



Thanet Local Board

Tuesday, 18 October 2011

Upton Junior School, Edge End Road, Broadstairs, CT10 2AH

Present: Bill Hayton (Chairman), Robert Burgess, Elizabeth Green, Charles Hibberd, Michael Jarvis, John Kirby, Chris Wells.

Apologies: Robert Bayford

KCC Officer: Anne Charman (Community Engagement Officer, Thanet)

1.	<p>Welcome to the meeting – Mr Bill Hayton, Chairman</p> <p>Mr Hayton welcomed everyone to the meeting and other county councillors on the Thanet Local Board.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
2.	<p>Notes of Local Board meeting held on 5 July 2011 and progress on any actions agreed</p> <p>The notes were agreed as a true record.</p>
3.	<p>Kent Youth County Council / Thanet Youth Council</p> <p>Troy Barden provided an update on the work of Thanet Youth Council. Thanet Youth Council (TYC) provides an opportunity for young people to campaign on local issues and to make a positive change. With support of a grant from the Thanet Local Board it is currently re-identifying itself and has been able to increase the number of its meetings around Thanet by 100%, making them easier to access for all young people. Members have recently been involved in interviews for a new support worker and during a summer residential TYC identified some new roles for its members (as well as undertaking some very challenging activities!). TYC has a new Chair, Andrew Frank who is also Deputy Chair of the Kent Youth County Council. This has given TYC better county links and helped with the development of the youth strategy. With the Youth Advisory Group (YAG) and using funding from Robert Burgess, it is currently working on 'Splash the Cash'. TYC members will be directly responsible for deciding on which small projects should be supported, each of which will be directly linked to a new action in the Youth Strategy and enabling them to make a positive change.</p> <p>Troy then described the difference TYC and the YAG has made to his life and the journey he began five years ago when he walked into a local youth centre. At that time he was a more 'difficult' individual with personal problems but with support from the Youth Centre has been able to overcome these and his view on life has been transformed. He has gained Food Hygiene Certificates, undertaken many residential trips and now is far more considerate of others, understanding the phrase 'for the greater good'. Because of his work helping others he has been given a County Triangle Award and joined the Thanet Youth Council. Troy feels his story is</p>

	<p>not unique and that this will be repeated in youth centres around the county. He asked the Board and KCC to take this into consideration when making difficult budget decisions and reminded the audience “that it’s not KCC’s Youth Service but <i>my</i> Youth Service.”</p> <p>Mr Hayton commented that the Triangle Awards began in Margate and was so successful that it has now spread around the whole county.</p> <p>Q. There doesn’t seem to be a great deal of publicity and advertising about these youth centres/groups. There certainly isn’t anything in the local papers.</p> <p>R. If you go on Facebook you will find a page entitled ‘What’s to do in Thanet’ and also you can find information on the KCC and TDC websites.</p> <p>Q. What if you don’t use computers?</p> <p>R. There was a publication called ‘Thanet Youth Matters’ although uncertain whether this will be re-published. Also information is available through the Libraries.</p> <p>Q. In your presentation you alluded to funding decisions that will be taken regarding the Youth Service. Can you expand on what concerns you have with the decisions that have to be made?</p> <p>R. The concern I have is that only one youth centre in Margate will be kept open out of three youth centres in Thanet. There are many areas in Ramsgate, Broadstairs and elsewhere in Thanet that need youth provision, not just in Margate. A central point which sends out youth provision will not be enough, there needs to be somewhere for young people to go, particularly if they have problems at home or school and need support.</p> <p>Q. Can the Board provide some comfort that Troy’s fears are unfounded?</p> <p>R. The proposed Youth Service transformation programme is still being consulted on and nothing has yet been decided.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Nigel Baker, KCC Head of Integrated Youth Services – Youth Service Transformation Programme</p>
	<p>Nigel Baker outlined the proposals for the Youth Service Transformation consultation which runs from 1 August 2011 until 29 October 2011 and invited the audience to submit comments that can be fed into the final consultation results.</p> <p>The challenges for KCC have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to respond to the Government’s desire to change the relationship between the citizen and the state by allowing communities to take control and deliver services themselves, • unlocking the potential of Kent’s local communities to deliver these services and grow the economy through social enterprises, • continue to maintain an excellent service, • and make significant financial savings. <p>Traditionally the Youth Service has been delivered by the county council, supported with a wide range of work from the voluntary sector, often with little or no financial support. The proposal is that the county council continues to deliver all the smaller direct delivery service and increases the amount of funding that it puts into the voluntary and community sector. This would enable them to provide greater</p>

