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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the meeting of the Council for the District of Dover held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Wednesday, 20 October 2021 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor M D Conolly

Councillors:

J S Back	D G Cronk	D P Murphy
T J Bartlett	D R Friend	O C de R Richardson
M Bates	D Hannent	M Rose
D G Beaney	J P Haste	C A Vinson
S H Beer	M F Hibbert	R S Walkden
E A Biggs	S J Jones	P Walker
T A Bond	P D Jull	H M Williams
P M Brivio	N S Kenton	C F Woodgate
S S Chandler	S C Manion	C D Zosseder
N J Collor	K Mills	

Also Present: Mr J Dunne (Managing Director, WISE)

Officers: Chief Executive
Strategic Director (Corporate Resources)
Strategic Director (Operations and Commercial)
Solicitor to the Council
Head of Regulatory Services
Environmental Protection and Crime Manager
Licensing Manager
Democratic and Corporate Services Manager

39 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D A Hawkes and L A Keen.

40 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 21 July 2021 and 15 September 2021 were approved as a correct record for signing by the Chairman.

41 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer provided guidance to Members on the potential for interests relating to 'associated persons' under the Code of Conduct to arise in respect of the Licensing Policy.

The following Members declared an interest in items of business on the agenda:

Councillor M Bates declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Minute No. 47 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to his wife's employment.)

Councillor T A Bond declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Minute No. 47 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to his son owning 20% of a restaurant.

Councillor D G Cronk declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Minute No. 47 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to the Dover Truck Park having a licensed bar on its premises.

Councillor D Friend declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Minute No. 47 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to his being a personal license holder.

Councillor S J Jones declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in Minute No. 47 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to her being a license holder.

Councillor S C Manion declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in the Minute No. 50 (Motions) due to his company being a supporter of the White Ribbon campaign.

Councillor K Mills declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Minute No. 47 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to his membership of a rugby club.

Councillor O C de R Richardson declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in Minute No. 47 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to his son owning a pub.

42 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor M D Conolly, made the following announcements:

- (a) To advise that the Princess Royal had visited Dover Castle to meet with representatives of organisations that had helped residents in the pandemic. He noted that she had taken the time to speak to individuals about their work.
- (b) To inform Members of the sad news of the death of former district councillor Ian Killbery. As a district councillor, Councillor Killbery had served on the council for approximately 21 years representing the Middle Deal Ward. Following his departure from the Council he remained a Deal Town Councillor for a number of years subsequently. He had also been a leading exponent of the campaign to ensure that the high-speed train stopped at Deal.

The Chairman called upon Members who wished to share their memories of Councillor Killbery.

- (c) To note the recent death of Sir David Amess MP, who despite being the member of parliament for Southend West, had been a friend of Dover and who had been a leading figure in the fund-raising efforts for the Vera Lynn memorial.

43 LEADER'S TIME

The Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett, included the following matters in his report:

- (a) That the 149th Open Golf Championship had promoted the district internationally and seen interest in investing in the district increase. The Council was seeing record high planning applications.
- (b) The Dover Public Place Plan was being developed and would showcase shared priorities for the district.
- (c) That the 3rd Strategic Director post had not been appointed following interviews and the recruitment consultants had been asked to see if any other suitable candidates were available. The Council had appointed a new Head of Investment, Growth and Tourism.
- (d) To thank the grants panels for their work and to advise that he had attended a number of events following the summer round of bids.
- (e) That he had attended the successful Community Safety All Out Day, led by the Dover District Community Safety Partnership, and thanked everyone who attended. He had asked officers to look at improving the street scene in the district and encourage local people to take pride in the district.
- (f) To advise that he had asked for the presentation from WISE to be given to Members at this Council meeting.
- (g) That he had attended the Great British Beach Clean in September 2021 and helped collect litter from the beach area.
- (h) That he had joined the community team at the recent East Kent Ploughing Match. As part of this he had received a lot of questions over the waste service but was pleased to advise that the service had seen significant improvements and the green waste service had been restored.
- (i) To congratulate everyone involved in Kearsney and Russell Gardens being awarded a Green Flag. He had visited the gardens and was pleased with how that they looked. He welcomed that the new café was open.

