

NEW ASH GREEN FOCUS GROUP

Minutes of a meeting of the New Ash Green Focus Group held virtually via Teams on Tuesday 06 May 2025 commencing at 2.00pm.

Present: Cllr S Fishenden – Chairman, Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council
S Brine – New Ash Green Village Association
C Clark –Chapel Wood Residents Society
Cllr M Lindop - Sevenoaks District Council
M Quinton - Sevenoaks District Council Community Safety Unit
D Reid – Punch Croft Residents Society
Sgt K Savill – Kent Police
J West – KCC Community Warden

In Attendance: Mrs A de Jager – Parish Clerk,

1. **Apologies for Absence and Introductions**

Cllr L Manston – Sevenoaks District Council, L Moylan – Over Minnis Residents Society
K Webb - Sevenoaks District Council Community Safety Unit and PC Caleb Guest, Kent Police

2. **Notes/Actions from the Meeting of 13 January 2024**

The notes were received and noted.

3. **Police Update**

Sgt K Saville advised that in the absence of PC Guest and PC Collins that he would be happy to take any questions or discuss concerns. C Clark congratulated the Police on the arrest of two individuals on suspicion of an attempted robbery of the Post Office in New Ash Green. Sgt Savill reported that there is a serious crime in the South East with Co-operative stores being seen as a soft target. S Brine reported that there has been an increase in the littering of nitrous oxide cannisters in car parks, particularly at the entrance to the Pavilion and other areas that are not part of the usual locations. One call had been received over the weekend regarding cannisters in North Square car park. It was reported that two vehicles have been vandalised on Punch Croft. A resident thanked the Police for a response to collect CCTV evidence showing an entry and damage to a garden gate and the reassurance received.

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

Community Warden – Jackie continues to be active and focused upon supporting and enabling those who may often meet with challenges that need guidance to navigate their personal situations. At the end of last year and last month Jackie arranged a networking event for professionals to come together and share updates about what their organisations offer to our residents. These proved to be of benefit to all in attendance. Networking has enabled signposting to correct agencies. An Older Persons Information Event was held in New Ash Green in September last year with approximately 15 agencies in attendance and visited by approximately 60 residents. As a member of the local Dementia Friendly Community Action Group Jackie continues to work and support those in the community and their families living with dementia. The Memory Café/Carer Café is a place for individuals and families

to come and share in support of each other. Jackie recently delivered dementia awareness at Hanover Place, with residents from Turners Oak and the Health and Wellness coach from the GP surgery invited too. With the support of great volunteers the Tuesday community events continue in the village hall. A very successful concert was held last year with singers from the Simply Singing initiative who showcased some of the pieces they sing for pleasure. Jackie continues to liaise with the local policing team and the Sevenoaks CSU to share local concerns raised. She has been working closely with the Child Centred Policing Team to deliver assemblies to students in local Primary Schools to highlight Safety and anti Bullying. This also included an opportunity for students to ask any questions.

Community Safety Unit

The Community Safety Unit is working well liaising with Jackie West and local beat officers. There have not been many reports of Anti-Social Behaviour in New Ash Green. Sevenoaks District Council is celebrating VE Day this week with cooking courses using war time rations, a Tea Dance and Afternoon Tea will also be held.

5. **Agency & Resident Society Updates**

No reports

6. **Local Concerns & Issues**

- ASB locations and issues – no reports.
- Graffiti – no reports
- Parking - Parking on Chapel Wood neighbourhood continues to be problematic. It would be impossible for an emergency vehicle to get access to some parts of the neighbourhood.
Parking on Redhill Road has increased and as it is a 40 mph unlit road, there should be no parking
- Youth Provision – no report.
- Neighbourhood Watch – no report.
- Other Issues –
 - i. It was noted that there had been an increase in the theft of numberplates from vehicles in the village.
 - ii. There are a lot of cars in the village with no tax and no insurance - the Police cannot deal with these vehicles unless they catch the driver actually using the vehicle. The DVLA can assist and reports can be made online.

7. **Other Matters for Discussion**

None

8. **Date of Next Meeting**

The dates of the next meetings were set for 14 July 2025 and 13 October 2025 at 2pm, via Teams.

The meeting closed at 4.22pm