services at a local level for young people.

A new model of service delivery is being proposed rather than just making cuts, fundamentally changing the way things are done while maintaining excellent youth provision. The scale of savings required does not allow room to maintain the existing model. The Youth Service in Kent is recognised as one of the best in the country by Ofsted and obviously the county council wishes to retain this reputation. The existing model has been in operation for 50 years and this is a good opportunity to do things in a more creative way. The new model will provide an opportunity for local communities to step up and deliver these services through commissioning and Kent Youth Service will provide continuing support training and help to enable them to do this.

The core offer involves the replacement of what is currently known as Partnership Award Grants with a much increased budget for commissioning youth work.

Nigel then outlined the core or basic offer which is the part of the service that will be retained and delivered by the county council and will be the same for all 12 districts in Kent.

1. Each district will have one identified 'youth hub' maintained by the county council. It will be a centre of excellence for youth work and resources and provide opportunities for the local community, for example staff training for KCC and voluntary sector staff. It will also provide wider services than youth work, for example public health services, information and advice services currently delivered by Connexions. A vibrant centre available for other voluntary groups to use.
2. Street based projects or 'detached youth work'. Essentially this is a team of youth workers operating flexibly away from the hub in settings where young people prefer to be; anything from a village green to a leisure centre.
3. School based youth workers or Community Youth Tutors. Currently there are 18 and the proposal is that each district will have at least one, so some districts will have more than others (under the proposals Thanet will have two). Some new posts will be created in West Kent to deliver this.
4. Countywide as the operating authority a number of services will be retained. For example; the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, involving @6,500 young people across Kent, Kent Youth County Council and hopes to support better the work of the district youth councils such as TYC, plus Outdoor Education Centres.

The second key element of the proposal is the commissioning model and a minimum commissioning budget of £1.2m has been identified across Kent. The amount apportioned to each district will vary accordingly the youth population numbers in each and levels of deprivation. It is hoped that this budget will be increased in the future by securing funding from elsewhere, possibly Public Health funding which the local authority is now responsible for. Commissioning will be driven by a needs analysis and an organisation delivering a number of real, identifiable outcomes, rather than just the number of meetings held, etc.

There is a genuine opportunity for existing and new local groups to deliver this work more creatively through the commissioning process. Mike Hill. KCC's Cabinet

Member for Customers and Communities is consulting district councils during this process which is being driven against a background of considerable budget cuts.

There has been a very important national report published recently by an Education Committee comprising a group of MPs looking at the youth service and how work with 13-19 year olds should be developed. They took written and oral evidence from youth services all over the country and some salient points came from this.

- All youth services are suffering significant hits to their budgets from 20%-100% and Kent is at the lower end of this at 27%.
- The previous government introduced legislation in 2006 which placed a statutory duty on all local authorities to provide educational and recreational leisure time activities for young people and this is being borne in mind in the core offer. (Norfolk is wiping out their youth service and it will be interesting to see how it will deliver its statutory duty.)
- There is a need to maintain open access services or street based work which the current proposals do.
- There is little doubt that the youth service has a transformational effect on young people's lives. (Nigel commented that Troy's experience endorses this.)
- Recognised a trend towards new business models where the local authority does less and commissions more.

