

THE WILLESBOROUGH

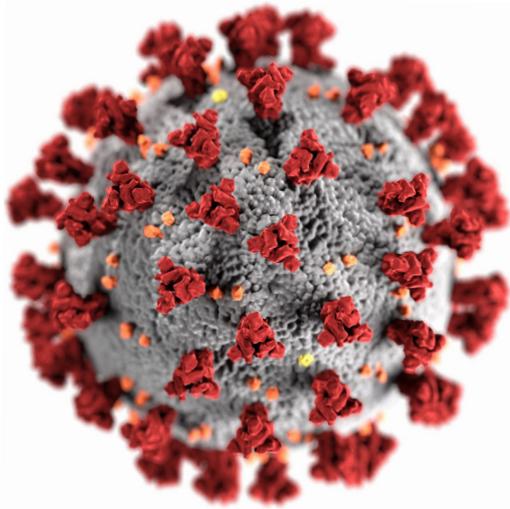
VIEW



Cllr Steve Campkin



Cllr Liz Wright



CONTACTING YOUR COUNCILLORS

Following government advice regarding social distancing, our councillor surgeries have been cancelled until it is safe for them to continue. You can however continue to contact your councillors at this time via email or over the phone using the contact details on the back of this newsletter.

COVID-19

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Ashford Environmentalists staged a 2nd Climate Strike on Friday 14th Feb. Members of Greenpeace and Ashford Green Party spoke to pupils at a local primary School, hosted a combined protest/litter pick and approached people with petitions in Ashford Town Centre.

Daniel Tucker Bailey said: "It's important to show the Earth some love on Valentine's Day. We received 105 signatures for a Global Ocean Treaty and 52 signatures for Vanessa Nakate's campaign to protect the Congo Rainforest from illegal logging."

WILLESBOROUGH RECREATION GROUND

There are plans in place for a complete refurbishment of the Willesborough recreation ground, including disability access, planting wildflowers, a food forest and picnic areas.

SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS »

"TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

WILLESBOROUGH RECREATION GROUND



Trees have been procured and we will be planting them on 28th March, 10 - 3. The trees will be planted close to the Hythe Road entrance, are part of a tree planting project across the borough and will contribute to the draw-down of carbon from the atmosphere into the soil. We have focused on fruit trees to provide free, healthy and organic food for the community. Trees help to mitigate both flooding and drought and provide an environment for local wildlife and biodiversity.

Cllr Campkin said "This is an idea I've had for a number of years. Open spaces are important for people, but we also need more resilient communities, more diverse wildlife, more sources of healthy plant based foods. We are starting off with an orchard with plans to create a proper food forest as it develops.

"The area is prone to flooding in the winter and drought in the summer, so planting trees and shrubs will help to prevent both of these, soaking up water and shading the soil from the sun.

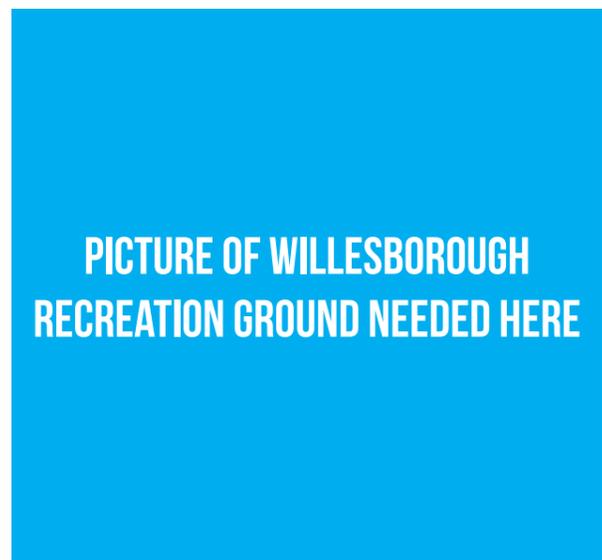
"I don't know of any other public food forests in Britain, I'll be very pleased if this is the first and encourages others."

