

Kent Association of Local Councils



Terry Martin
Chief Executive



Serving Parish & Town
Councils in Kent

Who we serve

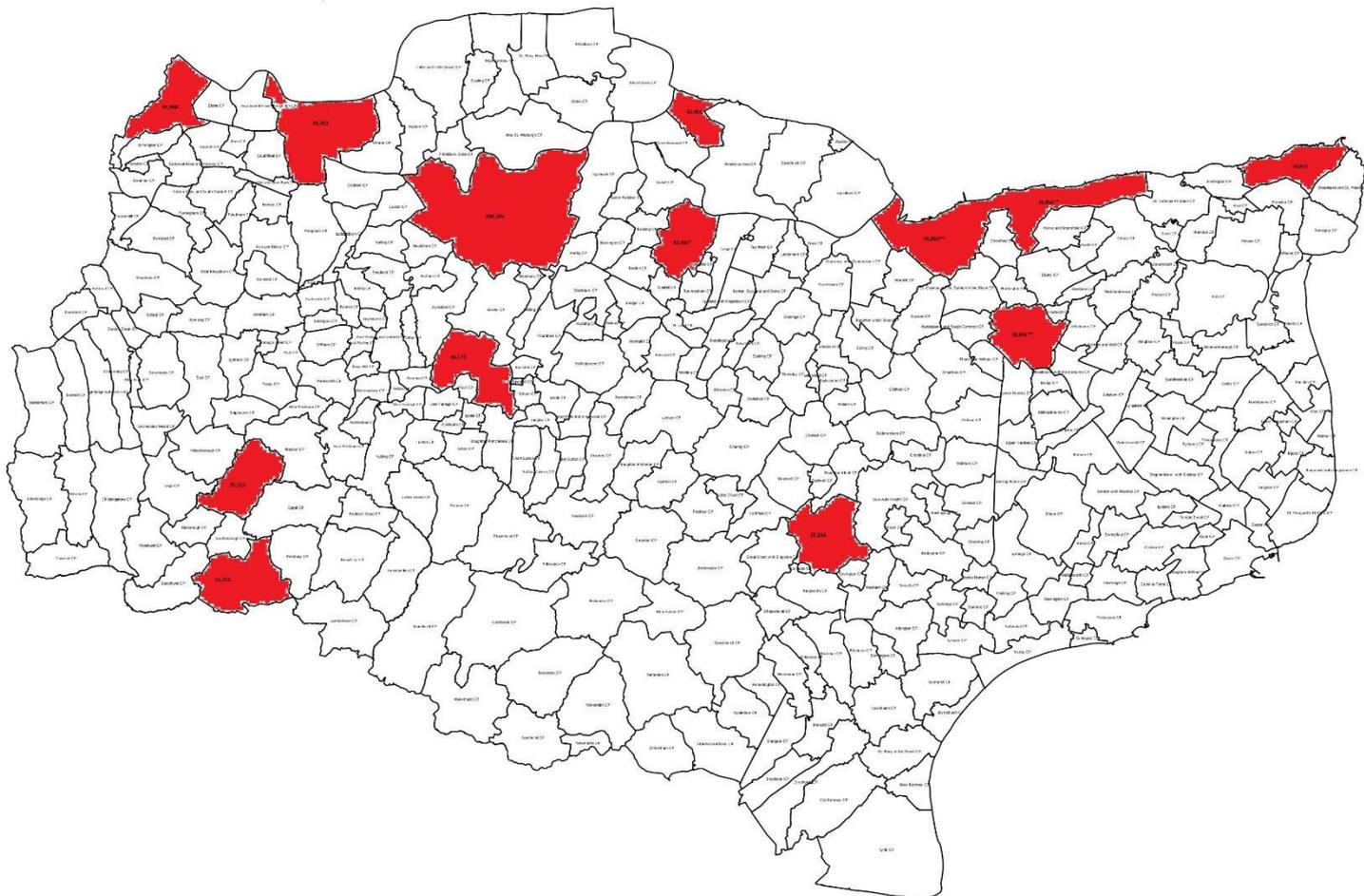
- **302 Local Councils in Kent**
- **Providing advice and support to the Ashford Community Forums & the Rochester campaign group**





Serving Parish & Town
Councils in Kent

Unparished Areas of Kent



New Council Campaigns in Kent

- **South Willesborough and Newtown**
- **North Willesborough**
- **Central Ashford**
- **Kennington**
- **South Ashford**
- **Rochester**



Campaign Activities

- Leaflets
- Outside Doctor's Surgery
- Outside local Schools
- Local Radio
- Local Newspapers
- Website (www.ashfordcommunity.co.uk & <http://www.rochestertowncouncil.org.uk>)
- Social Media (Facebook)
- Window Stickers
- Key rings
- Mugs



Campaign Activities

folkestoneherald.co.uk Express / Herald, Thu

Community groups launch fight for more local rights

Petition seeks devolution of some council powers

By Amy Woodland
amy.woodland@folkestoneherald.co.uk

A CAMPAIGN to give power to the people by creating community councils has been launched by four groups in Ashford.