The consultation ends on 29 October 2011, all views submitted during the consultation will be considered by the Cabinet Member and it is looking increasingly as if this will be a formal Cabinet Decision. The service welcomes views from the public, particularly around hubs. Quarterdeck in Thanet was selected as its hub. This does not mean that other centres in Thanet will close automatically, but rather that county council will not provide the staffing in the other centres. Currently other centres could be used by commissioning groups and incentives are likely to be offered. Young people will not be 'abandoned', but rather youth work will be delivered through the commissioned street based activities.

Q. Even if Kent is at the lower end of the scale in its budget cuts, I would like to remind you that it is not your youth service its mine.

R. I understand the important point you are making.

Q. 1. Before you came up with your preferred option had you consulted Thanet District Council or anyone else in Thanet?

2. Your decision to have a core service in each of the districts and providing additional services where previously they didn't exist surely means that you are providing affluent areas with services they don't need at the expense of areas with high deprivation.

R. 1. On balance it was decided that the most effective way to undertake the consultation bearing in mind the size and scale of Kent was a proposal would be put together and then go out to consultation with the districts seeking their views and inviting alternative proposals. This has been undertaken under the basis of the new Locality Board structure being developed and Mr Hill has assured local Thanet county and district councillors this evening that no final decisions will be made without going back to the districts on what the future looks like. This is a genuine consultation.

2. Young people across Kent deserve the opportunity to have access to a

youth service wherever they are and that element of the county's ambition is provided by the core service. The commissioned budget is not going to be delivered in 12 equal slices and a Resource Allocation Model will take into account issues of deprivation. Thanet will benefit more positively from the distribution of the commissioning than, say Tunbridge Wells or Sevenoaks.

Q. 1. Can you make a guarantee that the two current youth centre buildings in Ramsgate will not be sold as one because if this happens they will be gone forever.

2. Are there measures in place to determine the success of the current model against the existing very successful youth service model?

R. 1. In the consultation document there is a flow chart which shows the process. In parts of the county there will be centres that are disposed of but there is an extensive process to go through before this happens. Need to look at the bids that come through the commissioning process and if they seek use of the two buildings in Ramsgate they could be gifted or rented. However they may not be suitable or appropriate when looking a more creative delivery opportunities.

2. Ofsted ranked KYS as third best but is changing the way in which it measures services for young people and the mechanism used in the past will be quite different, so it will be difficult to make a direct comparison. However KYS as part of the core offer will inspect and monitor service provision and will take away contracts if outcomes are not delivered.

Q. Have you consulted with Kent Police? What will happen to diversionary activities for young people in the most deprived wards? Young people on street corners with nothing to do is the worst possible scenario.

R. We have specifically sought comments from a wide range of partners, including Kent Police and have asked them to co-ordinate a response for the county.

Q. Regarding the hub idea and commissioning. How will the commissioning process operate? Will it be a Dragon's Den scenario? How will you ensure the geographic spread? Young people in Ramsgate are unlikely to have the resource to travel to Margate. How will you ensure the socio-economic spread of services to ensure the quality of commissioned services? What if some areas are unable to provide a quality service?

R. It will not be a Dragon's Den but we will be inviting Expressions of Interest that will be scored against criteria that we expect all the organisations to deliver without disadvantaging local community based youth organisations as they form an important part of the delivery model. Once scored, then shortlisted applicants will be put onto a framework and KYS will meet with them and hear proposals in more detail and then go back to the Locality Boards with recommendations and make final decisions.

The hubs are not the only place youth work will be delivered in the new model. There will be multiple points of entry to get into the youth service both from the core offer and also from the commissioned work to fill any gaps to ensure a more balanced delivery. The current model does leave large parts of Kent untouched. There are also large numbers of volunteers delivering excellent youth services that are not included in this.

