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OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2021 at 7.00 pm in Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

Present: Councillor Rev. Stuart Piper (Chair); Councillors Fellows, Austin, Boyd, Currie, Coleman-Cooke, Keen, Pat Moore, Rattigan and M Saunders

In Attendance: Councillors J Bayford and D Saunders

340. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the following Members:

Councillor Paul Moore, substituted by Councillor Mave Saunders;
Councillor Lynda Piper;
Councillor Tomlinson;
Councillor Huxley.

341. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

342. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Councillor Fellows proposed, Councillor Coleman-Cooke seconded and Members agreed the minutes as a correct record of the meeting held on 26 October 2021.

343. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATION - COMMUNITY SAFETY AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Councillor George Kup, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Youth Engagement made a presentation about his portfolio at this meeting. The presentation focused on the key projects currently being implemented under his portfolio and in particular those projects with a focus on youth engagement. It was interesting to note the partnership working between TDC and Thanet Community Safety Partnership to deliver a number of projects that included the following:

- The Community Shield - to assist victims of crime with safe spaces and medical help;
- The Safety Webpage - this will provide a map that locates using GPS where an individual who needs help is;
- Ladder of Risk - Initiative with schools to assist young people better assess risk about the activities they may engage in;
- Thanet Bike Project - This is hoped will occupy young people and move them away from Antisocial Behaviour (ASB);
- Bike Safety Campaign - To assist people better understand how to keep their bikes safe from thefts. This because bikes are some of the items that are mostly targeted for theft;
- Loan A Cone - This enables residents living near schools to keep their driveways free of antisocial parking during school runs;
- Online exploitation awareness - This projects targets children to build resilience in children about internet safety;

- Breaking the Cycle - This project engages young people to tackle ASB. To better tackle this problem agencies share information about areas of concern and hotspots;
- Amnesty Bins - This project has proven to be successful as it has seen people dropping offensive weapons at given locations mostly at train stations;
- Safer Streets - Home Office grant (£300k) has been used to refurbish CCTV facilities, clean up graffiti etc. in Eastcliffe and Central Harbour areas to help reduce crime;

The presentation also highlighted future projects that the council was working on including setting up a Youth Cabinet Advisory Group made up of young people from the local communities who would be advising Cabinet on what they would like to see the council do for young people in Thanet.

Members made comments and asked questions as follows:

- How was the council going to advertise the various programmes and initiatives focussed on young people and reach out particularly the most difficult to reach out to?
- Members were impressed by the number of initiatives developed and being implemented by TDC to engage young people;
- Safe Streets: How were these project sites identified?
- Would the bike maintenance project be introduced to other areas of Thanet outside where the current activities are?

Councillor Kup and Penny Button, Director of Safer Neighbourhoods responded as follows:

- You Tube and other social media platforms were some of the ways that the council would try to reach out to you people;
- The council was reaching out through youth clubs and schools;
- Safe Streets: This project was informed by the information generated by Kent Police and was led by the Crimes Commissioner;
- TDC was one of four other local councils to get projects funded by the home Office under Safe Streets programme;
- The Bike Project had not yet been started, but would coming soon
- Officers were planning to have a Members briefing on that subject

Members noted the presentation and thanked Councillor Kup.

344. TLS KPI Q1 & Q2 - HOUSING PERFORMANCE REPORT

Sally O'Sullivan, Tenant and Leaseholder Services Manager introduced the report and made the following points:

- The Housing Services Team has come a long way from October 2020 when the services was brought back in-house;
- Income management was looking good;
- The Services was currently scoping the capital works;
- By the end of December the Royal Crescent tender would be in place;
- Tenants survey feedback indicated that the service was getting better;
- The Services was still working on improving the standards for Landlord Compliance including fire risk;
- The team was working on improving voids;
- Working relations with Mears had improved significantly.

Members made comments and asked questions as follows:

- The council started from a bad position but now the situation had significantly improved;
- It was good to note that an 18 months improvement plan was now in place;
- Members were happy to hear that the Mears contract was going on ok;
- What were the penalties if Mears underperformed?
- How long was the current contract?
- Where were the tenants meetings being held?
- Were there any training opportunities for tenants training?