Kennington, central Ashford, north Willershorough and south Willershorough community forums are joining forces to petition for the creation of community councils.

Chairman of Kennington Community Forum Chris Morley said: "In the rural areas of Ashford we have parish councils but in the urban areas, we have nothing smaller than the borough council.

"That means if you want a playground in your area refurbished or a streetlight fixed, you have to apply to the borough council who will be considering similar requests from across the borough."

A community council, like a parish or town council, would be able to raise money through a council tax precept which would be ring-fenced for spending on local projects. The average precept for parish or town councils in the Ashford borough is £26 per year.

Mr Morley added: "It would have a big impact on local democracy. We would have legal rights to comment on planning applications in the area, for example."

The forums, all run by volunteers, decided to work together to

YOUR 24-HOUR NEWS SOURCE
For more from Ashford, visit folkestoneherald.co.uk/ashford

look in to the possibility of starting community councils after the Government made money available through its New Councils Programme in September 2015.

In December the forums successfully won a grant of £10,000 to fund the campaign under the New Councils Programme, and are receiving advice and support from the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC).

Signatures

The first aim of the forums is to collect enough signatures of support from residents to trigger a community governance review by Ashford Borough Council. A total of ten per cent of the electorate are needed to support the application for this to happen.

With a total of about 40,000 people living in the areas affected, such a petition needs around a thousand signatures.

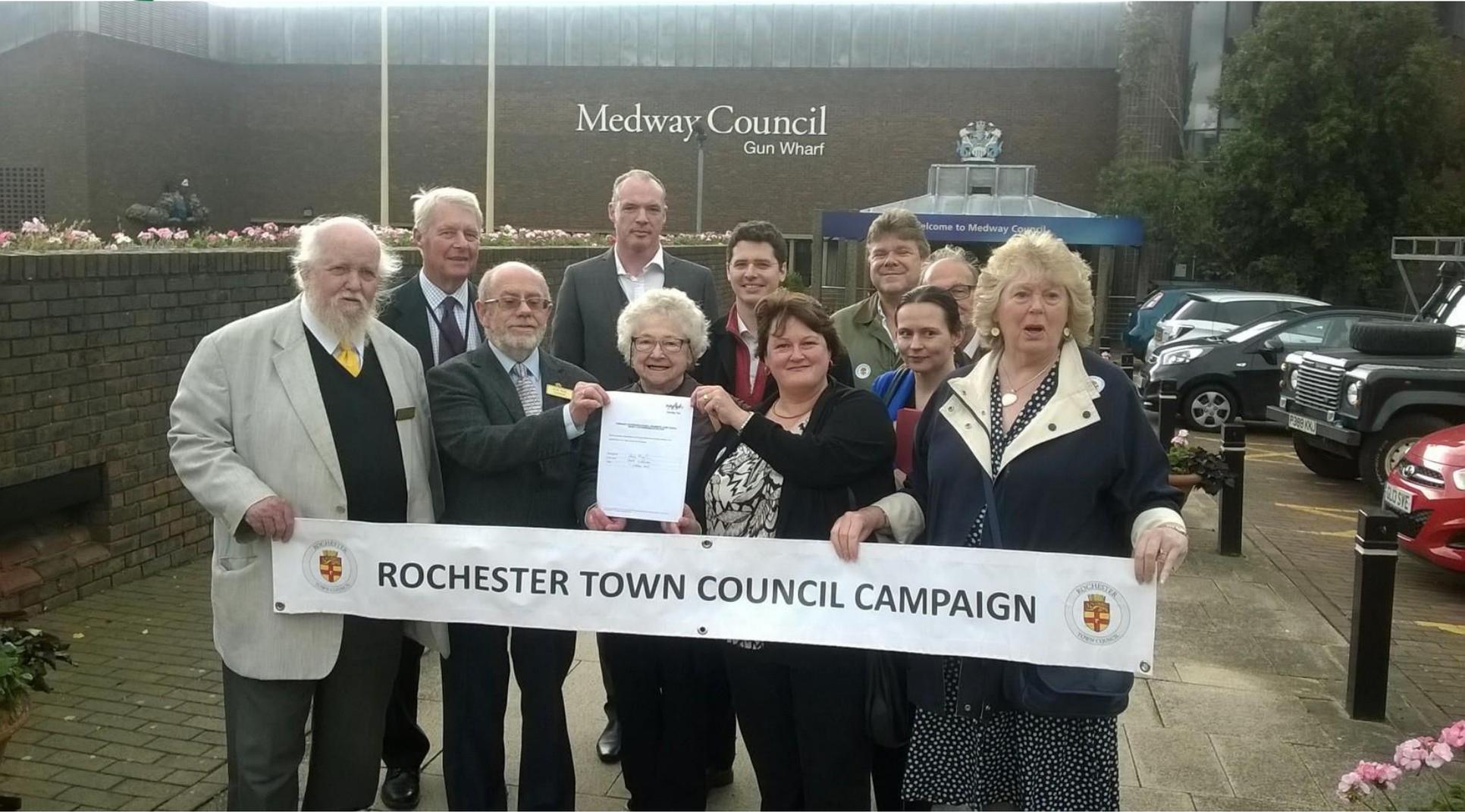
If successful, this could lead to the creation of four community councils by May 2016. Members would be elected or co-opted according to election procedures.

