



Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Ashford Residents Association – (ARA)

Held at Ashford Baptist Church, Church Road, Ashford – 10.00 – 12.00

Saturday 24th January 2026

Overview Summary

- 4th and final meeting of the first year.
- New venue: Ashford Baptist Church — positive attendee feedback.
- 84 attendees; thanks extended to councillors.

Future Meetings

- Committee seeking long-term use of the Baptist Church.
- Discussions ongoing with Greene King re: Royal Hart car park.

Membership Update

- 160+ paid members.
- Online payment issues resolved.
- Fees essential for hall hire, IT, printing, insurance.

Meeting Agenda

- Welcome & housekeeping
- Policing Q&A
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Healthwatch Surrey
- AOB & Close

Policing Session

- Officers delayed due to incident en route.
- Overview from Sgt Jackson-Sedgwick, PCSO Ashford & PCSO Brett.
- PCC Lisa Townsend discussed priorities and challenges.
- PCC roles to cease nationally in 2028.
- Surrey's *Clear, Hold, Build* approach to reduce organised crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Surrey remains safest county despite concerns.
- **Remember:** If you see something, **REPORT IT**. Even small incidents increase police focus.

Neighbourhood Watch

- Presentation by Alan Howell.
- Explained collaboration between NW, Police, councils, residents.
- Bigger role expected post-devolution.

Healthwatch Surrey

- Presentation by Katharine Newman.
- Promoted health & wellbeing survey.

AOB

1. Devolution

- Spelthorne part of new West Surrey Authority.
- Elections on 7 May 2026.
- Next meeting (25 April) under purdah.

2. HMOs

- Public consultation closed end of Feb.

3. Potholes & Highways

- Major concern; responsibility lies with Surrey County Council.
- Numerous temporary traffic lights noted.

Close

- Meeting ended at 12:00pm.
- Next meeting: 25 April 2026.