The Leader of the Opposition Labour Group, Councillor K Mills, included the following matters in his report:

- (a) To send his condolences to the family of Sir David Amess.
- (b) To emphasise the need for Members to take precautions when undertaking ward work to ensure their personal safety.
- (c) The need for the Dover Schematic to be shared with the wider public so that they can see what the Council was doing to generate future growth in the district. He accepted that there were some commercial sensitivities in the Schematic but pointed out that it had now been shown to a considerable number of investors and other parties.
- (d) To ask what the timescale was on the Dover Public Place Plan.

- (e) That as part of the interview panel for the 3rd Strategic Director post he accepted that there had been issues with recruiting a suitable candidate and suggested that the Council should look at options for developing its own staff.
- (f) That the grants panel was a great example of cross-party working. However, the demand was greater than the funding available. He highlighted the need to support the voluntary sector partners with the challenges of covid over the winter period.
- (g) To welcome the Green Flag award.
- (h) To express disappointment at the approach taken by the Cabinet to the Food Poverty Action Plan. He advised that his group would be monitoring the outcomes of the East Kent Food Poverty Group and emphasised the need for it to deliver for the Dover District. He also questioned what the role of members , if any , would be in the group.
- (i) To ask for an update on the Levelling Up Fund.
- (j) To highlight concerns over Air BNB properties not being registered with the Council. There were over 1,000 available Air BNB's in the district and only 12 were registered. He urged that action be taken to deal with these issues.
- (k) To highlight the giant puppet representing a nine-year-old Syrian girl that had made its first UK stop in Folkestone before heading on to Manchester.

In response the Leader of the Council advised:

- (a) To thank Councillor K Mills for his kind words about Sir David Amess and agree that Members needed to be mindful of their safety when undertaking ward work.
- (b) That the Dover Schematic was still a work in progress and wasn't yet ready for sharing with the wider public.
- (c) That he would find out the timescale for the Dover Public Place Plan and advise Councillor K Mills accordingly.
- (d) To agree with Councillor K Mills' comments in respect of unregistered Air BNB's.
- (e) That there was a need to support voluntary sector partners in getting grants from a wide variety of providers.
- (f) That he did not have any further details to share on the Levelling Up Fund at this time.
- (g) That he would monitor the development of the East Kent Food Poverty Group and if needed Cabinet could review its decision.

44 SEAT ALLOCATION AND GROUP APPOINTMENTS

There were no changes to the seat allocations or group appointments advised.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- (1) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, the Chairman agreed in the absence of the questioner to put a question from Benedict Kempt to the Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett:

“Recent polling by various sources suggest the people of Kent are interested in or serious about an independent jurisdiction being created in Kent. In light of this, is the leader of the council and the leaders of the council interested in or serious about the prospects of an independent Kent? First and foremost would be an independent financial system, which could bring a huge opportunity for the people of Kent.”

In response the Leader of the Council stated:

“I do not believe an independent jurisdiction being created in Kent would be beneficial. However, we remain interested in any devolution and localism conversations to explore greater powers and greater financial freedoms.”

- (2) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11 a question from Graham Wanstall was put to the Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett:

“Regarding H.M The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee next year having earlier been confronted with a lack of interest for a name change within Dover, I have considered this further and after consulting others propose new namings. The Market Square is to undergo changes so we have an excellent opportunity to mark the Queen’s special jubilee naming it “Queen Elizabeth II Square” which I now propose to you. When we met at the subway earlier this year I proposed we call the subway “Captain Tom Moore” and the steps “Prince Philip Steps” to reflect the fact H.R.H. gave so many youngsters a step up in life. You supported both ideas! Now we know Captain Tom’s family do not want his name to be used I propose we call the subway and steps “Prince Phillip Way” as we did with “Dame Vera Lynn Way” which proved popular. With Queen Elizabeth II Square nearby the Queen and the Duke would be remembered side by side as they were for so long in life. I ask that Dover District Council demonstrate civic leadership by permanently marking the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee as these proposals are appropriate to do and popular with the public for our two much loved and respected royals. God save the Queen!”

In response the Leader of the Council stated:

“The Council and I share Mr Wanstall’s respect for the monarchy. Officers explored his suggestions for naming the underpass/steps with both the Moore family and the cabinet office, providing the latter with evidence of HRH the late Duke of Edinburgh’s connection with the port of Dover as evidence to support the proposal. As Mr Wanstall acknowledges in his question, the Moore family did not give permission for Capt. Tom’s named to be used.

