

## ITEM 5

### **SCRUTINY BRIEFING: Anti-Social Behaviour – Scoping Report**

#### Purpose of the Report

To provide background information on **Anti-Social Behaviour in the Ashford borough** to enable the Committee to determine whether further scrutiny is required.

This scoping paper is compiled in response to a letter from the Brisley Court Neighbourhood Watch, requesting an O&S review into this matter.

#### Briefing Summary

Title	<i>Anti-Social Behaviour</i>
Aims/Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Origin – request from Brisley Court Neighbourhood Watch (Appendix 1)</i></li><li>• <i>Requested aim is a borough-wide review of the problem areas associated with Anti-Social Behaviour</i></li><li>• <i>Anti-Social Behaviour also makes up one of the agreed priorities of the Ashford Community Safety Partnership</i></li></ul>
Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 defines anti-social behaviour as "behaviour that is likely to cause alarm, harassment or distress to one or more persons not of the same household".</i></li><li>• <i>The Committee has been asked to carry out a review into Anti-Social Behaviour linked to crime in the Borough</i></li><li>• <i>The focus of the request is the role that alleyways and other highway areas (pedestrian and otherwise), and their lighting, play in Anti-Social Behaviour</i></li><li>• <i>The current status of ASB was included within the Annual Report of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), considered by the Committee in February 2016. Relevant excerpts from that report are included in Appendix 2.</i></li><li>• <i>New powers to combat ASB were introduced in October 2014 under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. These have been used by authorised agencies and have resulted in three Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs) being issued by the Courts to combat persistent perpetrators of ASB.</i></li></ul>
Required outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>A borough-wide, in-depth understanding of ASB</i></li><li>• <i>An understanding of the concerns of local people, specifically regarding those problem areas which residents feel play a role in ASB</i></li><li>• <i>Input from CSP colleagues on the work being done / planned to tackle ASB in the borough</i></li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible recommendations to KCC Highways</li> </ul>
Measures to evaluate outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current levels of ASB included in Appendix 2.</li> <li>• The CSP is due to provide its latest Annual Report in February 2017, but also holds more detailed statistics on ASB.</li> <li>• The Committee may wish to engage with residents and community groups to provide insight into other areas of concern for ASB (by calling witnesses of conducting its own survey work), KCC Highways and CSP partners.</li> </ul>
Implications for customers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further evidence to inform the policy-making and priority setting of partners through the CSP.</li> <li>• Evidence-gathering from residents (either by calling witnesses, surveying or targeted information-gathering).</li> </ul>
Alternative options	<i>N/A as the Committee has been asked by a third party to consider looking into this issue</i>
Emerging issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASB decreased in 2013/14 by 42%, and has continued to decrease</li> <li>• Ashford still has the lowest volume of reported ASB in the county, and the latest data indicates a 35% decrease in 2014/15.</li> <li>• However, there were still over 1,200 incidences of ASB during the year</li> <li>• Multi-agency operations have targeted ASB hotspots, including those relating to the night time economy.</li> </ul>
Timetable/Future events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• February 2017 – CSP Annual Report</li> <li>• The Report-It App, allowing residents to more easily flag concerns including ASB, to go live by December 2016</li> </ul>
Cost and staff requirements	<i>The Community Safety Partnership works together to reduce crime and the fear of crime and shares information to take a co-ordinated action against anti-social behaviour.</i>
Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability of the Committee to influence KCC as a result of the review</li> <li>• The timing of any review in relation to the CSP's Annual Report provides an opportunity for the committee to input into its priority-setting</li> </ul>

#### Additional information

Background Papers: Appendix 1 – Letter from Brisley Court Neighbourhood Watch  
Appendix 2 – Excerpts from CSP Annual Report, Feb. 2016

Officer(s) to contact: Senior Policy, Performance and Scrutiny Officer  
Nicholas Clayton-Peck 01233 330208

# Appendix 1

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Brisley Court Neighbourhood Watch  
15 Brisley Court  
Kingsnorth  
Ashford  
Kent TN23 3GE

9<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Dear Sirs,

As Co-ordinator for the Brisley Court, Kingsnorth Neighbourhood Watch Committee I wish to request that the Ashford Overview & Scrutiny Committee conduct a Review in to anti-social behaviour linked to crime in the Borough.

In particular we are keen to make recommendations to KCC Highways that they look in to the possibility of closing the alleyway in our street after a number of criminal incidents have taken place in the last few months, many members of our local community have witnessed suspected drug dealing and drug taking in this vicinity. These also include numerous bike / motorbike thefts and acts of severe vandalism to houses as well as verbal abuse to residents and the escape route by offenders has been facilitated by said alley.

We are sure that our alleyway is not the only area of concern for residents in the Ashford area and believe that if the Ashford BC Scrutiny Committee was to undertake a review in to this issue, many local people would come forward with concerns for similar passageways / alleys in their estates.