- Q.** How will you manage this? What if no providers come forward, say in Newington?
- R.** In the unlikely event this did happen and there were no providers, as the consultation document explains then organisations that we already use would be given a caretaker role with short term funding to continue the work and 'hold' the situation. The commissioning process would then be re-run at a later date. However evidence shows that the market is there.
- Q.** Comment (Will Scobie). Every time young people are mentioned in the media it is about cuts at every level, for example EMA cut, Future Jobs fund cut. While budgetary pressure makes this a difficult task, young people are the future and this programme appears to severely cut youth provision in Thanet. If these buildings are removed, young people have nowhere safe to go.
- R.** A £900,000 cut in the youth service budget is an element of a wider range of savings from the millions that need to be made across the county council. Many people are shocked that the youth service are making cuts and these views are welcome and form part of the consultation report to be considered by KCC's Cabinet members
- Q.** Will the local Board try to ensure that this is a Full Council decision rather than a Cabinet one?
- R.** Members in Thanet will be putting their views forward and fighting Thanet's corner.

5. Paul Valek, KCC Highways District Manager, Thanet - update

Paul Valek is directly responsible for reactive and proactive repairs in the Thanet area and works closely with all of the teams within KCC Highways and Transportation.

Recently Highways has undergone a restructure and as part of KCC strategy and Bold Steps for Kent and community engagement the way KCC works is changing with an aim to improve all services provided to communities. KCC Highways & Transportation (formerly known as KCC Highways Services) will continue to focus with communities and engage with local people, councillors, parishes. To strengthen this area and meet the budget savings changes have been made to staffing. Two phase restructuring process to facilitate this. Prior to July Highways had Highways Inspectors and Community Liaison Officers. Since July now have Highways Stewards and Statutory Highways Inspectors. The Highways Stewards have been allocated specific areas dealing with customer service enquiries, member, parish and community enquiries. They will be empowered to carry out small jobs as necessary and raise jobs as they find them directly to Highways' management centre in Aylesford. They will undertake parish visits and working out in the community on a daily basis.

Defects need to be reported via Highways' Contact Centre so that they can be recorded and given a reference number 08458 247 800. You can also log online www.kent.gov.uk/highways

New contract with Enterprise. Following last winter £6.4m of government funding

has been provided to Kent for weather damage repairs, split £2.4m in patching and potholing. 220k spent on approx. 40 roads. Remaining £4m split across Kent and used to resurface roads in Broadstairs, Acol, Manston, Birchington, Margate, and Ramsgate. In addition to the in annual resurfacing roadworks.

Preparing for winter and depots stocked with several tons of salt, salt bins are being filled now and bulk bags of sand/salt are being delivered to parishes. Gritting action is prioritised as primary and secondary routes and includes problems areas such as steep hills. Footpaths are treated as priorities allow and KCC has an agreement with Thanet District Council for its assistance during emergency periods (45 last year helped out clearing priority footways).

MHF work programme where county members are allocated funds for small works programmes will be detailed at the next Thanet Local Board meeting by Ryan Shiel.

Q. 1. As from 1 September there have been 30mph signs along the Manston Rd at Margate (from the Spitfire Museum). When will these be removed? I was told by your Call Centre staff that it is likely to be 14 November.

2. The Island is very busy with rat runs on rural roads. (I would also comment that the Highways Call Centre's staff are excellent).

R. 1. The Manston Road 30mph speed limit has been advertised and its funding approved. Due to operational issues the works have been slightly delayed. We have been waiting for delivery of specific signs for the site. The work is programmed and ready to go, we are currently awaiting the availability of a gang to construct/install the new 30mph terminal and repeater signs. We do not have an exact date for commencement of works. It is anticipated the works will start in the near future and be completed by early December.

2. The effect of the East Kent Access Road works and the closure of the A256 have made much of the rest of Thanet's network busier than normal. Some of the other rural roads apart from the normal rat runs are now much busier than normal where those travelling to Canterbury and Whitstable and beyond are pushing through the island trying to find alternative routes to get out. The Manston/Margate roads are very busy at the moment and my preference would be for the East Kent Access Road to be formally opened and the A256 closed before any decisions on the network are made. Thank you for your comments regarding the Call Centre Staff, I too have found them to be passionate about what they do.

