NEW ASH GREEN FOCUS GROUP
Notes of a meeting of the New Ash Green Focus Group held via Teams on Monday 13 July 2026 commencing at 2.00pm.

Present: Cllr S Fishenden – Chairman, Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council
Mr C Clark – Chapel Wood Residents Society
M Lindop – Sevenoaks District Councillor
PC C Harrison – Kent Police
K Webb - Sevenoaks District Council Community Safety Unit (CSU)
J West – KCC Community Warden

In Attendance: M Hodges – Assistant Clerk

1. **Apologies for Absence and Introductions**
   C Clark – Chapel Wood Residents Society, E Smith - KMP, PC J Weatherall – Kent Police, L Manston – Sevenoaks District Councillor, P Kirtley – Councillor

2. **Notes of Previous Meeting**
   The notes of the meeting of 13 April 2026 were received and noted.

3. **Agency Updates**
   3.1 Sevenoaks District Council Community Safety Unit (CSU) – K Webb advised that daily partner agency meetings continue and there has been little reported in relation to New Ash Green, which is positive. Anti-social behaviour and community safety issues appear quieter than during the same period last year. The Community Safety Unit attended the Community Safety Day held in June. Despite poor weather, the event was successful and well attended. Family Fun Day events have now been organised across the district and information has been circulated to local schools and the Parish Council. Schools generally distribute information through electronic newsletters. The CSU continues its programme of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) awareness events across the district. New Ash Green will be included in the next phase, likely during late summer or September. Healthy Walks in both New Ash Green and Hartley continue to be well attended. Additional funding has been secured for Compaid's digital inclusion work, supported through successful grant applications. Cooking courses are scheduled to begin in September at Ash Village Hall following difficulties securing suitable venues within New Ash Green.
   3.2 Kent Police - PC C Harrison advised that no formal update had been received from the local policing team; however, routine monitoring of incidents continues. Reported crime and anti-social behaviour levels in New Ash Green have reduced, which is encouraging. The Community Safety Day held in June was considered a success despite adverse weather conditions. The football match and wider community engagement activities were positively received. Local beat officers have been encouraged to attend Family Fun Day events across the district where operationally possible. Bike marking will be available at the Hartley Family Fun Day. Further enquiries have been made with the local school regarding educational inputs relating to catapult use and wildlife concerns.
   3.3 Community Warden – J West reported that community engagement work within the villages continues, focusing on building stronger and safer communities. Partnership working remains a key focus, with regular involvement from the HERO Service, Private Sector Housing Team, Citizens Advice, Compaid and Hi Kent, all

of whom attend Community Hub sessions held at the Village Hall. Positive relationships continue with the GP Surgery and Kent Police, facilitating support for residents experiencing a range of welfare concerns. The Community Hub sessions on Tuesday mornings remain well attended and continue to offer valuable support and advice to local residents. Support provided through the Community Cupboards continues to assist residents in need. The New Ash Green Village Association continues to provide valuable support by making facilities available for community sessions, visiting agencies and confidential resident meetings. J West highlighted the strength of partnership working across all agencies and volunteers and advised that she had recently been nominated for a Sevenoaks District Council "Making It Happen" award in recognition of her community work.

4. **Local Issues and Concerns**

4.1 Youth Provision - The Youth Provision service launched in June and is progressing positively. It was reported that approximately eight young people are currently attending the junior group and three young people the senior group. Further referrals continue to be received. Positive relationships have already been established between youth workers and attendees. Members were encouraged to continue promoting the service through local schools and networks.

4.2 Community Engagement Events - Following the successful Community Safety Day in June, discussions have commenced regarding a larger community engagement event for 2027. The Chairman Cllr S Fishenden advised that a meeting would be held with event partners to explore options, potential activities and suitable dates. Further details will be circulated once available.

4.3 New Ash Green Shopping Centre and Car Parks - No significant anti-social behaviour concerns were raised in relation to the shopping centre or associated car parks.

5. **Other Matters for Discussion**

No other matters were raised.

6. **Communications from Local Stakeholders**

K Webb advised that the Sevenoaks District Council Community Safety Unit would be making contact with representatives of the New Ash Green Social Committee to explore opportunities for future collaborative community activities.

7. **Dates of Next Meetings**

Date for the next meeting was set as 12 October 2026

The meeting closed at 2.14pm