We have approached KCC with reference to this matter and have been sent a generic email that refers to road safety and simply has not addressed our concerns at all. We understand that ABC (Ashford Borough Council) is not responsible for highways but we are also aware that a Scrutiny Committee can make recommendations to KCC that can then be considered by their relevant departments and elected Members.

As one of the roles and responsibilities of the Scrutiny Committees is to undertake reviews relating to the welfare / concerns of the Borough and its residents we feel that a Borough wide review of problem areas for anti-social behaviour as outlined above would be beneficial and welcomed by Ashford's residents. It would certainly reflect a level of care and consideration from our elected representatives – which can of course, only be a good thing.

I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Graham Sanders

Brisley Court Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator

# Appendix 2

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## Excerpts from CSP Annual Report, February 2016

### Anti-social Behaviour including Environmental Crime (Lead Agency – Ashford Borough Council)

Ashford's Community Safety Partnership completes an annual strategic assessment that refreshes the priorities and planned activities to provide the knowledge and understanding of community safety problems to the members of the CSP.

The 2015/16 priorities as set at the start of the year were:

- **Anti-social behaviour, including environmental crime**
- Domestic abuse
- Substance misuse
- Acquisitive crime
- Violent crime
- Road safety

### Review of the last year

The data provided in this section comes from the Kent Police Partnership Pack. Unfortunately it does not break down the type of anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents reported.

	13/14	14/15	No	%	/1,000	Rank 13/14	Rank 14/15
<b>Ashford</b>	1,850	1,207	<b>-643</b>	<b>-35%</b>	15.40	1	1
<b>Kent</b>	40,540	36,979	<b>-3,561</b>	<b>-9%</b>	27.39	-	-

The data provided above shows the number of incidents of ASB reported to Kent Police for the borough of Ashford has continued to decrease by 643 incidents compared to the previous full year statistics.

Reported ASB decreased in 2013/14 by 42%. ASB has continued to decrease and Ashford still has the lowest volume of reported ASB in the county. The latest data indicating a 35% decrease.

The regular Police ASB patrol (Operation Claxon) calls on victims of ASB and targets known offenders, linking with Kent Police's Joint Family Management Programme. This in turn has continued to have excellent links with the Ashford Supporting Families programme and works to both target known offenders and also work with individuals and families to try and reduce the problems at source.

Kent Police's ASB officer works with high-risk victims of ASB and provides excellent advice and support to housing officers and youth workers working with our communities.

New powers to combat ASB were introduced in October 2014 under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. These have been used by authorised agencies and have resulted in three Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs) being issued by the Courts to combat persistent perpetrators of ASB.

A number of partners have contributed to Cleansweep events in both the urban and rural areas, (Court Wurtin, Singleton, Stanhope, Newtown and South Willesborough). These operations use a multi-agency approach to combat issues and also to engage with communities and offer advice and support. As part of these operations enforcement action was undertaken including executing warrants and conducting roadside checks.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service coordinated a multi-agency visible presence on Halloween and Bonfire night, resulting in a continued reduction in ASB on these usually peak nights for ASB.

Further work undertaken by the CSP to reduce ASB included:

- Introduction of the ASB multi-agency panel that is chaired by the Joint Family Management officers. This panel enables the early identification of perpetrators and appropriate action is taken to divert them from ASB and associated crime.
- KCC Wardens engagement with the local community at the earliest opportunity enabling assessment and review of the impact of ASB upon local communities.
- Attending all repeat victims' ASB calls.
- Multi-agency operations that have targeted ASB hotspots, including those relating to the night time economy.
- Ensuring victims of ASB receive appropriate support, including early identification of vulnerable and repeat victims via continuation of Operation Claxon and a community trigger approach on a one monthly basis of any high risk area in the Borough.
- Action around noise including actively sharing and monitoring information with partner agencies. Community Protection Warning Notices (new provision under Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014) have been used to combat low level noise which is not identified as a statutory nuisance.

- Delivery of “Feet on the Street” workshop that provided agencies with an opportunity to better understand each others work and to encourage more joint working.
- Developing better links with mental health services. This has been through attendance at multi-agency professionals meetings and safeguarding meetings. A dedicated police officer has been assigned to liaises with the mental health team.
- Established a Community Trigger process, which has been advertised through the Ashford Borough Council website. This is a review process for victims of anti-social behaviour who have been dissatisfied with the handling of their complaints.

While it is impressive to have the lowest ASB figures in Kent, there were still 1,207 reported incidents and each incident has an impact on our communities. Our partners will continue to work together to try and reduce this further.