Bob Porter and Sally O'Sullivan responded to Member comments and questions as follows:

- There were no specific penalties in the contract;
- The main focus was on making improvements in their performance;
- Monthly meetings are held between TDC officers and Mears;
- Strategic meetings are held quarterly;
- The contracts ends in 2025;
- Mears experienced some difficulties in recruiting for some of the trades, hence the backlog in some work areas;
- Supply of materials had also been an issue;
- However both of the above issues had since been resolved and there should be an improvement in performance and tackling of the backlog;
- Currently tenants meetings were being held online. The intention is to move them to the TDC Main Offices;
- Tenants would in future be offered training to enable them to scrutinize the performance of the service;
- They would also be trained so that they could assist the Service with equality impact performance and the tender process;
- The council had started a programme of tenancy visits, which helps identify properties with problems and the visits help ascertain the condition of these properties;
- Where existing tenants had requested to move, officer conduct inspections to pick out any issues regarding the condition of properties;
- These visits also help tackle tenancy fraud;
- Officers also provide advice on damp and mold issues.

Thereafter Councillor Fellow proposed, Councillor Currie seconded and Members agreed to note the report.

345. INCREASE PROVISION OF HOUSING RESPONSE OFFICERS AT THE TOWER BLOCKS

Sally O'Sullivan introduced the report and advised Members that the proposals before the Panel were meant to improve performance in cleaning services by providing dedicated resources to tower blocks. There was a need for frequent cleaning of these premises. The presence of Housing Response Officers (HROs) would also make residents feel safer. The council would have direct control over the quality of the service. From a tenants' survey that was conducted by the Housing team, the majority of the residents agreed to the additional costs going to the recruitment of HROs.

The Panel reviewed proposals for "increasing provision of Housing Response Officers (HROs) at the tower blocks". The proposals are aimed at improving service provision to tackle litter, weeds and fly tipping at the tower block areas. HROs would help improve housing services performance levels with repairs, maintenance and cleaning. Members were quite supportive of these proposals.

Councillor Fellows proposed, Councillor Rattigan seconded and Members agreed to forward to Cabinet the proposals for the increased provision of Housing Response Officers at Tower Blocks.

346. FEES AND CHARGES 2022-23

Chris Blundell, Director of Finance and Acting S151 Officer introduced the proposals for fees and charges for 2022/23. Members were advised that the proposals had been first considered by the Fees and Charges Cabinet Advisory Group over two meetings in September and October. There were proposals for increasing collection of garden waste from the current £53 to £55. At the meeting on 18 November, Cabinet had proposed an across the board increase of fees and charges of 3% and not 2% as had been initially proposed, in recognition of the increased level of inflation in the national economy.

Members also considered the proposals for 2022/23 fees and charges and concurred with the proposals as agreed by Cabinet on 18 November. The Panel was particularly pleased with cabinet efforts to start a pilot project that would see the introduction of reduced parking charges for electric vehicles in parts of the district in order to contribute towards the reduction of carbon emissions in the district and assist change consumer choices.

It was also noted that Thanet still charged more than most crematorium service providers. Members advised that the council ought to consider the possibility that the public might end up going to a private service provider where the charges were less.

Councillor Fellows proposed, Councillor Rattigan seconded and Members recommended that Cabinet forwarded the proposed fees and charges for 2022/23 to Full Council for adoption.

347. REVIEW OF OSP WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2021/22

Councillor Fellows gave a brief verbal update about the work activities of the Coastal Waste Scrutiny Review Working party and thereafter Members noted the report.

348. FORWARD PLAN & EXEMPT CABINET REPORT LIST

Members noted the report.

Meeting concluded: 8.01 pm

Projects 2020-2021

Community Team

TCSP Projects

Ask Angela/Andrew – TCSP



FEEL **UNCOMFORTABLE** WITH SOMETHING?

FEEL LIKE YOU'RE IN AN **UNSAFE** SITUATION?

TINDER DATE **ISN'T** WHO THEY SAID THEY WERE?

ON A DATE THAT **ISN'T WORKING OUT**?

HAVE YOU NOTICED **SOME RED FLAGS**?

IF SOMETHING **DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT**

IF YOU'RE **NOT OKAY**

GO TO THE BAR AND

#ASK FOR ANGELA / ANDREW

THE BAR STAFF WILL KNOW YOU NEED SOME
HELP GETTING OUT OF YOUR SITUATION AND
WILL CALL YOU A TAXI OR HELP YOU OUT
DISCREETLY



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- To give female/males and LGBTQ+ options to reach a safe space whilst out on a date on a licenced premises or out with their partner.
- Train Door / bar staff how to provide immediate safeguarding for persons in need.
- Anti-Spiking campaign. A roll out of devices that help protects drinks from being spiked.

