



KENNINGTON

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

**The meeting was held at St Mary's Community Centre, Rylands Road, on
Wednesday 24 May 2023 at 6pm.**

1. **Welcome and introduction by the Chair of Kennington Community Council**
Cllr Alan Cooper Chair of Kennington Community Council welcomed everyone to the Annual Assembly for Kennington. He explained that the Annual Assembly was a public meeting for residents of Kennington and was an opportunity to hear about the activities of the Community council, to ask questions and seek answers from Councillors. The first part of the meeting would be formal and minutes will be taken, but at the close of this section there would be an informal opportunity to meet Councillors and to meet representatives from other voluntary groups in our area that have attended today. The Chair's Speech will be published on the Kennington Community Council website: kenningtoncc.gov.uk
Kennington Community Council Chairman addresses Annual Assembly

2. **Members Present and Apologies for Absence**
Present: Cllr Alan Cooper (Chair), Cllr Charles Ellis, Cllr Chris Morley, Cllr Chacko Jacob, Cllr Shafi Khan, Cllr Nathan Iliffe, Cllr Alan Dean (Bybrook) **Also present:** 27 members of the public were also present. Representatives from local groups including Bybrook WI, Kennington WI, Friends of St Marys, and the Clerk of Kennington Community Council
Apologies: Cllr Winston Michael, Cllr Katy Pauley, Cllr John Seaton and Cllr Ellie Crook. **Additional Apologies:** were also received from a number of groups that could not attend including the Kennington United Church KenningtonUnitedChurch, Sk8side , The Bockhanger Library Visiting a library KCC and Uprising uprisingyouthandcommunity.

Sk8side asked if we could convey they work with 8 -19 year olds and try to engage them in positive activities, like sports, to aid their personal and social development. People are more than welcome to come along when we are in the area, which is on a Wednesday fin Bockhanger from 3.30 - 5.30pm or they can get in touch with them at sk8side and all our contact details are on our website: Sk8side

Bockhanger Library, located at Sure Steps Children's Centre (Phoenix Community School Site), Belmont Road. Opening times Monday: 1 - 5pm, Wednesday: 10am - 1pm, Friday: 1 - 5pm and Saturday: 9am - 1pm. Free to join, offer a wide range of services from free access to books, computers, the internet and information to the hire of music, audio books and films.

Signed: 

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Dated: 30.5.2024



3. **Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 25 May 2022**

Approved: The minutes held on 25 May 2022, were agreed and signed.

4. **Chair's report on Community Council activities 2022/23**

Chair Councillor Alan Coopers Speech will be published on the Kennington

Community Council website: kenningtoncc.gov.uk / Annual Assembly

Copies available of the annual report of Kennington Community Council Annual Report 2022.23

Highlights noted:

Play areas: two magnificent new play areas have been installed by ABC in Rylands Road and on the Spearpoint playing fields.

Defibrillators: with thanks to partnerships with Ashford Borough Council, the Co-op and One Stop, who paid installation costs on their sites, we have installed 5. We plan one more in the redundant phone box acquired from BT. We are encouraging the developer on Conningbrook Park to install one on the outside of the new Bowls Club. We will listen to any proposals if residents think there are significant gaps in the network but do not plan more after the phone box.

Highway Improvement: 20 is plenty speed limit in force in the Bybrook Road-Pasture zone, complete with a raised table on the pedestrian crossing. Our friends in Speedwatch will help to monitor compliance and, if necessary, we will request a police presence to ensure enforcement.

Community events: a series of engagement activities in Bockhanger Square including the Big Tidy in which we began repainting the concrete balls. One activity was training to use a defibrillator and we aim to repeat that training session across Kennington this year.

Community Facility: alternatives to ABC's housing-led scheme to develop a Community Facility on Bockhanger Square. The response rate to the public consultation was not encouraging & certainly not representative of the population. As a result, the Council has decided to favour replacement of the previous facility by something comparable in size. When the Council know the new Leader of the Borough Council, they shall write and ask them to agree to meet the majority of the cost of this. We are also constantly looking for sources of grants towards the cost.

Bybrook and Burton Allotment sites: They were not well maintained and one in eight plots were vacant. As well as losing out in income for these plots, it meant that neighbouring allotment holders suffered with weeds spreading onto their plot. These were all quickly let and we have a very quick turn-around when there are new departures – over a single weekend in one case. This has benefitted those who have spent years on the waiting list. The Community Council increased rents to reduce the subsidy paid by other council taxpayers. We still have preferential rates – a 50 per cent reduction – for the 25 per cent of holders who enjoyed concessions under ABC.