Similarly, the cabinet office on 29th September notified Dover District Council that:

“it would not be possible to make a favourable recommendation to Her Majesty, The Queen in this matter. This decision should not, however,

be taken as any reflection on the standing of Dover”.

Since the connections of Her Majesty the Queen with Dover is similar to that of HRH the late Duke of Edinburgh’s it is unlikely that the cabinet office would entertain Mr Wanstall’s suggestion regarding renaming Market Square.”

- (3) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11 a question from John Hayter was put to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Licensing and Regulatory Services, Councillor M Bates:

“The introduction of an additional emission charge when renewing a residents Parking Permit “is to incentivise the resident with purchasing a low emitting vehicle”.

My question is: If the resident hasn’t the money to purchase a low emitting vehicle can you explain how this extra premium on their Parking Permit is an incentive for him/her to do so?”

In response the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Licensing and Regulatory Services stated:

“The linking of resident permits to emissions is an incentive to use other means of transport or if possible, to purchase a less polluting vehicle. Higher CO2 emitting vehicles are being phased out, have higher road tax, cannot use Ultra Low or low emission zones without a significant charge and have more expensive fuel. It still remains a choice whether to own a car and where the owner chooses to park their vehicle. As my Cabinet colleague will explain in an answer to a later question this Council takes the Climate Change Emergency declaration that it made in 2020 very seriously and has augmented several measures to assist the government in reaching its target for carbon emissions. The introduction of Parking Permit charges based on emission levels is one of them and has been set at a very modest level. Those who own vehicles with the highest levels will pay a charge of £150 a year which equates to only £2.88 a week. Most car owners lie within emissions Bands B and C and will thus receive discounts reducing their payments to an equivalent rate of between £1.34 and £2.40 per week depending on the permit zone. Owners of electric cars will only pay £35 to £60 pa and I recognise that, initially, there will be few that fall within that category. However, the numbers are rising as more people seek to change to electric either through purchasing or lease arrangements and we are seeking to incentivise this even further through the introduction of on street and off street EV charging points throughout the district. Finally, Dover is not the first council to introduce this initiative. It is already in place in several other local authorities including Cambridge, Brighton, Horsham, York, Chichester, and many of the London Boroughs.”

The Chairman ruled that the supplementary question from Mr Hayter should not be answered on the grounds that it did not directly arise from the question or the response given.

- (4) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11 a question from Sarah Gleave was put to the Finance, Governance, Digital and Climate Change, Councillor C A Vinson:

“With Dept for Transport taking the rail franchise off Southeastern Railways,

(due to their financial mistakes over £25million of public funds), and EK rail unions calling for Southeastern railways to be subject to wider fraud investigation, should DDC ask DfT for the government's in-house rail operator to freeze or cut local rail fares in East Kent to encourage travelers in this district to shift to rail from road given the problems with petrol supplies, the need to decarbonise commuting and the need to relieve road congestion in Dover district?"

In response the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Licensing and Regulatory Services, Councillor M Bates stated:

"I share your concerns regarding the financial issues at SouthEastern Railways and in the circumstances welcome the government decision to terminate their franchise.

I also support your comments regarding the need to encourage a shift from road to rail to both reduce congestion and reduce carbon emissions.

If these aims are to be achieved, then rail fares need to be set at an appropriate level and I would encourage DfT and the government to take these issues into account when setting fare levels."

- (5) In the absence of the questioner (Emma Healey) and given that the time allocated for public questions had finished, the Chairman advised that a written answer would be provided to the following question that had been due to be put to the Finance, Governance, Digital and Climate Change, Councillor C A Vinson:

"With Dept for Transport taking the rail franchise off Southeastern Railways, (due to their financial mistakes over £25million of public funds), and EK rail unions calling for Southeastern railways to be subject to wider fraud investigation, should DDC ask DfT for the government's in-house rail operator to freeze or cut local rail fares in East Kent to encourage travelers in this district to shift to rail from road given the problems with petrol supplies, the need to decarbonise commuting and the need to relieve road congestion in Dover district?"