Community Shield – TCSP



The Community Shield scheme is being set up on Northdown Road Margate and Westgate. Where local businesses can sign up to be a safe place to help those in immediate need of a place of safety. The [Community Shield Scheme](#) can also help those who are lost or in more extreme situations when they have been a victim of a crime or are in need of medical assistance. Members of the safe places scheme will be able to offer a safe location within the organisation and offer the person support while contacting the relevant authorities.

We are providing cards that residents can collect from one of the organisations displaying our logo. These cards enable a vulnerable person or child to provide their emergency contact details. This is so that the employee of the organisation will contact that person and they can come and collect them. The aim of the scheme is to protect the local community.

I NEED HELP



Contact Numbers
Non Emergency - 101
Emergency - 999

My Emergency Contact

PARENT/CARER:

THEIR NUMBER:

MY NAME IS:

ABOUT ME:

Safety Webpage – TCSP

The safety webpage will provide a website that gives safety information for the LOCAL area. The webpage will be independent of the TDC main website to encourage a younger demographic to interact

The Safety Webpage's main feature is a map that locates where you are via GPS and identifies:

- Lit streets
- Taxi ranks and offices
- Ask Angela and Ask Andrew licensed premises
- Community Shield Safe Place locations

The map gives users the opportunity to contact the emergency services directly from the page if the person is in danger.



Ladder of Risk – TCSP

This project has been previously funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner and Violence Reduction Unit to help raise awareness of different scenarios that young people may encounter when they transition from primary school to secondary school.

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It is an interactive PSHE lesson undertaking in the classroom. We require the children to rate each scenario in order of most risky to least risky behaviour. Scenarios include Mental Health, Social Media, Consent, Carrying a Knife, Trying Drugs, Sending Nudes Photos, Drinking Alcohol etc. We encourage the young people to discuss each scenario and how they can link in with each other.

There is no right or wrong answer as it is about raising awareness and building their confidence to make good choices.



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Thanet Bike Project – TCSP

- This project was previously funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner
- The Thanet Bike Project is a diversionary scheme to help encourage young people who cause anti-social behaviour to learn more about bicycles and how they work.
- There is a qualification on offer to enable those young people to gain a deeper understanding of bicycle mechanics.
- There were 4 sets of high quality tools and equipment that were purchased so that there could be multiple students working on their bikes at the same time.
- At the end of the programme the young people have the opportunity to take the bike home and keep it to help them around the district.



Bike Safety Campaign – TCSP

The bike safety campaign looks at theft/attempted theft of mopeds and bikes in the district.

Page 12 The project will allow owners to access information about security and practical help with locks and covers for their bikes and moped.

This is to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and to have positive engagement with the community.

Keep your bike secure

Thieves think that cycle theft is a low risk, high reward crime. Follow these tips to lock thieves out and ensure your bike remains safe and secure.



- TIP 1** Get your bike security marked and registered at BikeRegister.com. Police have free marking events — check their websites.
- TIP 2** Record details of your bike — frame number, BikeRegister number, other distinguishing features, and a photo.
- TIP 3** Use locks of gold 'sold secure' standard — and use two different types of lock.
- TIP 4** Lock the frame and both wheels to the cycle parking stand.
- TIP 5** Make the locks and bike hard to manoeuvre. Secure your bike as close to the stand as possible.
- TIP 6** Take parts that are easy to remove with you, such as saddles and wheels or use secure skewers.
- TIP 7** Lock your bike at recognised secure cycle parking that is well lit and covered by CCTV.
- TIP 8** Take the same care to lock your bike securely at home. Bikes get stolen from communal hallways, gardens and sheds.
- TIP 9** Don't buy a stolen second-hand bike. Insist on proof of ownership and check the bike frame number at BikeRegister.com.

