

To: Christine Haggart
Clerk to Ash Parish Council.



Brief DDC report to the Ash Parish Annual Meeting 2020/1

Introduction

I have now been in post as the Dover District Council Community Development Officer representing Ash, Wingham & Sandwich for little over a year. I have enjoyed getting to know the village and look forward to supporting the local community, in many years to come.

Summary of activities

Throughout 2020, getting to know the village has been my main priority. Because of this, with support from partner agencies in KCC & Kent Police, we facilitated a questionnaire campaign, directly communicating with residents on what projects they would like to see come to fruition.

Towards the end of 2020, we published the results of the questionnaire by providing information responses, what's already happening in Ash, and what we plan to do going forward.

The key headlines from residents were summarised as:

- 1. Community Drops-ins** - The majority of residents asked for Community Drop-ins to continue inside a community venue.
- 2. Community events** - The most popular theme identified in the questionnaire was the call for more community activities and events held within the village.
- 3. Youth activities** - The next most popular theme was the call for youth activities within the village.
- 4. Handy Man Webpage** - Next, residents asked for a way to access and recommend local tradesmen.
- 5. Roadways** - Next, speed reducing measures were mentioned with the common theme of reducing the speed limit in and around the village.
- 6. 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.

Unfortunately, the development of a lot of these projects are very much dependent on covid restrictions. However, we hope to start making headway on some of the initiatives as resections begin to ease during 2021.

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**

Other activities

As well as representing Ash, Wingham and Sandwich. I support the Community Services Team on a number of district wide initiatives, that have supported residents over the last year. This includes the Dover District Council Community Hub, as well as leading on a number of funding initiatives to support the local voluntary sector.

Community Hub - The Dover District Community Hub was first launched in March 2020. Throughout the 3 lockdowns, the Community Services team helped facilitate the community hub by providing support to residents, receiving approximately 1,500 referrals to the Community Hub. For more information please visit:

<https://www.dover.gov.uk/Community/Coronavirus-help-for-the-community.aspx>

Covid-19 Community Fund - The Dover District Council Covid-19 Community Fund opened in April 2020, and successfully released over £70k of funding to 52 successful voluntary sector organisations.

Annual Community Grant Scheme - The council then went on to launch it's annual Community Grant Scheme this year providing both a Winter and Summer round releasing just under £50k to a total of 73 successful voluntary sector organisations. With a total of £8k being allocated to 13 applicants within Ash and the neighbouring areas. This year's Dover District Council Community Grant Scheme is set to launch on Monday 12th April 2021. For more information please visit: <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Community/Coronavirus-help-for-the-community.aspx>

Dover District Lotto - The Dover District Lotto celebrated its 2nd anniversary this year, raising £68,000 for good local causes across the Dover district. Including the Chequer Inn Ash Society Limited, Friends of St Nicholas Church and Ash Village Hall. For more information please visit: <https://www.doverlotto.com/>. You can also see our latest press release: <https://www.dover.gov.uk/News/Press-Releases/2021/A-Lotto-Success-for-Local-Good-Causes.aspx>

Community Centre Online Forum - The Community Services Division has been supporting Community Centres throughout the district, by facilitating a Community Centre Online Forum. Proving Community Centres within the district, the opportunity to ask questions and network with one another. The next Community Centre Online Forum is set for the 29th April at 10:30am. If any Centres in Ash have been missed and would like to attend, please get in touch and I will add them to the distribution list.

29th March 2021

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