

Ashford Health & Wellbeing Board (AHWB)

Partner Quarterly Update for the Ashford Borough Council – Quarter 3: October to December 2015

<p>What's going on in our world</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chief Executive – John Bunnett has resigned and will be leaving us mid February. More information at http://www.ashford.gov.uk/search/text-content/ashford-is-much-richer-for-his-service-13th-nov-1222• New corporate plan approved - Four priority areas:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Enterprising Ashford - Economic investment and growth○ Living Ashford - Quality housing and homes for all○ Active & Creative Ashford - Healthy choices through physical, cultural and leisure engagement○ Attractive Ashford - Countryside & townscape, heritage & conservationFurther details at: http://www.ashford.gov.uk/news/ashford-for-aspiration-action-and-achievement-council-sets-out-five-year-plan-14th-oct-1195/• The dark sky's the limit - ambitious and creative plans for a unique International Dark Sky Designation have taken a step forward following endorsement by the Council in December.• Park Mall – New traders moving into Council owned Park Mall. Also very healthy statistics about town centre footfall.• M20 Junction10a – Traffic modelling completed. Consultation is due to commence on 14th January 2016 for 9 weeks. The formal Development Consent Order application is likely to be submitted in June 2016, with a start on site in late 2017, with about an 18 months construction period.• Elwick Place - planning permission has been granted for the first phase, including the cinema, hotel and restaurants.• Public realm works around International House - now complete.• Designer Outlet Expansion (phased extension to double floor space). Planning application has now been approved i.e. as of 23 Sept 2015.• Ashford College (£16m campus for 1,000 students) Demolition of old buildings on site underway. Campus will be completed in early 2017 and open from September that year.• International Station spurs (finding signalling solutions to enable future interoperability for all international service providers). European Commission has agreed to contribute half of the required funding for an essential update of signalling equipment at Ashford International Station. The remainder of the funding will be covered by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership. This investment will ensure that Ashford remains an international destination, maintaining direct rail access to continental Europe.• 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). Council working with local developers Quinn Estates Ltd and George Wilson Holdings Ltd on the site earmarked for the first new office building in the Ashford Commercial Quarter. Together they will help bring forward the exciting plans to redevelop the area into a dynamic new main business hub in the town.• TENT1 – (additional 249 homes in Tenterden). Planning permission has now been issued and development is expected to start on site in 2016.• Conningbrook Lakes Country Park – it is open. Over time the park will offer a range of leisure and water based activities while also providing a gateway for
-------------------------------------	---

