


Ashford Health & Wellbeing Board (AHWB)

Partner Quarterly Update for the Ashford Borough Council – Quarter 4: January to March 2015

What's going on in our world	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposed acquisition of Ashford town centre retail facility – recommendation being made to April Council meeting. Will be subject to detailed due diligence and final negotiation of contracts. Acquisition linked to longer term town centre development plans.• M20 Junction10a –consultation to take place summer 2015. Email updates for the scheme via www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/m20-junction-10a/• Jasmin Vardimon International Dance Academy – Funding now in place for initial stage of the project. Council leading the business case and project viability assessment.• Elwick Place plans progressing to mixed retail, leisure, office and residential (estimated 600 jobs). Proposals being developed for hotel, cinema, additional car parking and 153 dwelling. Planning application expected in next few months.• Designer Outlet Expansion (phased extension to double floor space). Planning application submitted. The application proposes demolishing part of the existing Designer Outlet Centre and building an extension comprising retail shops and restaurants, as well as a re-configured car park, public realm improvements, landscape and highway works and other associated enhancements.• Ashford College (£20m campus for 1,000 students) Hadlow Group's bid to the SE LEP successful securing over £8 million with a £5 million grant from the Skills Funding Agency also secured. Phase 1 construction due for completion early September 2017 £2 million loan from the Council to kick-start the development.• International Station spurs (finding signalling solutions to enable future interoperability for all international service providers). Key to retaining Eurostar and other services in Ashford. News received that there will be £2m invested into signalling at Ashford International Station as part of the Growth Deal announced early February by the Government.• Chilmington Green (development based on Garden City principles (1000 jobs and 5,750 houses) resolution to grant planning permission given. Ongoing s106 discussions.• Commercial Quarter (55,000 sq m commercial office floor space plus 150 homes). Agent appointed & architects working on design and layout.• Public realm works Works to create a new public realm around International House begin in March and will continue until August. The council is working in partnership with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and design practice, BDP, to enhance the environment and physical appearance around International House and Dover Place. The new public realm, funded by £1.3m from HCA, will create an attractive first impression of the town for visitors arriving at the international station.• TENT1 – (additional 249 homes in Tenterden). Delays over section 106
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	<p>discussions by final decision imminent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conningbrook Lakes Country Park has moved a step closer following the signing of agreements between the Brett Group and the Council. Land now effectively handed over to the council to begin preliminary works. Aim to open the park to the public and water sports clubs summer 2015. • Repton Park Community Centre. Planning application submission anticipated in early summer 2015. New project commissioned to support the enhancement of the design of the building, bring forward options for a name for the centre and signage, working alongside well renowned artists. Also use this project as a platform to inform the community development programme which clearly captures the communities aspirations and ambitions. • Housing Services new e-newsletter – New monthly e-newsletter called “Tell Us”. Opportunity to communicate with ABC tenants and gauge feedback electronically. • Support to rural business funding – Ashford’s rural businesses soon to have access to millions of pounds of funding, supporting job creation and growth in the rural economy. Achieved as a result of successfully lobbying to access the new LEADER programme, which is financed by the EU and DEFRA, offering rural development grants to projects that create jobs and grow the rural economy. Further details of the LEADER programme can be found at https://www.gov.uk/rural-development-programme-for-england-leader-funding.
<p>Success stories since last AHWB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self Harm Project - Project review pointed to a new approach to any further work, focusing on one to one work with young people referred to the programme through partners. Further funding secured from the CCG for an extension to the project. Sk8side to be commissioned to deliver this work. • Dementia – planning officers have developed a design brief of good practice for dementia friendly design and are promoting with developers of older persons accommodation. Six Housing & Community staff are trained as dementia champions and are running a programme of dementia friends training from ABC sheltered schemes for residents and the wider community. Council is actively involved with the Ashford Dementia Action Alliance, provides a meeting room and contributing to planning activities for dementia awareness week. Area manager for sheltered schemes attended conception meeting for Tenterden Dementia Friendly Community initiative and is working with the group to progress this project. Kent Dementia Helpline has been promoted via Ashford Voice and Housing News, latter also featured reading well on prescription project from the libraries service. New council website promoting it work on dementia including our Dementia Friends work and the Farrow Court scheme. Information at http://www.ashford.gov.uk/dementia-friends. • Domestic Abuse – Community Safety Partnership top up funding to support crèche and after school facilities at the Ashford Refuge. • Little Hill Extra Care Scheme – this Council site was gifted to KCC in June last year as part of the Excellent Homes for All PFI project. When complete in April 2016 it will offer 41 extra care apartments at affordable rents. This Project will also deliver 12 units of move-on (short-term)