46 WISE PRESENTATION

The Portfolio Holder for Transport, Licensing and Regulatory Services, Councillor M Bates, introduced the presentation from Mr J Dunne, Managing Director of Waste Investigations Support and Enforcement (WISE).

The Council had agreed a three-year contract with WISE to carry out environmental enforcement activities alongside council officers. WISE would focus on day-to-day littering and dog fouling issues and provide a three-officer team to conduct regular enforcement patrols throughout the district.

Following the presentation, the Chairman called upon Members to ask any questions in respect of it.

47 REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY - LICENSING ACT 2003

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003.

It was moved by Councillor C A Vinson, duly seconded by Councillor N S Kenton, and

RESOLVED: That the Council approve the draft Statement of Licensing Policy and authorise a period of formal consultation from 1 November until 28 November 2021 in accordance with the statutory requirements.

(Councillor M Bates declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Minute No. 47 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to his wife's employment and he withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item of business.)

(Councillor T A Bond declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Minute No. 47 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to his son owning 20% of a restaurant and he withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item of business.)

(Councillor D G Cronk declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Minute No. 47 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to the Dover Truck Park having a licensed bar on its premises and he withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item of business.)

(Councillor D Friend declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Minute No. 47 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to his being a personal license holder and he withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item of business.)

(Councillor S J Jones declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in Minute No. 47 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to her being a license holder and she withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item of business.)

(Councillor K Mills declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Minute No. 47 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to his membership of a rugby club and he withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item of business.)

(Councillor O C de R Richardson declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in Minute No. 47 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to his son's ownership of a pub and he withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item of business.)

48 BROADCAST OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Democratic and Corporate Services Manager presented the report on the Broadcast of Council Meetings.

It was moved by Councillor M Rose, duly seconded by Councillor M Bates, and

- RESOLVED: (a) That Council authorise an extension of the trial broadcast of Executive, Council and Committee meetings by a period of a further six-months trial period commencing with immediate effect.
- (b) That the Democratic and Corporate Services Manager be authorised to manage all aspects of the broadcast of committee meetings during the trial period.

49 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

In accordance with Rule 12(1) of the Council Procedure Rules, Members of the Cabinet responded to the following questions:

- (1) Councillor N J Collor asked the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Licensing and Regulatory Services, Councillor M Bates:

“As the annual review of parking charges period approaches will the Portfolio Holder kindly advise whether or not suggested car parking charges in rural areas will be included this year?”

In response the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Licensing and Regulatory Services stated:

“Thank you, Councillor Collor for your question and I can assure you that all charges in relation to car parking will be reviewed as part of the annual process and that will include the rural car parks. I have asked Parking Services to ensure that, when undertaking this activity, they take into account, not only the financial considerations but also the viability of any options before them, the extent of the social and economic impact that the introduction of parking charges could have on residents and businesses within each local community and, finally, a comparison of the level of parking facilities that these villages have in relation to the larger urban areas within the District.”

- (2) Councillor N J Collor asked the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Licensing and Regulatory Services, Councillor M Bates:

“A recent press release on the future of the Stembrook area of Dover had, in the final comments, reference to future plans to improve Pencester Gardens. Since the 1920s this green open space in the centre of the town has always been extremely popular with residents, particularly the younger ones, and even more so, since the strategic play area and the skate park have been added.

Will the Leader of the Council confirm to me and fellow Dover residents that the play area and the skate park area, especially as the latter is now an Olympic event, will be included within the future plans?”

In response the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Licensing and Regulatory Services stated:

“The Council’s Play strategy now includes skate park’s and both the facilities mentioned will continue to be enhanced as and when funding permits and will be an integral part of any future plans for improvements to this town centre

park.”

- (3) Councillor P M Brivio asked the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Licensing and Regulatory Services, Councillor M Bates:

“Have any approaches been made to P and O about the reintroduction of the transport link from the Priory station to the Docks particularly as foot passenger services have been re started?”

In response the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Licensing and Regulatory Services stated:

“No, not directly, but according to the P&O website: Passengers need to arrive at the Passenger Handling Building in the port of Dover no later than 90 minutes before sailing time to check in. There is no mention of the bus shuttle service on their webpage.”

- (4) Councillor P M Brivio asked the Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property, Councillor O C de R Richardson:

“Did KCC in their request for financial assistance in April towards the refurbishment of Discovery Centre mention that the refurbishment would result in the loss of the very popular Roundhouse Theatre?”

