

ASH QUESTIONNAIRE

December 2020

Helping your local officers gain a better understanding of the needs of your local community

You said

What's already happening

What are we doing going forward

Community Drops-ins

The majority of residents asked for Community Drop-ins to continue inside a community venue.

Throughout the year, your local Community Development Officer, PCSO and Community Warden representing Dover District Council, Kent Police and Kent County Council attended the Monday Meetups held in the Chequers Inn, Ash.

From the questionnaire, the majority of residents asked for Community Drop-ins to continue inside a community venue. Because of this, when it is safe to do so, we have committed to continue our Community Drop-ins at a location within Ash. This will give residents the opportunity to ask us any questions or learn about some of the initiatives we are running in the village.

Community events

The most popular theme identified in the questionnaire was the call for community activities and events that should be held within the village.

Throughout the year, community spaces like, for example, the Chequers Inn and Ash Village Hall hold various activities, clubs and events. These are listed on the Parish council website.

Going forward, local officers will be assisting groups and volunteers in the organisation of future events, when it's safe to do so. We also intend to facilitate new events, this could include a sport club event at the recreation ground, promoting the multitude of sporting clubs available in the village enabling residents to get active.

Youth activities

The next most popular theme was the call for youth activities within the village.

Within Ash, there is a multitude of sport clubs offering sessions and membership to people of all ages. This could include Ash Cricket Club, Ash Football club, Ash Rugby Club, Ash Tennis Club, Ash Table Tennis Club, Ash Bowling Club, Ash Short Mat Bowling club and many more.

Going forward, local officers will be applying for external funding to deliver youth sessions within the village. To help ensure the sessions are well attended, local officers are currently facilitating school consultations talking to young people and asking for their views.

Handy Man Webpage

Next, residents asked for a way to access and recommend local tradesmen.

The most commonly used service is 'Trading Standards Checked'. There is currently a multitude of recommended trades people, with a large amount of reviews in and around Ash.

Going forward, local officers will be promoting the use of the 'Ash Village' Facebook page, enabling residents to find local tradespeople recommended by the Ash community. For any residents that aren't on Facebook, there are a number of local trades and services advertised in the Ash with Westmarsh Parish Magazine, available in local shops.

Roadways

Next, speed reducing measures were mentioned with the common theme of reducing the speed limit in and around the village.

Kent County Council alongside Ash Parish Council have been working together on the Ash Highway's Improvement Plan. At the four roads in and out of the village, new signs, gates and road markings have been installed. These remind drivers that they are entering the 30mph speed limit area and the dragons' teeth road markings visibly narrow the road to encourage a reduction in speed. Phase 2 will work with local residents to introduce further measures to improve road safety.

Going forward, local officers will be assisting Ash Parish Council with promoting safe driving campaigns, improving pedestrian and cycle routes in the village and supporting volunteers to launch a Speed Watch Group. The Parish council will continue working with the A257 Group to achieve lower speed limits on the A257 and on roads in and around the village.

Post Office

Lastly, due to the post office leaving Ash, a handful of residents have asked for a pop-up post-office scheme, so residents can use the service within the village.

Aylesham Post Office is currently providing a service in Aylesham and the neighboring village of Wingham.

Ash Parish Council has given the Post Office three local contacts that are interested in providing a pop-up-post-office scheme.



**Kent
Police**