


Ashford Health & Wellbeing Board (AHWB)

Partner Quarterly Update for the Ashford Borough Council – Quarter 2: July to September 2016

<p>What's going on in our world</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repton Connect (the new Community Centre) – Works commenced in September. Artist impression below. The council is working with our internal communications team to send the message out to the community about the proposed works and we would be grateful if you are able to pass this message onto colleagues. It is hoped the building will open autumn 2017 and offer an activity/meeting space, large field, a multi use games and a car park. It is adjacent to land dedicated for health facilities and the Council is working with the CCG and Public Health look at opportunities to bring this forward.  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bridgefield Park – A Landscape Consultant has been appointed to coordinate play facilities and amenities for the new park in Kingsnorth. A planning application will hopefully be this year with completion, all being well in late Summer 2017.• Victoria Park – A Heritage Lottery Fund bid application for the fountain and surrounding piazza area of the park will be resubmitted in early 2017 alongside looking at refurbishment of various elements in the park.• Chilmington - S106 Agreement remains unsigned although it is hoped that the legal agreements will be complete by the end of 2016. Nevertheless, work is ongoing with a Phase 1 master planning workshop delivered in September 2016 which explored a range of elements including housing layout, highways, the district centre design, landscaping, and proposed positioning of phase 1 community facilities. The workshop enabled some lively debate and valuable input from a range of stakeholders and residents. The Council is working with the CCG to look at opportunities for early health provision and will keep the Board informed of progress. Internally the Council is shifting focus towards the delivery of Chilmington and is equally working with KCC to develop a Working Protocol (under the District Deal) to enable officers to collaborate effectively and efficiently in a way which befits the quality and sustainability agenda at Chilmington.• Ashford College - Topping Out Ceremony took place in late September to celebrate construction of the new-build college reaching roof height - the first of Ashford's Big 8 projects to reach this advanced stage. Ashford College, which is part of the Hadlow Group, is due to open to students in September 2017.• Spearpoint Pavillion – Official opening took place on the 8th October.• Elwick Place Development – Council approved funding to construct a mixed use leisure development incorporating cinema, hotel, food and beverage establishments, car park and retail use in Elwick Road. This is a significant development which will create a vibrant town centre through an enterprising approach. It helps ensure the borough council achieves its long-term objective of self-reliance using income generated through rents and business rates
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	<p>without the need for central government funding. The project illustrates the importance of the town centre and council's determination to stimulate the local economy Cineworld has received a resolution to grant a planning application for an IMAX screen at Eureka Leisure Park and confirmed the Elwick Place cinema is to be a Picturehouse theatre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M20 Junction10a – The formal Development Consent Order application has been submitted by Highways England and is available to view on the National infrastructure Planning (PINS) website. The application was open for representations until 3rd October. The examination in public is expected to commence in November this year. • Victoria Road (Powergen) - Leading property regeneration company Development Securities Ashford is given planning permission to bring forward 660 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 Road, which is already benefiting from significant public realm investments and improved highway infrastructure. • Victoria Road (east) – proposal by U+I for 200 homes, a new brewery, a new Aldi store and an hotel. • Designer Outlet Centre Extension - planning permission issued subject to a s106 agreement. • Ashford Voice – See latest edition of the council's newsletter via http://ashfordvoice.ashford.gov.uk/september-2016/welcome/welcome-to-our-autumn-issue-of-ashford-voice. Note HWB members can use our monthly 'e-zine' for their own news. • Ashford International Model Railway Education Centre (AIMREC) – Planning permission granted and Cabinet recommendation to Council to provides a secured loan to AIMREC. Work on securing land continues.
Success stories since last AHWB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syrian Refugees - Ashford's commitment to resettling the most vulnerable Syrian refugees as part of the government's five-year national resettlement programme has been widely praised. The recent Home Affairs Select Committee report, published in August, found that Ashford has currently taken more refugees (a total of 33, made up from seven families) than any other local authority area in the south east. • Road safety - Road safety is one of the priorities for the Ashford Community Safety Partnership. In September a campaign was launched with the help of Moreline - a wizard hedgehog that offers road safety advice and teaches children how to stay safe around highways and cars. The campaign not only aims to educate children on the importance of staying safe around roads, but also highlight road safety issues such as parking and driving near schools to get parents thinking about their driving habits. Moreline is now visiting local schools to offer advice on road safety. Ahead of this, the council has provided warning parking signs to reinforce stopping restrictions and remind drivers not to park in locations which cause issues on schools premises'. This enables them to trial the effectiveness of the signs before purchasing their own. • Award Winning Engagement - The Council received two awards at the prestigious national Engagement Excellence Awards ceremony held at the Natural History Museum in London in late September. The Engagement Excellence Awards seek to celebrate excellence in employee engagement. The Council was one of only a few local authorities to be nominated against national and global brands. • Ashford's Smokefree play parks – The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) is calling for voluntary 'no smoking zones' to be implemented across the UK wherever children play or learn. In a bid to help protect children's

