

Ashford Health & Wellbeing Board (AHWB)

Partner Quarterly Update for the Ashford Borough Council – Quarter 2: July to September 2017

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| <p>What's going on in our world</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conningbrook Lakes (New development) – Clarion housing group purchased the site from ABC and Brett Group in March 2017 and intend to commence construction of 300 high-quality new private homes in September 2017 with sale and marketing commencing in December and first occupations expected in Spring 2018.• Elwick Place Development – Works are continuing on the construction of this mixed-use leisure development incorporating cinema, hotel, restaurants and car park in Elwick Road. Due for completion winter 2018.• Station Approach Improvements - Proposals to improve traffic management, road safety and the appearance of the domestic railway station forecourt have been approved. This will include the installation of a new zebra crossing on Station Approach and the relocation of the taxi waiting area to the Stour Centre car park, with an increased capacity.• A28 Infrastructure Works – Infrastructure work has commence for the Chilmington Green project and has started with the construction of a new roundabout on the A28 for the main access to the new housing development.• Commercial Quarter (CQ 38) – Quinn Estates started construction of the new office building in January. The first phase of the Commercial Quarter will see 80,500 sq ft of exceptional and adaptable office space developed, along with retail and restaurants on the ground floor, public realm improvements and additional car parking. The building is due for completion in spring 2018. For more information about Ashford's priority regeneration projects and many success stories visit www.ashfordfor.com.• Riverside Park Development – This is the former Powergen Site in Victoria Way. Quinn Estates have permission to build 660 homes.• Repton Connect (the new Community Centre) – Works on-going. Building offering an activity/meeting space, large field, a multi-use games and a car park should be open January 2018.• M20 Junction10a – Decision by the Secretary of State due by 1st December. If agreed Highways England expect the works to be completed by May 2020. Following on from a Joint Transport Board meeting in September, there are proposals to include Barry Junction works in with these.• Designer Outlet Centre Extension - planning permission issued and s106 agreement reached. Amendments to the design agreed. Construction starts shortly.• Ashford Voice – See latest edition of the council's newsletter via http://www.ashford.gov.uk/search/text-content/ashford-voice-out-now-28th-june-817.• Active Everyday (activities for the over 60's) – The calendar can be downloaded via the following link http://www.ashford.gov.uk/active-everyday.• Belgic Court – New supported housing scheme for vulnerable young people between the ages of 16-25 at The Limes, Ashford opened in July. The scheme supports vulnerable young people with their transition from care to independent living and consist of eight self-contained fully furnished one-bedroom flats and a communal facility.• Spires, Tenterden – Extra care scheme has now opened.• Oak Tree Road – The part rebuild, part refurbishment of eight council-owned maisonettes that were destroyed in a gas explosion and subsequent fire in June 2015 has be completed and residents have moved back in. |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocation of Ashford Town Bowls Club/Memorial Gardens Extension – The land in the centre of Ashford is being donated for an extension of the Memorial Gardens, which will include seating and a garden area for rest and relaxation by the residents of the borough. The Bowls club is relocating to Entrance Park, Kingsnorth with a new green and pavilion, accommodating social activities for mainly over 60’s. • Play Facilities, Hamstreet – Plans to redevelop the existing play area near Victory Hall, improve the open space and resurface the MUGA on Pound Lane Recreation Ground. Consultation on preferred activities to be provided at the play area is now completed and results analysed. Design and tender currently being developed based on results. Still awaiting funds from developer. • Bridgefield Park, Park Farm - Work has commenced on this facility, due to be opened by Spring 2018. • Conningbrook Lakes 20th Anniversary Event – This family fun day took place on 9th September and included activities such as canoeing, paddle boarding, water boarding, children’s athletics and running & cycling activities. Approximately 1000 people attended. • Tenterden Leisure Centre – There are plans to refurbish and extend this facility; this will include an improved gym, state-of-the-art spin studio, and revamped reception. The leisure centre trust is in the process of securing funding. • The Wellbeing Symposium 2018 - This national conference (hosted by/headline sponsored Ashford Borough Council) is being held at the Ashford International Hotel on 21 February 2018. More details can be found at: https://www.thewellbeingsymposium.com/ • AshfordFOR campaign– This campaign, launched three years ago, focused on raising the profile of investment opportunities Ashford has to offer potential developers and investors. An additional theme – living – has been added, bringing lifestyle messages. The website can be found at www.ashfordfor.com. • New Facilities at One You – A new consultation room has been created at One You as well as a space where breastfeeding mums can have some privacy to feed their child. The shop continues to be popular. |
| <p>Success stories since last AHWB</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elwick Road Car Park – New car park opened 2nd September. Situated opposite the college. • Ashford College, Elwick Road – The new Ashford College opened its doors on 12th September for the first intake of students. The facility will provide courses for more than 1000 students and employment for 100 staff. |
| <p>What we are focusing on for the next quarter <u>specific to the key projects</u></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria Park redevelopment – A development grant of £167,000 has been awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund to support this project. This will assist the Council in reapplying for the next round of funding where the project will shape the park into a 21st century park. Permission has been granted to start the project and a project manager is due to be appointed and in place by the end of October. • Bockhanger Square Improvements – Works, which will be funded by ABC & KCC Member grants, will be carried out to freshen up Bockanger Square. A drop in session was held on 12th August for residents to view what has been designed. In addition to this Town Centre Action Team will also be undertaking improvement works during the next couple of months clearing alleys and footpaths and removing weed growth from kerb edging in the housing estates of Bybrook, Nine Acres and Beecholme, etc . • Chilmington –Work is ongoing to discharge planning conditions. The first reserved matters application for Hodson land parcels has been submitted. Expected timetable for commencement of housebuilding is spring 2017. First residents expected late 2018/early 2019. Proving layouts for the community hub as well as the health provision are agreed. Currently includes provision for GP’s as per the S106. Discussions have begun with East Kent NHS (Wendy Malkinson) |