Traffic Schemes: we have started traffic surveys on Ulley/Canterbury/Faversham to establish traffic patterns and speeds and assess whether there is a case for a 20mph limit in that area, which surrounds two schools.



Play area improvements continue: we are not finished on play areas, together with ABC ward members, past and present, we shall improve the Little Burton play area, especially for smaller children. The Council is also considering action at others e.g. Bybrook Road, in conjunction with ABC and other ward members.

Youth Council: we have the ambition to set up a Youth Council and to identify actions necessary to make Kennington a dementia friendly parish and we need to think about more community engagement projects in coming year e.g. litter picking – we have purchased the equipment.

Community allotment garden: the Council has also determined that an allotment plot should be improved in a 3 year project, in which we hope local GPs will partner us by prescribing gardening for suitable patients.

War Memorial renovation: should at last see the repairs starting when we get the go ahead and grant from the War Memorials Trust.

What we can ultimately achieve will depend how many councillors and others are involved and how much time they are able to commit to Council business.

5. **Panel discussion on crime prevention with representatives from Neighbourhood Watch**

Peter New from Neighbourhood Watch gave a very detailed report on Crime and Crime Prevention in Kennington. Clear messages and advice was received that all crime should be reported no matter how small including scams and anti-social behaviour and the message to Report, Report, Report everything, it is absolutely imperative and key to raise awareness and to help fight crime.

Scammers, if you are called and not friends or family then just hang up, if its important you will be rung back, scammers tend not to as they have moved on to the next potential victim.

All to note: that the Chief Inspector Sarah Rivett on invitation from the Kennington Community Council will be attending the Council meeting on 12th July at 6.30pm in St Marys Community Centre all are welcome.

6. **Questions from residents**

Kennington Community Council took concerns raised and will look at:

- 1) Nettlefield and surrounding roads as next highways task
- 2) Conningbrook Lakes can there be more bins
- 3) The Ridge and surrounding roads where there are parking issues at certain points of the week

7. **Close of meeting.** The formal part of the meeting was closed at 19:15

Following the formal meeting, we heard from voluntary groups active in Kennington which included: Bybrook WI, Bybrook Nature Reserve, Conningbrook Sailing, Kennington WI, Kennington Summer Fayre, Kennington Speedwatch, Kennington Coffee and Chat, Pirate Canoe, Walking Football and the Friends of St Marys, Kennington.

Bybrook WI – bybrook.womans.institute are a group of friendly ladies who meet at St Mary's community centre, just off Rylands Road on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. All new and old members very welcome.

Signed: 



Friends of Bybrook Nature Reserve - BybrookNatureReserve_a group of local volunteers regenerating the nature reserve in Bybrook. Always looking for new members and help. Usually meet on Saturday morning monthly from 10am until 1pm.

Conningbrook Sailing - cinqueportssailing.org/, run water sport activities at the Conningbrook lakes through the summer months, courses require booking.

Kennington Coffee and Chat – supported by Kennington Community Council is a coffee, tea and informal chat style morning, held every third Monday from 10:30 to 12:30. Often able welcome local information groups as well as Peter New from Neighbourhood Watch is usually in attendance. Kennington Community Councillors and the Clerk of Council are also on hand to raise suggestions with and chat though any concerns. Open to all, all ages welcome.

Kennington Summer Fayre - KenningtonSummerFayre will be held at Kennington Recreation Ground, Ulley Road on Saturday 24th June from 12pm until 4pm. Further information available by emailing the fayre secretary email: secretary@kenningtonsummerfayre.org.uk

Kennington WI - Kennington WI, hold monthly meetings at the WI Hall on Faversham Road, new members are all very much welcomed.

Pirate Canoe - Pirates Canoe Club is a paddle sport community where paddlers can learn in a safe, relaxed atmosphere. They have members of all ages, genders and backgrounds. For more information on the club check out their website: www.piratescanoecub.com

Kennington Speedwatch – the group monitors vehicle speeds in Kennington and reports repeat offenders to the Police. Sign up for Speedwatch and help to keep your neighbourhood safe communityspeedwatch and registering and opting to join the existing group in Kennington. They usually go out about every two weeks but they need more help to keep this up. Some online training will be necessary and then you will be linked up with the Kennington team.

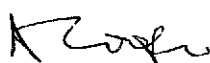
The Friends of St. Mary's Kennington - stmaryken located on Church Road, more information can be obtained by emailing info@ashfordchurches.co.uk

Walking Football – is every Thursday at Ashford United Football Club with the Charlton Athletic Community Trust from 12.30 until 1.30pm.

An informal opportunity followed for residents to meet Councillors and to meet representatives from other voluntary groups in our area along with light refreshments.

The informal part of the meeting was closed at 19:48.

Signed:



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Dated: 30.5.2024.