Q. (Robert Burgess). Please could you comment on the urban myth that if you are conscientious enough to clear the snow from the public pavements in front of your property you can be sued if someone has an accident? KCC are actively encouraging people to take part in clearing pavements. What is the situation about salting pavements in a cul-de-sac?

R. With regard to people clearing snow outside their own properties, last year on the government website DirectGov, it stated clearly that you will not be sued for clearing snow from outside your property and KCC Highways back up this statement, particularly as you are trying to make the area safer. Regarding salting, KCC Highways does have a priority salting list. It has to keep open the main A and B roads first, particularly just after a heavy snowfall, in order to

maintain access for emergency services and supply routes to supermarkets and essential services etc. Secondary and tertiary routes follow in priority and obviously cul-de-sacs are low on the list. However, an issue that has a possible serious threat to life will be treated as a priority if not included on the primary and secondary routes. Footways are treated as resource allows and we have a priority footway list that covers the town centres, schools, hospitals and train stations etc.

(A member of public suggested not using hot water for clearing snow as it turns straight to ice, but to clear the snow and sweep it into the gutter.)

Q. In times past unemployed people cleared the roads, why can't they be asked to do so now?

R. This is not within my remit to make a decision on.

Q. Last year refuse collectors were unable to collect rubbish because the snow was too deep. In consultation with the Chief Executive of TDC I believe it was suggested that these people clear the snow. While I understand that consultation needs to take place with the unions, etc., what is the position?

R. KCC Highways does have an agreement with TDC (Mark Seed, Paul Verrall, Peter Thomas) and last year during heavy snowfall up to 45 district staff were working alongside KCC Highways staff. (Comment by Clive Hart endorsing this and complimenting Paul Valek's efficiency.)

Q. I live in Broadstairs and have a question regarding off street parking. I applied for off street parking a year ago and was told that Highways revised its criteria in February '08, I believe without informing councillors. Having bought a house in Broadstairs we have nowhere to park which means that I can have to park several streets away from my house if there's an event on. We now regret having bought the house and feel that residents should have been informed.

R. 1. (Bill Hayton) This is the first time I've heard of this problem and you do have two county councillors in Broadstairs, including myself. It would have been helpful if you had come to a county councillor earlier who may have been able to take this issue up for you before now. Officers often do not have it within their remit to alter such policies.

R. 2. (Chris Wells). This issue was raised with me as a District Councillor and this was taken all the way up the line. Unfortunately the criteria have changed several times over the years; indeed at one point it was possible for almost anyone to put a drop curb in so that they could park at the front of their house which was why the criteria was changed. However, perhaps these criteria need to be revisited.

Q. Broadstairs is becoming increasingly busy with visitors. Where do councillors suggest residents' park? It was easier to park when I lived in London two years ago. Why doesn't Highways consult with residents before they bring in new criteria?

R. 1. (Bill Hayton) Please talk to me about this after the meeting.

R. 2. The current vehicle crossing process was agreed by our Alliance Executive Board at the time. I was part of a working group that looked at the vehicle crossing process and did not make decisions alone. At times we agree process

without consulting with the public, District or County Councillors.

