J West advised that she remains busy with community safety and welfare support. Supporting residents and carers in need, home visits continue. The community events held on Tuesdays remain popular. J West continues to liaise with other agencies like Kent Fire & Rescue Services, Imago, Citizens Advice, local policing and the Community Safety Unit.

5. **Agency & Resident Society Updates**

Chapel Wood – parking continues to be a problem.
Over Minnis – a vacant property on Over Minnis is still being extensively vandalised. Sevenoaks District Council are aware and trying to assist.
Spring Cross – it was reported that the Spring Cross Treasurer had recently passed away. Parking is a problem both the volume of vehicles and the size of some of the vans.

6. **Local Concerns & Issues**

- ASB locations and issues – no reports
- Graffiti – no reports
- Parking – covered under item 5.
- Youth Provision – no report.
- Neighbourhood Watch – no report
- Other Issues – Cllr L Manston mentioned that a post on facebook stated that double yellow lines were being considered on North Ash Road and was concerned that this would move the parking problems from North Ash Road to Over Minnis and neighbouring neighbourhoods.

7. **Other Matters for Discussion**

8. **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was set for 13 May 2024 at 4pm, via Teams. Agendas will be posted in all Residents Societies mailboxes at the VA office.

The meeting closed at 4.16pm

Signed:

Date: