



## Ashford Residents Association – 5th Meeting Summary (25th April 2026)

### Overview

- Held at Ashford Baptist Church (10:00–12:00).
- Well-attended event (67 people), slightly down on January - likely due to good weather.
- Featured **three informative speaker sessions** with strong positive feedback.

### Attendees

- 67 residents present.
- Councillors attending: Rebecca Geach, Katherine Rutherford, Jo Sexton.
- Apologies: Cllr Boparai (family emergency).
- Continued engagement with both current and newly elected councillors is planned.

### Key Updates

- **Next general meeting:** End of September (to avoid holiday period).
- **AGM:** Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May, 7:00pm at the Baptist Church (members only).
- **Membership:** Over 170 paid members - financial position improving and supports ongoing work.

### Main Presentations & Key Points

#### 1. Scam Awareness (Trading Standards – Bill Cunningham)

- Fraud accounts for **40% of all crime**; repeat victimisation is common.
- Scams affect all age groups and occur via phone, email, post, or in person.

#### Warning signs:

- Pressure to act quickly.
- Requests for personal/bank details.
- Suspicious phrases like “verify” or “confirm”.
- Requests to click links/download or allow remote access.

#### Advice:

- Trust your instincts, take time, don't engage.
- Avoid clicking links or responding to unsolicited offers.
- Sign up to **Friends Against Scams**.

#### 2. Police Update (Surrey Police – Sgt Thea Jackson & PCSO Marianne Ashford)

##### Operation Chariot (CLEAR → HOLD → BUILD):

- **CLEAR phase active:** targeting offenders, drugs, and crime networks.
- Multi-agency collaboration essential.

##### Results:

- 63 arrests, 108 charges, 25 drug seizures, 3 weapons seized.
- Strong police presence locally.

##### Crime trends:

- Overall crime **down 11.7%**.
- Burglary **down 29%**, vehicle crime **down 34.3%**.
- Shoplifting detection **improved significantly**.
- Detection rates above national average.

### **3. Fire Safety (Surrey Fire & Rescue, White Watch)**

#### **Key safety messages:**

- Avoid leaving appliances/chargers on overnight.
- Do not use old multi-plug adaptors (fire risk).
- Petroleum-based creams on bedding increase fire risk.

#### **Support available:**

- Free home safety visits.
- Free 10-year smoke alarms (with installation help).

#### **Other Business (AOB)**

- Limited discussion with councillors due to pre-election restrictions.
- Proposal to explore a **Neighbourhood Health Centre initiative**—to be followed up.

#### **Closing**

- Meeting ended on time at 12:00pm
- Strong appreciation expressed to attendees and organisers.
- Reminder issued for AGM on **27<sup>th</sup> May**.