

# Ashford Health & Wellbeing Board (AHWB)

## Partner Quarterly Update for the Ashford Borough Council – Quarter 4: January to March 2016

<p>What's going on in our world</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Park Mall</b> – The work to revitalise Park Mall has been welcomed by Damian Green MP, who in February visited the ever-improving shopping centre that was bought by Ashford Borough Council in 2015.</li><li>• <b>M20 Junction10a</b> – Consultation has just closed. 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.</li><li>• <b>Victoria Way</b> - Leading property regeneration company U+I is developing plans to bring forward more than 800 homes and new amenities across two sites in Ashford with a total value of £180 million. Both sites are in close proximity to the station. The proposed schemes for both sites, designed by local architect, Guy Holloway, will help to create over 200 jobs for the local area and build a new community on Victoria Way, which is already benefiting from £25m of public realm investments and improved highway infrastructure.</li><li>• <b>Repton Connect (the new Community Centre)</b> – Planning permission approved in February 2016. Progressing with the tender process starting at the end of March with completion in 2017 being planned.</li><li>• <b>Spearpoint Pavillion</b> - The old Spearpoint Pavilion building has now been demolished and site preparation is underway. The new building should be ready by mid-September.</li><li>• <b>Population growth</b> - The Guardian contained an article on population growth which featured Ashford and how we are coping with more residents moving to the borough. Full article at: <a href="http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/09/is-britain-full-home-truths-about-population-panic">http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/09/is-britain-full-home-truths-about-population-panic</a>.</li><li>• <b>Victoria Park</b> – Key partners 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.</li><li>• <b>Council Tax</b> – ABC's element of council tax is the lowest in Kent (and one of the lowest precepts in the country). Ashford given special dispensation by government in acknowledgement that that it is one of "the most economical authorities" to raise its element of council tax by up to £5 a year for the forthcoming financial year, without triggering a referendum. Members did not however increase to the full extent.</li><li>• <b>Create festival</b> – To be on a Saturday for the first time in its 21-year history, this year on Saturday 23rd July. An opportunity for HWB partners to promote services especially to young people.</li><li>• <b>Ashford Voice</b> – See February edition via <a href="http://www.ashford.gov.uk/news/februarys-issue-of-ashford-voice-is-out-now-18th-feb-1295/">http://www.ashford.gov.uk/news/februarys-issue-of-ashford-voice-is-out-now-18th-feb-1295/</a>. Note HWB members can use our monthly 'e-zine' for their own news.</li><li>• <b>Local Government Boundary Commission</b> – Ashford Electoral Review 2016/17 - The LGBC are about to commence an electoral review in Ashford Borough.</li><li>• <b>Royal Military Canal Cycle Path Project</b> – This week it has been confirmed that £70,000 has been awarded by the Marsh Million Economic Project Scheme (EPS) to progress the planning application for the Royal Military Canal cycle path project between Aldergate Bridge in West Hythe and Appledore Bridge.</li></ul>
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<p>Success stories since last AHWB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>‘Housing Business Ready’</b> – Council is the first in the south east to be declared ‘Housing Business Ready’. Being Housing Business Ready recognises the way in which we not only cover our statutory responsibilities as an authority to affordable housing provision but how we use assets and other resources to go beyond minimum requirements, how we work with our private sector partners, and how in doing so we provide inspirational local leadership.</li> </ul>
<p>What we are focusing on for the next quarter <u>specific to the key projects</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Healthy Weight</b> – On-going work on how best to target those groups most in need.</li> <li>• <b>Local Plan</b> – 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 shortly.</li> </ul>
<p>Anything else relevant to AHWB priorities NOT mentioned above</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>‘Smoke Free’ Play Spaces</b> – Pilot project to encourage an emotional response from local residents, discouraging them from smoking in public places and around children. We are currently replacing signs where sadly they have been vandalised and, if funding permits, extending to other play spaces across the urban area. This work will be complete by the end of March. Canterbury Council have picked up the Smoke Free play spaces baton. They have been promoting the scheme on Radio Kent and Ashford has been mentioned positively on several occasions.</li> <li>• <b>Ashford Dementia Action Alliance</b> – For Dementia awareness week, the Ashford Dementia Action Alliance, is planning a dementia friendly afternoon tea party running from the Joe Fagg pop in centre and neighbouring Baptist Church on Sunday 15th May. They are also hoping to have some school involvement as well. If any HWB members have access to any funds to help support refreshment and entertainment costs it would be much appreciated. Contact Liz Taylor (Chair of the DAA) for more information.</li> </ul>
<p>Strategic challenges &amp; risks including horizon scanning?</p>	
<p>Any thing else the Board needs to know</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Council’s front of house</b> – Return to the Civic Centre late March as we withdraw from Ashford Gateway Plus.</li> </ul>
<p>Signed &amp; dated</p>	<p>Sheila Davison – March 2016</p>