

Ash Parish Council,

Summary for AGM

I have continued to attend and support MuMs (Meet up Mondays) on a weekly basis, meeting at The Chequer. This community-based activity brings together a diverse group of people to meet for a chat with tea/coffee/biscuits, and is much appreciated by those attending which usually averages about ten persons. Some are isolated, need additional support or just like to meet on a regular basis for a catch-up. Friendships have been made or further enhanced, and I have been able to offer advice and practical support when required.

I have supported three local families/individuals throughout the year and continue to do so. Social isolation, mental health difficulties and Dementia are the more central subjects all of which require regular input through the establishment of a trusted relationship...a common theme within the KCC Community Warden Service.

Through this trusted relationship I was recently contacted by a distressed and confused elderly person who has lived in Ash for many years. I established that they had concerns about a compromised bank account, which led to my immediate home visit. My enquiries discovered that they had disclosed their full bank account details on the phone to a person claiming to sell "plumbing" type insurance. A check of a bank statement identified that the card details had been used by an unknown third party on five occasions within two days. On behalf of the person, I contacted the bank, stopped the card, arranged for a replacement card and PIN, arranged for a refund from the bank and provided intelligence. This was all undertaken with education and reassurance for the person concerned.

I have continued to work closely with Jacqui Brook - PCSO (Ash) and Debbie Bishop - PCSO (Sandwich) undertaking joint home visits where necessary and "marked" Police vehicle patrols. I remain in regular contact with local retailers particularly the Co-operative store and the Boots Pharmacy.

The new Policing Model for Kent Police will see the withdrawal of most PCSO's to central locations. I will leave further details to Jacqui Brook to report, however I believe that they will be a great loss to our local communities. I am awaiting the name of a designated Police Constable for the area and look forward to establishing a positive working relationship.

The recent KCC budget agreed in February has seen the substantial reduction of funding for the Community Warden Service over the next two years. New sources of funding are being sought and no decisions have yet been made, however it is possible that some changes to personnel, locations and working methods will be required in the near future. I would add that it is my intention to continue to serve the local communities on a local level and in person!

I am unable to attend the AGM, however please contact me should you have any questions. Please be aware that I will respond directly to you as a Parish Council Member and will copy my response to the Clerk for distribution to the Council if deemed appropriate. If your question is of a confidential nature, please ensure that I am aware. Thank you.

I look forward to continuing a positive and productive working relationship with the people of Ash Parish and their representatives.