- Q.** (Thomas Brown, Thanet Gazette) Looking at road safety figures and in particular child casualties, Thanet is the top district in Kent. There is a scheme in Maidstone involving six primary schools where a 20mph zone has been imposed. What are your views on this and is it possible to have something similar in Thanet?
- R.** 1. This is something that can be raised and looked at by our Safety Critical Schemes Engineers if you bring specific sites to us.
2. (Robert Burgess) I have read your recent article in the Thanet Gazette regarding Garlinge School which sits in my constituency. Most of the people who drive around schools at dropping off time are parents of children. Also, if people take no notice of 30mph limits then they're unlikely to take notice of 20mph. We need to address the issue of speeding and educate parents, but cannot assume that 20mph signs would be the solution.
- R.** 1. Highways would need to look at the facts and figures first before we can recommend a similar pilot.
2. (Liz Green) At the Dame Janet School there have been problems and recently a parent and child hit by a car. Here the school is between two sets of traffic lights where drivers try to race the lights. I am aware of the dangers and will everything I can to have traffic calming measures in place around schools.
- Q.** Enforcement of speeding is a huge issue, this has been raised with Kent Police and cuts to front line staff numbers have presented it with difficulties around enforcement. However a 20mph limit does give a powerful message that special care needs to be taken around schools.
- R.** (Audience suggestion) What about a no drive zone around schools where parents have to get out of their cars and walk, say 100 metres to take their children to school? Driving standards are also a problem.
- Q.** There is plenty of parking in Broadstairs the problem is that it is too expensive. People park outside local residents' homes because it is free. How can you change this situation? This is a serious issue that the Chamber of Commerce in Broadstairs is addressing. Perhaps there needs to be a working party to see how this issue can be resolved.
- R.** This is an issue for TDC's Parking office.

6. Opportunity to ask questions about local public services

- Q.** The Broadstairs & St Peter's Chamber of Commerce are trying to create events in the town to attract more visitors as businesses are struggling. Is there any funding available through the Board to help with this work?
- R.** Please talk to the Board after the meeting regarding funding available.
- Q.** Locality Boards are an excellent idea enabling people to get together to discuss how to share resources. Other districts are well down the road creating these, why is Thanet taking so long?
- R.** (Bill Hayton) Thanet has a successful Local Board and is looking to see how other Locality Boards operate before going down that route.

	<p>Q. (Janet Fielding). I'm currently pulling together a project called Project Motorhouse which is about saving the old motor museum in Ramsgate. At a locality meeting last week told there was no Kent wide policy for asset transfer and would ask the Board if they could start to ensure that there is a framework put in place in Kent. This is part of Big Society and important. Also Big Society requires you have certain skills that not everyone necessarily possess. It's important to ensure that with local representative groups have talented facilitators to chair such meetings and help people reach common goals – Kent should have a pool of people that can be drawn upon to help, even if local community groups have to pay for this service.</p> <p>Q. How do we provide a sustainable future for the hospital with regard to parking? This is a well known issue as hospital parking is expensive – Addiscombe Road is very difficult to navigate and local residents are finding it difficult to park outside their own house. Can this be looked at?</p> <p>R. 1. (Bill Hayton) this has been discussed. This is a problem for the area and I don't have an immediate answer but perhaps at the planning stage we need to think about providing parking either above or below the building.</p> <p>R. 2. Comment from the audience. People need a low cost option incentive to park and this will help to reduce parking on local roads.</p> <p>R. 3. (Robert Burgess). While the answer may seem simple, quite often solving one problem, results in another. For example Northdown Road when street parking on roads was free people who worked there effectively blocked people who wanted to shop there. Introducing a fee made parking available.</p> <p>R. 4. (Chris Wells) there has been an issue around parking at the hospital for some years and the hospital has been a selfish neighbour, but allowed to by planning who has given permission for more buildings. They do run minibuses for staff, but the answer lies in TDC's hands who must insist that they provide more parking spaces when they request permission to build.</p> <p>Q. A couple of years ago Hereson Road was resurfaced. Unfortunately about 150 metres of it wasn't done. Please can you explain why at least £50k was spent on yellow marker paint, but the surfacing never finished?</p> <p>R. (Paul Valek) Aware of the section you are referring to from St Patrick's up to the dentist. Will take that back to my team and see if this work can be done</p>
7.	Any Other Business notified to the Chairman prior to the meeting.
	None
8.	Close
	Mr Hayton thanked all the speakers for their presentations and the public for attending and closed the meeting.