# ASB Including Env Crime

Target	Evidence	Main Partner	Other Partners	Initiatives / Events identified/delivered	Progress				Quarterly Reporting 1 Apr - 30 June 2015	Quarterly Reporting 1 Jul - 30 Sept 2015	Quarterly Reporting 1 Oct - 31 Dec 2015	
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
1	To work in partnership to engage and target drivers causing ASB, identify repeat offenders and educate them of the effects of their ASB	Numbers targeted and reached	ABC	Jo Fox Patrick Tierney Lisa Nightingale	Deliver Driver engagement /distraction events around Anti Social Behaviour					Community Protection Notices (CPN) are to be handed out as part of Op Claxon in the Stour Centre car park area. Police and ABC operation carried out on 26/05/15 where a CPN warning was issued and numerous others were spoken to by Police and Council staff. RJ road safety event was ran on 27/05 in conjunction with Kent Police and KFRS. Drivers were noted not wearing seatbelts and using mobile phones - all were dealt with by the KFRS 'Roadskill' unit that was present.	Juvenile justice programme held. Op Claxon still in place focusing on Stour centre, Bybrook Road, Dover Place and Memorial gardens. Earlier car park closing times to be implemented in relation to ASB in Stour centre car park	Op Claxon will run 7 day a week during school holidays. In the last week 10 letters have been sent out to drivers of vehicles causing ASB. Op Snowdrop will be implemented during Christmas school holidays. Stour centre car park earlier closing times now in place. RJ road safety event to await outcome of road safety deep dive assessment.
2	To raise awareness in the school environment of ASB & its effects. Promoting positive and preventative behaviours.	Reduction in ASB reported	KCC	Helen Anderson	Provision of Joint Family Management Programme where anti-social behaviour & youth crimes are evident. Work closely with children's services, Early intervention & other partners to join up work around Supporting Families					Caution Clinics and ASB Panel Meetings take place regularly. Further update to be obtained. Safety in Action event held June. Relationships have been developed with the North School to enable programs relating to ASB to be delivered.	Community resolutions and Restorative Justice are in place but mindful of caution clinics and ASB panel. Safety in action being planned for forthcoming year.	Cradle to Grave input for teachers with regard to Traveller families to be put to head teachers meeting. JFMP to continue their inter school relationship. Improved processes now in place for Community resolution and early intervention.
3	Multi agency operations linking in with 'Police Contact Point Events' in the Borough, targeting anti-social behaviour hotspots.	Reduction in ASB reported	KCC Warden	Police Mediation ABC	Partners to attend Police contact point events and engage with the general public to identify and manage low level ASB to prevent escalation. Ensure victims of ASB receive appropriate support, continuation of Operation Claxon,					Op Claxon continues nightly. ASB Hotspots are identified on a weekly basis. 'Police Contact Points' work are currently being worked on in order to improve the way they operate. Multi Agency attendance at various events including Create and Tentertainment. A town centre event is to be setup to run in the school holidays. It would utilise an empty shop and have various agencies present.	Claxon still running and working well. Police contact points continue to operate successfully. Create and Tentertainment attended. Safety shop held in week of August and engaged with approximately 1000 people, next one being planned for October.	2nd safety shop held resulting in engagement with 900 people. Combined multi agency approach being put in place to prevent any ASB from reopening and ongoing running of Phoenix public house. Clean sweep operation to be run in November. Multi agency patrols in November for Halloween and Fireworks Op Scamp and Op Snowdrop to be implemented in December.
4	Community Resolution Panels using a restorative approach to tackling low level ASB and neighbour disputes	Reduction in ASB reported	ABC	James Hann	Joint Working with DWP, children's services, Early intervention & other partners to tackle and improve ASB levels					Funding for this has been secured. Training will be required and discussions are taking place with Canterbury CSU in relation to sharing this with them. Work ongoing.	Ongoing including Restorative Justice work with OP Salus. Caldicott childrens centre engaging in training programme for to train staff re community resolution panel to reduce calls to police.	This has been reviewed and whilst training is not on going yet the partnership approach has been considerably strengthened.
5	Deliver Clean Sweep events, targeting ASB/crime hotspot areas identified by Police or Partners	Numbers targeted and reached	Police	Multi Agencies	Multi agency event to speak to local residents, undertake vehicle checks and generally assist with any ASB issues that maybe occurring and provide reassurance to residents.					Date for the next Cleansweep is to be confirmed. The possibility of linking this in with the Town Centre event in the Summer Holidays is being investigated.	Discussion for the next cleansweep event being held with the aim to deliver in October/November. Details of location can be provided.	Included under 3 above
6	Deliver Safety in Action event	Numbers targeted and reached	ABC	Multi Agencies	Deliver Safety in action event to target year 6 pupils to raise awareness of ASB and its affect on the community through a number of workshops.					ASB workshop is all in place for the Safety in Action event running from 15th - 26th June.	Action completed and now in early stages of planning for next years Safety In Action - possibly with a change of venue.	Included under 2 above