	<p>health and reduce the perception among young people that smoking is normal behaviour, the CIEH launched a campaign on World Environmental Health Day (26th September 2016) to extend non-smoking areas around places such as schools and play parks, or locations where young people learn or play. To support their cause the CIEH produced a selection of case studies demonstrating the benefits of introducing smoke free environments. It includes Ashford's smoke free play areas initiative.</p>
<p>What we are focusing on for the next quarter <u>specific to the key projects</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Weight – Additional staff resource identified to support the healthy weight work project around service audit mapping. See public health update for more information. • Ballot Butt Bins – Plans in place to trial ballot butt bins in Ashford Town Centre. Working with public health to see if we can tie in signposting to stop smoking services and support. • ActiveEveryday (activities for the Over 60's) - promotional campaign was launched early October and aims to help local people see what's on everyday and the opportunities to be active (even for 10 minutes!) • Conningbrook Lakes development of activities – the council will continue to look at opportunities to bring forward various sports activities at the Lakes and work on the masterplan of the site as the housing development progresses. • Smoking – further promotion of the smokefree play parks including providing support to Tenterden who wish introduce there. Also starting to work on the Smokefree school gates project.
<p>Anything else relevant to AHWB priorities NOT mentioned above</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) - The CSP's Child Sexual Exploitation sub-group's current focus is on raising awareness and training. Future training plans include taxi driver awareness sessions and going into schools to find out what training they have received and what additional training they would like. The sub-group are exploring the possibility of holding an event on safeguarding similar to the recent one held in Shepway in Ashford aimed at year 8 children; this may be going into individual schools as Ashford does not have a venue as big as the Lees Cliff Hall. British Transport Police have said they would like training and would also use their influence in respect of a poster campaign. • Local Plan – The Council's draft Local Plan was issued for public consultation on the 15 June. More than 2800 representations have been received. It is likely that amendments to the draft plan will be published for further consultation in early 2017. More details at http://www.ashford.gov.uk/local-plan-2030 • Development Update – Latest newsletter that provides an update on the latest position on the main Local Plan documents and how they are progressing. Available at http://www.ashford.gov.uk/development-update • Ashford Homelessness Review and draft Homelessness Strategy A report incorporating the views of various stakeholders will be presented to councillors on 13th October for their consideration and seeking their endorsement of the new strategy. • Create Music Festival – Its 21st birthday was a fantastic success. Over 12,000 attended and via Facebook over 91,000 were reached over the two day festival. Time for partners on the HWB to think about how they can participate in 2017 to promote their causes. • Kestrel Park - Work began at the start of September on a new play area for young people, Kestrel Park, at Brisley Farm open space in Kingsnorth and is due to finish in Spring 2017. The open space next to the historic Coleman's Kitchen woods is a well-loved area of natural beauty in the borough, with a natural meadow and backdrop of ancient woodland of Iron Age importance popular among walkers. • Litter enforcement - From early September to council started working with a private enforcement company to help tackle littering and other environmental blights in the borough. This includes dealing with discarded cigarette ends.

	
Strategic challenges & risks including horizon scanning?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Kent – Exploratory work has begun across the five East Kent Authorities (Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Shepway and Thanet) to see if there is scope to work more closely together. Focus at this stage on comparing costs and structures to establish whether there is a high level business case to explore a merger more thoroughly.
Any thing else the Board needs to know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport - The county's residents are being asked whether they agree with Kent County Council's priorities for the future of transport in the county. A public consultation of the Local Transport Plan launched in August and runs until October 30.
Signed & dated	<p>Sheila Davison – 5 October 2016</p>