	<p>accommodation at St. Stephens Walk in Ashford to help people acquire the skills to live independently. The scheme will be operational in September 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Acclaim for Ashford’s Innovative Housing - ‘Elphicke-House’ report, compiled by Ms Natalie Elphicke (a foremost housing finance expert) and Mr Keith House (a board member of the Homes and Communities Agency), recognises that many more local authorities should follow Ashford’s lead and offer proactive support to provide quality new homes while helping to build strong and sustainable communities. The review praises the way this council has taken advantage of opportunities such as HRA self-financing, and acted entrepreneurially through our property company and ‘ABC Lettings’ to discharge our statutory duties and offer other services in innovative ways. Link to report: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398829/150126_LA_Housing_Review_Report_FINAL.pdf • New Build Affordable Homes - Programme agreed to deliver the fifth phase of the programme which was the provision of 106 units of which 50 units were proposed for the redevelopment of an existing sheltered housing scheme at Danemore in Tenterden. Access the full programme at http://www.ashford.gov.uk/developments-coming-soon • Spearpoint sports facilities. Sports Council funding secured and approval given to replace the Spearpoint pavilion with a new community building. • Singleton Village Hall. Extension under construction. • ‘Smoke Free’ Play Spaces – Pilot project to encourage an emotional response from local residents, discouraging them from smoking in public places and around children. Secured £15k from Kent Public Health and circa £4k from other sources including Moat Housing. Three key elements: entrance signage to play areas asking adults to not smoke, suite of pavement games which add play value to our play spaces but also promote key ‘stop smoking’ messages and community days & school sessions delivered by Sure Start and other key health partners to promote the campaign. To operate in six play spaces i.e. Stour Centre, Moat play spaces (X3) in Stanhope, Bulleid Place, Newtown Green, with further ones delivered subject to budget Installation starts April 2015.
<p>What we are focusing on for the next quarter <u>specific to the key projects</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dementia - Detailed discussions continue with ABC, Social Services and Age UK about the arrangements for making the Day Centre at the new Farrow Court facility a centre of excellence. The discussions include aiming to deliver services seven days a week with a specific focus on dementia clients at weekends. • Healthy weight – Focus of October Board meeting. The Board agreed with the proposal of an action plan being written. A task and finish group will be meeting in the New Year. Local projects are under review and a new emphasis on this work and a potential new project being supported with additional links to the Stanhope Hub project. • Farrow Court – building work continues on site with 33 dwellings in phase 1 due for completion by early June 2015 including communal. Once phase 1 is complete phases 2 and 3 will commence with anticipated completion of these in late 2016.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness – Progressing the Rough Sleeper project. Porchlight have appointed a project worker to take forward the Rough Sleeper Project. Short term funding stream identified but not sustainable in the longer term. Will require joint commissioning and further discussions due in April/May 2015 towards achieving this. • Community Health Zone, (Stanhope & South Ashford) – Project brief defined and key local partners engaged in project development. Discussions with KCC Public Health, Ashford BC, Ashford Supporting Families and CCG re funding. Funding secured for a pilot period of an initial six months. This pilot period includes the need for a project coordinator. Start date of project will be when coordinator in post, which will be advertised shortly. • Local Plan (and Community Infrastructure Levy) - in the process of preparing it and are looking to get to a final draft version by the end of the year. Reminder to Board members of the need for involvement and dialogue in order to embed an integrated approach to promoting public health and wellbeing through planning. A useful guide on this subject is provided at: http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/planning-health-and-wellbeing-new-lgiu-essential-guide/
Anything else relevant to AHWB priorities NOT mentioned above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk to School Project - Need to identify funding to continue supporting the 'Walk to School' project. At present ABC is struggling to find resources to expand to additional schools.
Strategic challenges & risks including horizon scanning?	Elections (national and local). Outcomes are not possible to predict with so many parties, marginal results & possible government options being touted. ABC policy team geared to provide highlights of boards issues and more detailed analysis of specific issues.
Any thing else the Board needs to know	
Signed & dated	 Sheila Davison – 8 April 2015