

Folkestone & Hythe District and Parish Councils' Joint Committee

Held at:	Remote meeting
Date	Thursday, 24 September 2020
Present	Councillors Graham Allison, Laszlo Dudas, Frank Hobbs, Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee, Terence Mullard and Paul Thomas
Apologies for Absence	None
Officers Present:	Kate Clark (Case Officer - Committee Services), Gavin Edwards (Performance and Improvement Specialist), Mrs Jess Harman (Community Safety Specialist), Andrew Rush (Regulatory Services & Corporate Contracts Lead Specialist) and Adrian Tofts (Strategy, Policy & Performance Lead Specialist)
Others Present:	Insp. Andrew Brittenden (Kent Police)

7. Appointment of chairman

Proposed by Councillor Terry Mullard
Seconded by Councillor Frank Hobbs

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs Jenny Hollingsbee is appointed chairman for the meeting.

Affirmation received from all members.

8. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

9. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2020 were submitted and approved. The chairman, Councillors Mrs Hollingsbee, agreed that her electronic signature could be added to the minutes.

10. **Community Safety Partnership Plan 2020/21**

Mrs Jess Harman, Community Safety Specialist, along with Inspector Andrew Brittenden from Kent Police, showed a presentation on the work that the Community Safety Partnership and Unit carries out. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

Overall, members were extremely grateful and thanked the Partnership for the services they deliver within the district.

Members asked, at a parish level, what they could be involved with or promote. It was suggested that since the roll out of the Covid-19 test and trace programme, all business are required to display QR codes, and it would be helpful if Parish councils could encourage this at a local level.

Other points noted by members were:

- The CSP and CSU cover the whole district, however concentration of work is more likely to be in Folkestone
- Engagement meetings are a good way of providing information and the CSU will look at any problem areas upon request.
- Covid-19 Marshalls to help ensure social distancing rules. Funding for these is not available at present and details are still awaited.
- Napier Barracks. It was confirmed that there will be police involvement required. Community engagement and residents' safety is paramount. Members were reminded of the virtual meeting to address questions on Friday 25 September at 3pm.

11. **Government Consultation on the Planning White Paper - 'Planning for the Future'**

Mr Adrian Tofts, Strategy, Policy and Performance Lead Specialist, gave a presentation on the MHCLG's planning White Paper, 'Planning for the Future'. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

He advised members that the consultation closes on 29 October 2020. The district council is preparing a response for Cabinet's consideration on 21 October.

Mr Tofts showed in his presentation the three 'pillars' to reforms.

Members noted the following:

- Neighbourhood Plans. Timescales for production of these is extremely tight as the district council have only 30 months to produce a Local Plan, although the Government sees a continued role for parishes within the new system. Government would need to provide more advice on Neighbourhood Plans and how they are incorporated into the updated Local Plan.

- AONB – planning applications would be decided by policies within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- Increase in housing targets. This hasn't been confirmed and there would be constraints to consider, ie green belt and AONBs. A further consultation may come forward.
- Design Codes, these would be used to decide detailed planning applications, however questions arise as to how this would work where they cover towns and villages with buildings from different eras.
- Proposed infrastructure levy would see payments being made at occupation and not when development starts. More details needed as it seems to be more of a shift to local authorities who may have to forward fund infrastructure against the levy.
- Members were pleased to see enforcement strengthening. The White Paper argues that proposals to speed up the planning process could potentially release more officers to carry out enforcement duties and there are proposals to increase the level of fines that could be charged to people who develop without planning permission.

Members thanked Mr Tofts for a very informative presentation.