	<p>walkers and cyclists to explore the Stour Valley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repton Park Community Centre - Planning application submitted October 2015 Planning Committee likely in February 2016. Name decided by community competition as Repton Connect. • Local Plan – A new Local Plan is currently being prepared which will look ahead to 2030. It is expected that formal public consultation on a draft Plan will take place next April. • Syrian Vulnerable Persons Re-location Scheme – The first three families arrived in the borough in December. Homes were identified for these families in Newtown, Charing and Tenterden. Extensive liaison has taken place with KCC and the CCG and the Police and an intensive programme of support is in place. • Council Housing – As a consequence of Government proposals to reduce national cost of Housing Benefit, rents are to be reduced by 1% each year for the next 4 years. This results in a loss of £10 million over this period. A cost recovery programme has been agreed by the Council. This includes the East Stour Sheltered Scheme rebuild being postponed and other options explored, maintenance programme savings and salary savings associated with some compulsory redundancies (linked to the maintenance programme). The programme includes steps to increase alternative Council housing related income schemes. More information available from Bob Smart (Housing Resource Manager). • MIPIM – Council returned to MIPIM (the UK’s largest exhibition and conference for property professionals) to promote Ashford. Further details at http://www.ashford.gov.uk/news/ashford-makes-triumphant-return-to-mipim-uk-19th-oct-1198/. • Victoria Park – Key partners from a variety of professional backgrounds met recently with a creative consultant to discuss a proposed Community Engagement Plan for Victoria Park. This is in preparation for a planned Heritage Lottery Fund bid application for the fountain and surrounding piazza area of the park.
<p>Success stories since last AHWB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self Harm Project - AKA ‘About You’. Progress is being made in terms of partnership working with the CCG via Community Networks, some work still to do with Ashford schools. • Dementia – Supported the Kent Dementia Action Alliance Dementia Friendly Exhibition and Awards. Information on Farrow Court made available. • Domestic Abuse – One Stop Shop 5th Birthday event 6th November. Domestic Abuse Forum just achieved charitable status. • 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 summer 2016 it will offer 41 extra care apartments at affordable rents in Tenterden. • St. Stephens Walk - The Excellent Homes for All PFI project will also deliver 12 units of move-on (short-term) accommodation at St. Stephens Walk in Ashford to help people acquire the skills to live independently. The scheme became operational in December 2015. • 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-although-the-1%rent-cut-planned-each-year-for-2016-20-will-impact-this-programme. A bid for funding for the Danemore scheme has been made through the Care and Support Specialised Housing Fund (CaSSH) phase 2. Outcome will be known hopefully early in 2016.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poppy Fields, Charing – All 21 families should be moved into their new affordable properties by early 2016 • Chamberlain Manor extra care scheme (Housing and Care 21) - opened officially on 17th July. 67 units for rent and shared ownership and communal facilities. All rented apartments are allocated. Approximately half of the shared ownership apartments are now reserved. Hairdressing salon (part of the facilities to benefit the wider community as well) is let. • Spearpoint sports facilities. Sports Council funding secured and approval given to replace the Spearpoint pavilion with a new community building. Construction to start in 2016. • Spearpoint Trim Trail – Now open with ten pieces of equipment for teens and adults over a 1000-metre trail, the trail will be a great addition to the recreational facilities at Spearpoint. • ‘Smoke Free’ Play Spaces – Pilot project to encourage an emotional response from local residents, discouraging them from smoking in public places and around children. All phase 1 sites complete apart from Bulleid Place which will follow as part of the refurb. Evaluation report complete and signed off by Public Health. Initial interest by Tonbridge and Malling and Maidstone BC to roll out the scheme. Tenterden Council considering introducing on the Recreation Group play space with a letter to Parish Councils to be sent out shortly. A successful project. • MIND café – Now open 6 - 9.45pm every Friday and Saturday night at HOUSE. • Kingsnorth Multi Use Games Area – Now open. The new MUGA will allow the community to play a variety of sports and is open during the evenings, weekends and school holidays, whilst local children and students from the nearby school can use the space as a play area during the day.
<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 - Day Centre at the new Farrow Court facility is now operational. • Healthy Weight - the group are currently populating the Healthy Weight Action Plan which should be signed off early in the New Year’ (many of the actions are already underway). ‘The Aspirational Health Zone’ project is currently in a ‘mapping and asset registering stage’ and should be in a position to begin delivering from March 2016 onwards. • Farrow Court – Phase 1 of the scheme is now complete with all current residents having moved into their new accommodation and a formal opening event for phase one took place in December. • Rough Sleepers Project, Porchlight commissioned, joint working started and a multi agency working group has been set up, involving all relevant agencies, including churches and the street pastors. A Rough Sleeper Estimate was publicised widely and was undertaken on 19th November and revealed a total of 5 known rough sleepers within the Borough on that night. Porchlight are working closely with us to target those individuals to offer advice and support to obtain a home. The Severe Weather Emergency Placements (SWEP) Protocol will be in force over the winter period and will be coordinated by Housing Options and Porchlight. This provides that when the temperature dips below freezing on consecutive nights arrangements will be made to place any known rough sleeper where possible until the temperature rises above freezing again. • Homelessness Strategy – Being reviewed. Following Cabinet approval on 8th October the draft strategy will be out for public consultation on the Council’s consultation Portal. Please ensure that you take the time to feed into the strategy. If information required contact sharon.williams@ashford.gov.uk. This strategy will identify actions to prevent and reduce homelessness working closely with partners.

<p>Anything else relevant to AHWB priorities NOT mentioned above</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Deal - The Leaders of Ashford Borough Council and Kent County Council met this week to formally sign a document which sets out how the two councils will work more closely together on a number of specific projects. See http://www.ashford.gov.uk/news/councils-join-forces-to-improve-delivery-9th-dec-1246/ • Domestic Abuse – The bid made by ABC Housing that aimed to provide accommodation to local residents needing to flee their property for a short time due to domestic abuse was unsuccessful. Feedback requested.
<p>Strategic challenges & risks including horizon scanning?</p>	
<p>Any thing else the Board needs to know</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Know Your Score” - helped promote the Kent alcohol brief advice (IBA) online self-assessment tool, “Know Your Score”. This is a web-based version of the alcohol IBA scratch card and supports the Kent Alcohol Strategy. Promoted during Alcohol Awareness Week (16 to 22 Nov).
<p>Signed & dated</p>	<p>Sheila Davison – January 2016</p>