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Operation Zig Zag – TCSP

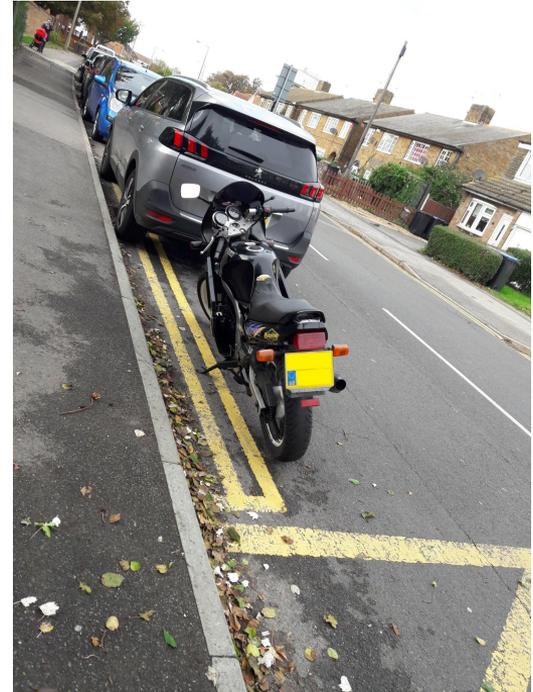
This project has been previously funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner to help reduce the number of incidents outside schools during peak times of day and raise awareness to parents and carers about their inconsiderate parking habits.

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It is a multi-agency operation which can take place outside any school in the district. When we get complaints about parking issues we arrange a date to get everyone on site and engage with parents and carers about their parking.

We place fake tickets on all vehicles that have parked inconsiderately and take photographs to post on social media.

Our next Op will be taking place in January 2022 outside Newington Community Primary School.



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Loan-A-Cone – TCSP

This is a project aimed at residents who live near a school and have difficulty getting on and off their driveway during the busy drop-off and pick-up times of day. Using information gathered from Operation Zig Zag we have approached local residents and asked if they would be interested in loaning a large traffic cone for 4 weeks. The cones are to be positioned so that people cannot park in front of their driveway causing an obstruction. This allows the resident to come and go freely from their property.

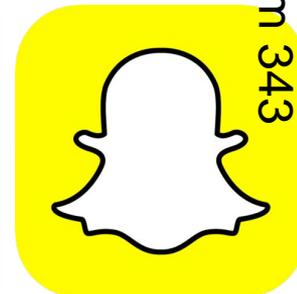
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Most of the cones have been booked out since September of 2021 and we are taking bookings for December 2021. The feedback we have had so far has been really positive and people have not had any issues with parents/carers parking across their driveway during the busy periods.

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Online Exploitation Awareness – TCSP

- To build resilience in young children (primary) around internet/app safety.
- Young people have a greater understanding of how to keep safe online. Having a greater understanding on how to report concerns encountered online.
- Tablets have been purchased and relevant apps are being placed on them in preparation for the rollout of the project.
- The aim of this project is to hold workshops in the local schools with the pupils to talk about how to stay safe online.



Breaking the Cycle - TCSP

We have commissioned Breaking the Cycle to engage with young people in the community to tackle ASB or negative behaviour (9pm to 11pm). The program runs for 14 weeks over 5 nights per week.

Breaking the cycle will:

- Liaise with TDC and Kent Police
- Share information on concerns around a location
- Share information on concerns around behaviour
- Share information on concerns around an individual
- Give numbers of engagements and where
- Be directed by the TCSP on hot spot locations/areas of concern



BREAKING THE CYCLE

Amnesty Bins – TCSP

Used to reduce the risk of knife crime in the district by offering the opportunity to securely dispose of knives/weapons.

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Funded by the Violent Reduction Unit and working in partnership with Kent Police.

Since April 2020 there have been over 500 knives or other bladed items surrendered.



KNIFE AMNESTY 

**SAVE A LIFE - TURN IN YOUR KNIFE
BEFORE SOMEONE TURNS IT ON YOU**

If you have a knife or other bladed item, you can surrender it safely and without any repercussions in this bin.



Kent
Police



THANET COMMUNITY
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP



CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111
Let us know what you see, hear or think

Safer Streets – TCSP

- To reduce Acquisitive crime in Eastcliffe and Central Harbour wards in Thanet
- Funded by Home Office and endorsed by Police and Crime Commissioner
- Funding for; CCTV cameras, graffiti removal machines, community Sheds, strengthening families strengthening communities course for parents, planters, personal security, home security improvement, moped theft prevention and protection, street lighting, alleyway gating and waste management.
- Implementation by end of the financial year but sustained for coming years.