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| | <p>over degree of fit with NHS long-term plans with some thought being given to pharmacy provision and location underway. The matter of concern remains that NHS planning does not coincide with the development plan for Chilmington. Residents concern voiced through the community development strategy consultation held over the summer reinforced a need to consider temporary health provision, ahead of the community hub being ready at 1800 homes. The CCG are investigating the position on this given the pressures which are already on existing surgeries. The Community Development Strategy will be taken to December full council at ABC with a recommendation for adoption. An action plan will be created over the autumn whose delivery will start in January 2018.</p> |
| Anything else relevant to AHWB priorities NOT mentioned above | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Update – The new October 2017 newsletter highlights the major projects that now being delivered across the borough. This will be available at http://www.ashford.gov.uk/development-update_shortly. • Ashford Heritage Strategy – The consultation for this took place in July and is now complete. The Strategy will be going to the Council’s Cabinet meeting on 12th October for full adoption of the Strategy. |
| Strategic challenges & risks including horizon scanning? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan – The Cabinet agreed a series of proposed changes to the draft Local Plan in June. Public consultation on the changes commenced on 7th July and ran until the 31st August. There are revised requirements for additional housing over the Plan period to 2030 with around a further 1500 dwellings to be planned for and consequently several new site allocations are now being proposed, mainly in the rural parts of the borough. More details at http://www.ashford.gov.uk/local-plan-2030. Final version of the Plan due to be submitted for public examination in December. |
| Any thing else the Board needs to know | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working to Become Dementia Friendly - The council is intending to apply for the Working to Become Dementia Friendly (WTBDF) recognition symbol in the New Year. This will commence by engaging with staff to gather ideas to form an action plan to submit as part of our WTBDF application. • Non-Native Mosquitos – Some Aedes albopictus (Asian tiger) eggs and larvae were discovered at an Ashford site though an ongoing surveillance programme. Although the mosquitoes currently pose no immediate risk to public health, Public Health England (PHE) and Ashford Borough Council (ABC) took immediate action to treat the area to prevent them becoming established in the UK. • The Job Club – This takes place on a Monday between 1pm to 4pm at the Ashford Gateway (IT Suite). No appointments are needed, people can just turn up for help searching for jobs via a computer and for advice on CVs, completing forms and writing supporting statements. Run in conjunction with ABC, Southern Housing & The Gateway. An ABC employee runs the Job Club with help of two dedicated volunteers. The service is open to anyone who lives in the borough whether they are employed or unemployed. Everyone is welcome to receive support or indeed just to make use of the computers to carry out job search activities by themselves if they don’t require additional support. |
| Signed & dated | Sheila Davison – 6 October 2017 |