



Actions from the Inaugural Meeting of the Ashford Residents Association

Held at St Matthews Church, Church Road, Ashford TW15

10.30 – 12.30 Saturday 21st February 2025

At the above meeting the following were confirmed to office –

Co-Chair – Julie Holman

Co-Chair – John Dickens

Secretary – Anne Crudgington (*)

Treasurer – Penny Kielty

The said Management Committee then formally took up their positions and chaired the rest of the Meeting.

(*) Post Meeting it was agreed to accept Anne Crudgington's request to stand down as Secretary and the Management Committee now looks like this -

Chair – John Dickens

Secretary – Julie Holman

Treasurer – Penny Kielty

This was communicated to members in the inaugural minutes

Open Actions from the Meeting on 21st February 2025

- 1) Greg Neall from "Ashfordwide" who are working with the Council with regards to a scheme to create a "Business Improvement District". A feasibility study is currently in course to define what it is that Ashford Businesses want.

At the conclusion of this process, they will decide on whether to submit a BID – updates to follow.

Action Update - Greg to provide update at next meeting

2. Peter Davis – Given Closure of ANRA have we established if there are any residual monies that can be transferred for use by this new Association?

Action Closed – Paul West issued cheque and a very nice letter wishing us well.

3. Pat KIELTY - Barclays Bank site into a Gambling establishment

Appeal against the rejection of proposals for a change of use were upheld following meeting chaired by the Government appointed Inspector.

Conditions apply including reduced opening hours and the granting of a Gaming Licence.

Action Update - We will continue to monitor.

4. Valerie Scott - An alternative location for the Banking Hub could be the library

Action Closed – Application for a Banking Hub in Ashford declined by the “LINK” organisation. Already communicated to Members.

5. Phil Henley – Communication remains very weak across the spectrum – notice as to this meeting was in itself patchy. The Neighbourhood Watch organisation for Village Way has a database that could maybe help. We need to consider any GDPR issues – follow up required.

Action Update - We have created a brand-new website and supplemented with opening social media channels with Facebook, Next Door & Instagram.

Website sign ups = 140-150 / Facebook members 70+ / Next Door >50 / Instagram?

New Website address - www.ashfordra.co.uk

Notification of the next meeting on 14th June to all channels with a “Save the Date” campaign.

We have created communication channels with Ashfordwide & Neighbourhood Watch Schemes to help develop membership.

6. Barry Muggeridge – Called out that there are several different council sites that notify of upcoming meetings events that would be of interest to Residents – ie Bulletin Magazine. Small concern given the sheer number of these sites, but Councillor Rutherford undertook to supply a list of the web page addresses that we can publish.

Action Closed – list of these websites communicated to Members.

7. Carol Keity & later Julie ?? – what can be done regarding vehicles ignoring clear and long established “No Right Turn” signage across the town.

Action Closed - Reality is with Police resources stretched as they are, this is not something that will be resolved by enforcement.

8. ??? – Why is it that Shepperton seem to get all the nice new shops, but Ashford only gets the same repetitive businesses (Nail Bars / Barbers / Mini-Markets / Vape Shops?

Frank Greaves – How can we impact the type of businesses setting up in Ashford – what Council incentives exist for certain types of shops?

Action Update - We have invited Simon Lowe as one of our guest presenters on 14th June to provide us with insight regarding Surrey Planning initiative for Ashford.

9. Helen Mason – Clockhouse Park has become a drug den – Pedestrian Gates remain open at various points and the Car Park itself has very poor lighting.

Action Update - The Police are working with the relevant bodies to complete an “Environmental Visual Audit” to complete a proposal for improving the lighting / Safety of the affected areas.

Councillor Sexton confirmed that 2 additional CCTV Cameras have been installed.

Ruby Payne, supported by Sgt Thea Jackson, invited as Guest presenter from Staines Police for our meeting on 14th June.

10. Jeffrey Rippingale – How will this Association ensure effective communication with its membership? A show of hands of those present confirmed that a significant majority do not use Facebook.

??? – Neighbourhood Watch utilise a WhatsApp Group

??? – Schools use a phone fan-out system – how does that work, and would it be helpful for this purpose??

Discussion was had regarding setting up an effective emailing system (*) as well as possibly a dedicated Website for the Association. Should there be any monies left within ANRA these could potentially help fund subscription of a website.

Action Update – See 5 above regarding Comms

11. Jeffrey Rippingale – Can we have an update regarding the redevelopment of the Car Park opposite the Gym within the Brooklands estate.

It is expected that a new planning application will be submitted for the site by early April. This site is a Spelthorne owned asset, and the latest plans provide for Retail shops / Flats above & Parking. Consideration being given to one of those shop units being available for Community use.

Action Update – Councillors will be invited to provide update at the meeting on 14th June.

12. ??? – We have series of depressing aesthetics across our High Street – Car Park Development / Royal Hart eyesore / Landlord greed over rents / lack of new business investment. Landlords moving away from business space provision in preference of change of use to residential.

Action Closed - In response Councillor Sexton reminded that –

1. Village Way Wall finally replaced after 3 years due to a small number of residents giving Cllr Sexton some information as to how it was damaged which she then followed up and spoke to the relevant shops to get it rebuilt.
2. Council issued a sec 215 notice to improve the Antique Business as Spelthorne were getting numerous complaints about the building having a harmful effect on the amenity of the local area. The Antiques Business at the Royal Hart and now Greene King are reviewing options for the site.

3. Ashford Multi Storey Car Park development –Plans are expected to be submitted by April. Likely to comprise mixed usage of Retail & Residential.

13. Helen Collis – What will the impact be of the proposed Devolution

Councillor Sexton provided overview of the current status which can be summarised as follows -

Action Update – Councillors will be invited to provide update at the meeting on 14th June.

13. Various – Crime Prevention / Anti-Social Behaviour was a regular feature of the meeting.

Philomena reminded the attendees that it is imperative that any issues are formally reported via the Online process with Spelthorne Police.

Given this is one of the main recurring issues for all in attendance, Councillor Sexton suggested inviting the Police Liaison Officer to our next meeting (*)

Action Update - Ruby Payne, supported by Sgt Thea Jackson, invited as Guest presenter from Staines Police for our meeting on 14th June.