



To the Members of the Borough Council

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby summoned to attend a Meeting of the Ashford Borough Council, to be held in the Council Chamber - Ashford Borough Council on **Thursday, 14th December, 2023 at 7.00 pm.**

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T W Mortimer'.

T W Mortimer
Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer

Agenda

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| 11. | To consider Motions of which Notice has been given pursuant to Procedure Rule 11 | 3 - 6 |
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Motion from Cllr Peter Feacey

“Our residents’ surveys indicate that keeping our residents safe is by far their most important concern.

One of the most important mechanisms for delivering that service is the 24hr live coverage of our monitoring centre - helped enormously by the Safer Streets and digital radio initiatives.

In the past, this monitoring has literally saved lives.

In the current financial climate, it’s understandable that all sorts of unpalatable measures have to be investigated and perhaps implemented.

However, this council resolves that any reduction in service away from current 24hr live coverage of the monitoring centre (particularly to a “recording only” model) would be so impactful that it should only be considered as an absolute last resort.

And even then, any change, and all of its ramifications, should be clearly and transparently flagged up to all councillors.

Ideally, this council believes that a commitment should be made to keep the service in place at least for the duration of this council term up to the next election in 2027.”

In accordance with General Procedure Rule 13.15, the Motion will stand referred to the Cabinet and will not be able to be debated further at the meeting.

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**Motion from Cllr Lyn Suddards
Seconded by Cllr Sojan Joseph**

“Council notes

The discontinuation of the Civic and Ceremonial Board.

That this board met quarterly, chaired by the leader and was a cross party group, with the mayor in attendance, which planned & approved the civic and ceremonial calendar for the year. The terms of reference of the board focused on restoring Civic pride through finding & commemorating the history, heritage & achievements of local people.

That it worked with the local champion for the Military Covenant & Ceremonial Liaison to ensure appropriate commemoration of significant events.

That the board planned & approved community events such as the Create Festival.

That the board notably marked International Women’s Day in 2023 for the 1st time.

Council Recognises

That the population of Ashford has increased by 12.5% in the last 2 years to 135,000. The percentage of ethnic minorities has notably increased by 50%.

Societal changes post covid, the increase of people working from home, have contributed to Ashford’s desirability as a place to live.

That Ashford is in a period of growth & change.

Council resolves

To set up a new Community, Civic & Ceremonial Committee.

That this committee will have a cross party membership, that is chaired by the Leader/portfolio holder, with relevant officers & with the Mayor & deputy Mayor in attendance.

This committee will prioritise, plan, agree & approve the council calendar of events. This will be to reflect the interests and concerns of all residents of Ashford Borough.”

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