

**DRAFT MINUTES OF WESTGATE ON SEA COMMUNITY
SAFETY STEERING GROUP**

**MEETING MONDAY 25TH JULY 2022 AT 2PM
WESTGATE-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES – 78 ST
MILDREDS ROAD, WESTGATE ON SEA CT8 8RF**

Present: Cllr Glyn Parry, Cllr Matt Scott, Mr Tom King, Ms Sabrina Ryan, Ms Elle Sutton (Community Officer TDC), Ms Tracy Moon (Community Officer TDC), Mr Chris Gunn (CCTV Supervisor TDC), Mr Russell Leask (Chair of Business Forum), Ms Marcia Kinsella (Thanet Safe Ltd), Mrs Gill Gray – Town Clerk

1. Elect Chairman

It was RESOLVED: that Ms Sabrina Ryan be elected as Chair for the CSSG.

2. Elect Vice-Chair

It was RESOLVED: that Cllr Glyn Parry be elected as Vice-Chair for the CSSG. One of the Group abstained.

3. To receive apologies for absence

Mr Bob Hart, Ms Laura Smith (PCSO) and Mr Justin Wanstall (Youth Hub Delivery Manager KCC)

4. To receive Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest from Steering Group Members.

5. Terms of Reference for the CSSG

Town Clerk shared the draft Terms of Reference that were proposed and invited comments from the Group. It was agreed that future meetings will take place in the evening. Following the debate –

It was RESOLVED: that the Terms of Reference were adopted with one amendment that there are at least five clear days' notice of meetings sent to members of the CSSG.

6. Community Shield Scheme in Thanet

Ms Sutton explained the details of the scheme and the registration process that is facilitated by the Community Safety Team at Thanet District Council. The purpose of the scheme is to create safe places throughout Thanet. There are regular visits undertaken to businesses to encourage sign up, including the night-time economy food/drink outlets and garages. The business is asked to provide proof of public liability insurance during the initial sign up but this is not requested again. The sign up in Westgate on Sea is currently low

and it was proposed that for any further walkabouts could include Ms Ryan to accompany the TDC officers to support and engage with business owners. Town Clerk will promote the scheme in the community on behalf of TDC, including local schools. There are cards that residents can collect from an organisation displaying the Scheme logo; these cards enable a vulnerable person or child to provide their emergency contact details. This would mean that an employee of the organisation signed up to the Scheme can contact the vulnerable person/child emergency contact and arrange for them to be collected. Organisations signed up will display the logo in the window of the organisation, there is also an app which will identify safe places near to your location –

<https://www.safeplaces.org.uk/apps/>

The TDC website also has further details:

<https://www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/community-shield/>

Mr Chris Gunn from TDC joined the meeting.

7. CCTV Overview in Thanet and Costs

Mr Gunn gave an overview of the current situation with CCTV provision in Thanet as a district. Mr Gunn explained that each new camera costs in the region of £25,000 and this cost can be potentially doubled if power and internet connections are needed. There is a clear need for evidence to justify such expenditure and to support any potential funding opportunities. Mr Gunn has made initial contact with SE Rail to enquire about gaining access to their CCTV cameras at Westgate and is awaiting a response, this is likely to take up to two months. The SE Rail and Network Rail are unmanned camera systems. The choice of camera systems is important as not all systems integrate with each other. It was agreed that TDC will gather data and evidence that is relevant to Westgate and share at a future meeting. Mr Gunn explained that other areas in Thanet have privately funded CCTV systems and have fund raised in the community. There are additional resources needed and improved communications and individuals in the community do need to report incidents to Kent Police or Crimestoppers. Mr Gunn suggested that there should be a programme of proactive days for community engagement to chat to the community about their fears and concerns. Mr Gunn added that there was no measure that can ascertain if a camera is a deterrent for crime or antisocial behaviour and that there are new projects due in the area which should see a marked improvement in Thanet.

8. Community Safety Charter

Town Clerk provided an outline of the Neighbourhood Watch Community Safety Charter and how organisations can get involved. Organisations and individuals can sign up to the Community Safety Charter and this will be considered by the Town Council in September. The Charter has been created to allow people in the community to make a commitment and take positive, concrete steps to contribute to making an area safer for everyone. The Charter encourages organisations and individuals to work together for a common aim which in turn can help reduce incidents of harassment, antisocial behaviour and intimidation in public spaces. The Charter ensures that those who are affected and impacted by incidents are given the reassurance and support they need. The four statements that form the pledge are: promote, enable, report and support. There is also the opportunity to attend online events to share ideas and good practice as well as a full training programme.

9. Thanet Safe Limited

Ms Kinsella shared information from Thanet Safe Limited and explained how the radio system works in Thanet, including the website. Thanet Safe Limited is a not-for-profit organisation that provides a radio shop link across Thanet as well as being an intel gathering tool with the services of an intel coordinator. The cost for a radio is £6.00 plus VAT per week and this does come with support and access to the Thanet Safe website. The system is trusted by Kent Police and does lead to support prosecutions.

10. My Community Voice Kent

Town Clerk explained the benefits of registering for the My Community Voice service which is a two-way engagement tool facilitated by Kent Police. The notifications can be tailored to individual requirements. It was further discussed about the importance of reporting incidents and community engagement, the need for visible PCSO presence and the fact that crime is fluid in Thanet at this time.

ACTIONS:

- Everyone to encourage reporting of incidents in the community
- Collaborate and liaise with each other around times and days of planned engagement
- Mr Leask to raise the Thanet Safe radio system at the next Business Forum meeting and feedback to the Group; Ms Kinsella can attend a Business Forum meeting if required
- Mr Gunn to conduct data mapping for Westgate on Sea

- Town Clerk to update the TOR and circulate with the draft minutes
- Mr Gunn to feedback on the progress with SE Rail/Network Rail and access to CCTV camera system at the train station in Westgate on Sea.

Meeting closed at 3.10pm.

**Next Meeting of the Steering Group: 14th September 2022
at 7pm in the Town Council Offices**