Details will be delivered to houses in the affected areas this week for more information visit www.ashfordcommunity.co.uk

PEOPLE POWER: Community forum leaders are coming together to campaign for community councils in the urban area



Campaign Activities



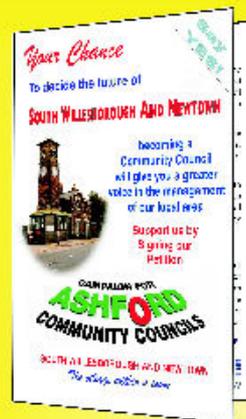
Campaign examples



GET EXTRA FORMS OR LEAVE THESE FORMS FOR US TO COLLECT AT THE FOLLOWING SHOPS

- Earls Supermarket, 99 Earlsworth Road, South Willesborough**
- South Willesborough Newsagents, 63 Gladstone Road, South Willesborough**
- Newtown Post Office, 20 Newtown Green, Newtown**

EARLIER THIS YEAR WE DELIVERED THIS LEAFLET TO EVERY HOME EXPLAINING THE FACTS ABOUT BECOMING A COMMUNITY COUNCIL



NOW THAT YOU HAVE HAD TIME TO CONSIDER THE POINTS RAISED WE HOPE YOU WILL SUPPORT OUR BID FOR A COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

THIS IS NOT A PETITION TO VOTE FOR A COMMUNITY COUNCIL BUT JUST TO ASK THE COUNCIL TO LET US HAVE A VOTE TO DECIDE IF WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Soon members of the community group may be calling at your home to answer any questions you have and collect your form if you have not already sent it in. If you feel that you already understand the issues and have made your decision please send your form to the address on the back of this leaflet or drop it into participating local shops. Each member of your household that is on the electoral roll can send in a separate form so please support our bid to have a greater say in what affects our local community. If you have lost your form there is another on the back of this leaflet and extra forms can be obtained and left for us to collect at these local shops.

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- South Willesborough Newsagents, 63 Gladstone Road, South Willesborough**
- Newtown Post Office, 20 Newtown Green, Newtown**



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Campaign examples

WOULD YOU LIKE BETTER

Leisure facilities
Crime prevention measures
Street lighting
Cycle paths
Bus shelters
Youth projects
Support for local groups
Input on planning applications



*These are just a few of the benefits that
could be achieved by having a*

Kennington Community Council

It would replace the Kennington
Community Forum and give us
a more powerful voice in the area.

Please support our campaign for a

KENNINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Kennington Community Forum is supporting this campaign with
other community organisations in the Ashford urban area

Campaign Progress

- **Community Governance Review undertaken:**
 - South Willesborough and Newtown – petition submitted – 26.3% turnout – **54.6% YES** – 45.4% NO
 - North Willesborough – valid petition submitted - 33.1% turnout – 44.2% Yes - 55.8% NO
 - Kennington – valid petition submitted - 34.9% turnout – **53.3% YES** – 46.7% NO
 - Central Ashford – 28.6% turnout – 39% YES – 61% NO
 - South Ashford – 26.1% turnout – 37.8% YES – 62.2% NO
- **Verification of Petition Signatures**
 - **Rochester**
 - submitted petition on 7 October 2015 (92%)
 - Re-submitted petition on 12 May 2016

Ashford Campaign Outcome

- **2 new Community Councils from 2019:**
 - South Willesborough and Newtown
 - Kennington
- KALC continuing to engage with the 3 other campaign areas

Lessons Learnt



- Tackling the additional tier of Local Government and additional costs issues – public perception
- Leaflet delivery
- Local Politics
- Online petitions
- Maintaining momentum from petition to CGR consultation
- Sharing the load amongst the campaign group
- Use of social media
- Active website
- Street Canvassing – high street, outside Doctor's Surgery, Local Primary School
- Local media – e.g. local radio and local press
- Car stickers, pens etc
- Linking principal authority with good practice elsewhere