In response the Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property stated:

“KCC have been working on plans to refurbish the Discovery Centre for several years and the Council has been kept informed of their plans both as a stakeholder and as an adjacent landowner.

This Council’s financial contribution to the overall project does of course relate to the work proposed to the areas of the building that fall within the ownership of this Council.

With regard to KCC’s proposals for their part of the building, Cllr Holloway and I have attended the KCC led Project Board on behalf of the Council. Various plans have been presented by KCC’s architects to the Board for review, including plans which showed the removal of the Roundhouse Theatre, which were first seen in August 2020.”

- (5) Councillor C D Zosseder asked the Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property, Councillor O C de R Richardson:

“If the Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property can tell me if we have plans to apply to the £30.5m booster fund for Tennis Courts (recently announced) to refurbish the public tennis courts at Connaught Park and Russell Gardens?”

In response the Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property stated:

“We have been working the Lawn Tennis Association on tennis projects recently in Deal and the dialogue has also encompassed facilities in Dover.

LTA are launching a few programmes following Emma Radacanu's success in the USA Open and, once full details of this funding programme are available, we will seek to take advantage if possible as we progress work on our emerging Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facility Strategy, which does identify the need for new and improved tennis provision in Dover and in particular Connaught Park as you have highlighted.

The tennis courts at Russell Gardens were of course closed as part of the recent lottery funded refurbishment of the gardens."

- (6) Councillor E A Biggs asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett:

"Why the Leader felt it necessary to speak in support of the proposed Cottingham Park Development by Quinn Estates, when this site is not allocated or supported by the planning Department of DDC?"

In response the Leader of the Council stated:

"I assume Cllr Biggs is referring to the topping out ceremony that was held at Betteshanger Country Park on 30th September where I was delighted to be asked to say a few words about the fantastic facilities that are being put into the park for the benefit of all residents of the District including the new mining museum. Although the owners of park also had some future plans for further development in and around the site on display at the event I was very careful not to refer to any of these in my address in any way and I am happy to send a full copy of my speech to all members so that they can see that this was the case. I hope this reassures Cllr Biggs that the acceptability or not of any further development will be determined through the process of the Local Plan as is entirely appropriate."

- (7) Councillor H M Williams asked the Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property, Councillor O C de R Richardson:

"How many pocket parks and play areas have been closed over the past 10 years?"

In response the Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property stated:

"The Council does not have pocket parks as assets.

The Council has closed 4 play areas over the past ten years mainly due to vandalism and safe-guarding issues.

Refurbished 8.

Built 3 new ones.

As the Councillor knows, provision of adequate play areas forms one strand of the objective evaluations in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy document, which currently in the process of being reviewed."

- (8) Councillor H M Williams asked the Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property, Councillor O C de R Richardson:

“We know that the draft local plan has a Topic Paper on Open spaces, which includes green spaces and play areas, but these plans are for the long-term future and depend to a large extent on S106 money from new developments. I am interested in the needs of children in older residential areas, especially in these stressed post Covid times. So, are there plans for Capital Spending in this type of area in next year’s budget?”

In response the Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property stated:

“The Council needs to target and justify expenditure on open spaces particularly if section 106 monies are available. The tool which provides the objective evidence and sound rationale to identify needs is the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, which is currently being reviewed and amended. Identifying capital expenditure projects in advance of the amended strategy risks diverting scarce resources away from they are most needed and potentially risks challenge from developers about the needs identified in the strategy, if the Council is spending its own money elsewhere.”

- (9) Councillor S H Beer asked the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance, Digital and Climate Change, Councillor C A Vinson:

“Having declared a Climate Change Emergency in January 2020 is it now time for us to take a more responsible approach and adopt an ethical investment policy by January 2021?”

At present, policy seems to be simply to maximise returns and sustain values. We do not have a policy which takes into account the impact of our investment choices on society and the planet.”

In response the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance, Digital and Climate Change, Councillor C A Vinson stated:

“The Council has a responsibility to ensure that its treasury funds are invested in a prudent manner, striking the appropriate balance between risk, return and liquidity. In practice, investment decisions taken to date have also included ethical considerations but this is not covered explicitly in our current Treasury Management Strategy. As such, we are already planning to include a new section on Environment, Social and Governance considerations in the 2022/23 Treasury Management Strategy, which will come forward as an Annex to the MTFP for approval by Council as part of the annual budget setting process in early 2022.”