A wildflower area is designated for an area close to the cemetery. For the time being the grass will be allowed to grow so we can see what native plants are already present, then wildflowers will be sown ready for next year. The area will be interactive with pathways and picnic areas.

Picnic benches are also planned for an area between the wildflowers and the play area, and permeable pathways and cycle lanes are planned for easier disability access along established bridleways.

The Osbourne Road side will be left for sport and we will look for funding to restore the tennis courts and provide goal posts for football, with a view to also encourage a Willesborough summer fete in coming years.

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ASHFORD VEGAN FAIR

Cllr. Steve Campkin visited Ashfords 2nd Vegan Fair on 22nd February.

Steve said: "I'm pleased we finally have our own monthly vegan market here in Ashford thanks to Kent Food Hubs. It was a pleasure visiting the food stalls and I taking home some treats. I can recommend a visit at the next fair!"



A glance at the many stalls offering food and goods.

REPAIR CAFÉ

We also visited the Repair Café at the Singleton Environment Centre. Repair Cafés are popping up across the country, repairing items and extending their life beyond built-in obsolescence. If we want to reduce our consumption of valuable resources and contribution to toxic waste we need to implement the three R's; Reduce, reuse, recycle, and the Repair Café helps us achieve this.

The Repair Café is open at the Singleton Environment Centre on Wednesdays.



Cllr Steve Campkin talking to volunteers at the repair café

DEVELOPMENT

We know you are concerned about what developers are doing in and around Ashford - and everywhere else. This government has imposed housing targets on our borough - and if they are not met, the land will be taken over and developed anyway outside of local control. These houses are not the housing Ashford needs for local people, and your local councillors are pointing this out loudly and clearly whenever they can. We have won the vote against developing on the green corridor in the flood plain off Norman Rd. and we will keep fighting.

TIME BANK

Many of you give up your time volunteering to help others - did you know if you log these hours with the timebank you earn the right for someone to give their hours to help you? For more details visit the link below:

www.timebanking.org/location/ashford-time-bank



WOMBLES OF WILLESBOROUGH

The Wombles of Willesborough successfully collected lots of discarded litter from the alleyway at the bottom of Osborne Road and the area around Orion Way.

With the social distancing measures being rolled out to combat the spread of COVID-19, the Wombles won't be organising any further litter picks until it is advised it is safe to do so.



Wombles get busy clearing up litter at Orion Way

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS:

STEVE.CAMPKIN@ASHFORD.GOV.UK

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POTHOLE PATROL



WE'RE ON THE CASE

We continue to report potholes to KCC and lobby for resurfacing of our roads to avoid potholing in the future.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Your councillors have been actively taking up your concerns:

- A new gate in the Recreation ground play area.
- Coppicing trees.
- Double lines to prevent dangerous parking in Cornes Close.
- Help with housing and traffic issues.
- Community gardening.

We have used the Member's Community Grant to help a number of local organisations and projects including:

- Inspire Café.
- Little Treasures Playgroup.
- Sparklers Youth Group.
- Willesborough Windmill.
- Fruit trees for the community orchard on the Hythe Road Recreation Ground.

HELPFUL HINTS

HOUSING

Threatened with eviction by a private landlord? Rent arrears? You may have more rights than you realise - you can't be forced out of your home unless or until the court says so. If you have housing problems, contact shelter.org.uk or ring Ashford Borough Citizens Advice on 01233 626185 (opposite the library).

MONEY PROBLEMS?

For free help and advice from Ashford CAP ring 0800 328 0006

CORONAVIRUS

For detailed and up-to-date information and guidance regarding the coronavirus crisis make sure to check out Ashford Community Radio's dedicated COVID-19 web page at: www.radioashford.com/covid19/

NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT

Good news! Hunter Avenue playground is to have new equipment this summer!

CONTACT DETAILS

If you have a comment or query about our area, we would love to know. Here are the ways you can get in touch:



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Cllr. Liz Wright

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Like Steve and Liz on Facebook to keep up to date:

www.facebook.com/greensteev/

www.facebook.com/lizwrightashfordgreenparty/

STEVE AND LIZ: "WORKING TOGETHER AND GETTING THINGS DONE"