You Tube – TCSP

We are on the process of creating content for our YouTube channel to help explain what we do to members of the public.

We have lots of projects happening throughout the year and a constant message from the community is that they don't know what we do. We want to use this platform to demonstrate what we do, how we do it and why.

We also want to appeal to the younger generation and reassure people that we do care and we are trying to make Thanet a better place to love and work.



TDC projects

Winter HAF – TDC



TDC Active Thanet shall continue to support the delivery of the HAF Programme during the Christmas Holiday to ensure as many children and families are reached.

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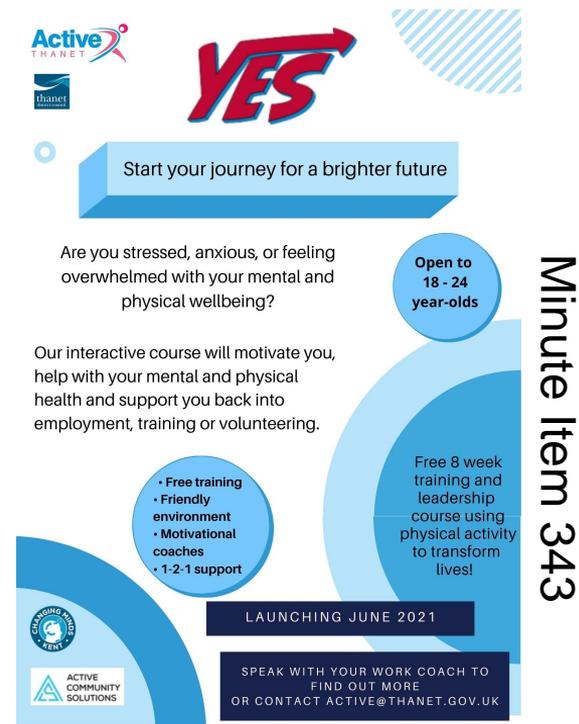
This involves continued work with local schools and activity providers - aiming to provide positive experiences for young people and lasting memories.



DWP Partnership Grant – Yes Project

Aims and Objectives

- Working in partnership with DWP to support young people aged 18-24 back into employment, education, training or volunteering across a 12-month period.
- Working with young people identified by Work Coaches that are experiencing; low confidence and self-esteem, poor mental wellbeing and little motivation.
- To provide a comprehensive mentoring programme that encompasses '**wellbeing**' as an intervention approach to enhance employability and life skills.
- Supporting customers with their mental health and wellbeing and educate clients on the importance of self care and positive thinking.
- Provide mentoring and 1-2-1 support to ensure clients are supported throughout their journey.



The graphic features the logos for Active Thanet and Thanet Council at the top left, and a large stylized 'YES' logo with a red arrow pointing right. A blue banner at the top contains the text 'Start your journey for a brighter future'. Below this, a central text block asks 'Are you stressed, anxious, or feeling overwhelmed with your mental and physical wellbeing?' and describes the course as an interactive program to help with mental and physical health. A circular callout on the right states 'Open to 18 - 24 year-olds'. Another circular callout lists benefits: 'Free training', 'Friendly environment', 'Motivational coaches', and '1-2-1 support'. A larger circular callout on the right describes the 'Free 8 week training and leadership course using physical activity to transform lives!'. At the bottom, a dark blue banner says 'LAUNCHING JUNE 2021' and another dark blue banner provides contact information: 'SPEAK WITH YOUR WORK COACH TO FIND OUT MORE OR CONTACT ACTIVE@THANET.GOV.UK'. Logos for 'THANET COUNCIL' and 'ACTIVE COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS' are at the bottom left.

Active THANET
Thanet

YES

Start your journey for a brighter future

Are you stressed, anxious, or feeling overwhelmed with your mental and physical wellbeing?

Open to 18 - 24 year-olds

Our interactive course will motivate you, help with your mental and physical health and support you back into employment, training or volunteering.

- Free training
- Friendly environment
- Motivational coaches
- 1-2-1 support

Free 8 week training and leadership course using physical activity to transform lives!

LAUNCHING JUNE 2021

SPEAK WITH YOUR WORK COACH TO FIND OUT MORE OR CONTACT ACTIVE@THANET.GOV.UK

THANET COUNCIL
ACTIVE COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

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Future Projects

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