- (10) Councillor H M Williams asked the Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property, Councillor O C de R Richardson:

“Coming out of the pandemic, many local children have suffered from social isolation and health problems including obesity and mental health problems. Could the council explore play schemes for all the school holidays, based at leisure centres as they used to do some years ago, to help reduce inequalities and improve health and wellbeing?”

In response the Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property stated:

“Part of the post Covid challenge is for the public sector, as a whole, to use its expertise and resources to deliver effective programmes to support the community, in this case children.

Kent County Council have set up the ‘Reconnect’ programme to address the specific needs that you describe. The web site states:

“Reconnect is a community-led programme designed to get Kent’s children and young people back to enjoying the activities and opportunities they took part in before COVID-19 – as well as the chance to try new things along the way. Everyone can get involved!”

During the summer holidays, using “Reconnect” monies the DDC Community Team held the “Hello Summer Bonanza”. These were five free holiday activities deigned for kids who received free school meal benefits based around the District. I visited two such fantastic events. All were oversubscribed. The “Reconnect” programme also gave free bus travel & discounted 6-week leisure centre passes throughout the summer. A bid is currently being put together to replicate this over the Christmas holidays.

It would therefore not be expedient or efficacious for Dover District Council to explore setting up a programme that would simply replicate what is already being expertly delivered.”

- (11) Councillor H M Williams asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett:

“We note that after the last full council meeting, the leader of DDC wrote a letter to the relevant government minister requesting that the temporary £20 per week uplift in Universal Credit should be retained until such time as a review is completed, to provide continued support to those in hardship due to Covid. Could we please all see the answer received?”

In response the Leader of the Council stated:

“A response was received, and this has been circulated to all Councillors.”

- (13) Councillor H M Williams asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett:

“July figures for Universal Credit, from KCC, show that there were 11,174 UC claimants in the Dover area, which with the cut of £20 per week amounts to a cut of £223,480 per week in spending power or £11 1/2 million annually. That is a big loss to the area and individuals. Therefore, could the Leader advise council of the details of Household Support fund set up for UC claimants in dire need?”

In response the Leader of the Council stated:

“KCC have been awarded £11m from this fund. We have not yet heard how they plan to administer this, what proportion (if any) will go to districts and how much of this DDC are likely to be asked to administer.

The draft guidance from Government explains that Authorities (Counties and Unitaries) have the ability to deliver the scheme through a variety of routes

including providing vouchers to households, making direct provision of food, or issuing grants to third parties (with the exception of debt advice provision). County Councils are expected to work together with District Councils to provide support and ensure the funding meets its objectives by identifying those most in need.”

(14) Councillor K Mills asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett:

“Following the circulation of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (private members bill) currently going through parliament. Is the leader prepared to go on record with his support for the Bill recognising the impact climate change is having on the Planet and the Ecological system on behalf of the Residents of this District?”

In response the Leader of the Council stated:

“The Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill was sponsored by Caroline Lucas and sought to require the Prime Minister to achieve a range of climate and ecology objectives.

This Council has been very clear in stating its support for the action required to meet the challenge of climate change.

Although the Bill has not progressed beyond the second reading in parliament, I do welcome all such initiatives that respond to the challenge and am hopeful that we will see positive outcomes from forthcoming the COP26 event in Glasgow.”

50 MOTIONS

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor K Mills moved the Motion of which he had given notice as followed:

“This Council Meeting notes that

- ONS figures show that almost one in three women aged 16-59 will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime, that two women a week in England and Wales are killed by a current or former partner, that over half a million women are raped or sexually assaulted each year and that a YouGov poll shows that a third of girls have experienced sexual harassment in schools;
- the global pandemic has led to more women and girls being vulnerable to domestic abuse and, according to a BBC news report last July, the initial three months of the first national lockdown saw an 80% increase in calls to the National Domestic Abuse Hotline;
- that, according to crime-survey and other government data, victims disproportionately come from those groups which already experience inequality and additional challenges in our society, including those who are mixed-race, have disabilities, or are transgender; and
- as we reflect on the end of the delayed UEFA Euro 2020 tournament, previous research by Lancaster University showed that reported domestic abuse incidents increase whenever any of the home nations play in a major tournament, and the effect is particularly large on the days when those teams lose.

This Council Meeting further notes that

- White Ribbon UK is the leading charity with a mission to end male violence against women and part of the global White Ribbon movement which arose from a campaign started by men in Canada in 2004;
- they mark White Ribbon Day annually on 25th November, the International Day for the Eradication of Violence Against Women, by encouraging men and boys to pledge never to take part in, condone or stay silent about violence against women and to make this by wearing a white ribbon on the day and a week or two afterwards; and
- White Ribbon UK operate a system of male Ambassadors, female Champions and Youth Advocates, as well as having specific materials to support primary and secondary schools, all with the aim of encouraging men to take the pledge and help to eradicate male violence against women.
- This Council Meeting believes male violence against women can never be condoned and Dover District Council should do everything in its power to ensure women are safe. As part of this, the council should facilitate and encourage participation by councillors, staff and schools in the White Ribbon Campaign.

This Council Meeting therefore resolves to

- encourage all male Councillors to take the White Ribbon pledge, never to take part in, condone or stay silent about violence against women;
- undertake as soon as practicable the steps necessary to achieve White Ribbon accreditation, joining the large number of public sector bodies which have already done so; and
- as part of this, appoint a male Councillor as an Ambassador; mark White Ribbon Day on 25th November each year with a fundraising event; and encourage participation among council staff and local primary and secondary schools.”

The Motion was duly seconded by Councillor C D Zosseder.

Councillor S S Chandler moved an AMENDMENT to replace the word “appoint” with “invite” and delete the word ‘fundraising’ in the final paragraph so as to read:

“as part of this, invite a male Councillor as an Ambassador; mark White Ribbon Day on 25th November each year with an event; and encourage participation among council staff and local primary and secondary schools”

The mover of the original Motion, Councillor K Mills, with the support of his seconder agreed to accept the suggested amendment.

On being put to the meeting, it was

RESOLVED: “This Council Meeting notes that

- ONS figures show that almost one in three women aged 16-59 will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime, that two women a week in England and Wales are killed by a current or former partner, that over half a million women are raped or sexually assaulted each year and that a YouGov poll shows that a third of girls have experienced sexual harassment in schools;

- the global pandemic has led to more women and girls being vulnerable to domestic abuse and, according to a BBC news report last July, the initial three months of the first national lockdown saw an 80% increase in calls to the National Domestic Abuse Hotline;
- that, according to crime-survey and other government data, victims disproportionately come from those groups which already experience inequality and additional challenges in our society, including those who are mixed-race, have disabilities, or are transgender; and
- as we reflect on the end of the delayed UEFA Euro 2020 tournament, previous research by Lancaster University showed that reported domestic abuse incidents increase whenever any of the home nations play in a major tournament, and the effect is particularly large on the days when those teams lose.

This Council Meeting further notes that

- White Ribbon UK is the leading charity with a mission to end male violence against women and part of the global White Ribbon movement which arose from a campaign started by men in Canada in 2004;
- they mark White Ribbon Day annually on 25th November, the International Day for the Eradication of Violence Against Women, by encouraging men and boys to pledge never to take part in, condone or stay silent about violence against women and to make this by wearing a white ribbon on the day and a week or two afterwards; and
- White Ribbon UK operate a system of male Ambassadors, female Champions and Youth Advocates, as well as having specific materials to support primary and secondary schools, all with the aim of encouraging men to take the pledge and help to eradicate male violence against women.
- This Council Meeting believes male violence against women can never be condoned and Dover District Council should do everything in its power to ensure women are safe. As part of this, the council should facilitate and encourage participation by councillors, staff and schools in the White Ribbon Campaign.

This Council Meeting therefore resolves to

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- as part of this, invite a male Councillor as an Ambassador; mark White Ribbon Day on 25th November each year with an event; and encourage participation among council staff and local primary and secondary schools.”

(Councillor S C Manion declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in the Minute No. 50 (Motions) due to his company being a supporter of the White Ribbon campaign and he withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item of business.)

51 URGENT BUSINESS TIME

There were no items of urgent business for consideration.

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm