

CAPEL-LE-FERNE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council

Maureen Leppard

Website:

www.capel-le-fernepc.kentparishes.gov.uk



39 Victoria Road
Capel-le-Ferne, Folkestone, Kent. CT18 7LT

Tel: 01303 259564 Mobile: 07813704142

Email: maureen.leppard@btinternet.com

28 April 2017

Page 1 of 2

Matthew Scott
The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner
Kent Police HQ
Sutton Road
Maidstone
ME15 9BZ

Copied to:
The Roger De Haan Charitable Trust
Shepway District Council
Folkestone Town Council
Hawkinge Town Council
Damien Collins MP
Charlie Elphicke MP

Dear Mr Scott

Re: Concerns on lack of response to 999 Call and lack of Skate Park facilities in Folkestone

I have been requested to write to you on behalf of Capel-le-Ferne Parish Councillors regarding the following incident:

Date: 10th April 2017. Time: 13:32 hours. Kent Police Refs: No: 10-0635

This incident occurred at our Playing Fields, Lancaster Avenue, Capel-le-Ferne, Folkestone, CT18 7LX, when 15-20 Youths, were reported as causing anti-social behaviour, by fighting and generally instigating problems on our Skate Park.

I was telephoned by a member of the public and made a 999 call as above, on the advice from our Community Warden, Andrew Hawkins, whom I had called for assistance and whose services we share with nearby Hawkinge. I proceeded to the Playing Field and our Community Warden drove from Hawkinge to join me.

On arrival at the field, we found the member of public who reported the incident and also at least 15-20 youths of various ages, 12-14+, from Folkestone – not our village. They were generally causing problems, bullying others, disruption and acting in an anti-social behaviour. Our Community Warden arrived and spoke to them.

The Parish Council's main concern now, is the lack of response from Kent Police to the 999 request to attend, in fact no attendance at all, even after I re-called them to enquire if they would be attending. I was informed they would be there as soon as possible. We left the field after approximately one hour, having calmed the situation. Still no Police presence!

No telephone call was received and no officers attended the scene during that day or contacted me after this, until the following morning, 11th April 2017. This was the first and only contact from Kent Police by our PCSO Gretel May. She had picked up the incident when she arrived on duty and called me. She did come to the field later on this following day.

The history relating to this incident is that the large town skate-park at the sea front in Folkestone was recently closed down. To date, there appears to be no secure plans for a replacement. Therefore, youths are now coming up from all over Folkestone and Hawkinge to our area in Capel-le-Ferne, to use our facilities.

This in itself is now causing extreme concern with our Councillors at Capel-le-Ferne, especially as we approach the summer season holidays. Our own youth of the village are now too frightened to attend our field, when the Folkestone youths are present.

Capel-le-Ferne Parish Councillors are requesting yours, other Councils and MPs etc., being sent a copy of this letter, to give some attention to this particular incident on lack of response, together with the issue relating to the absence and provision of skate park facilities for the youth in Folkestone and Hawkinge, which we would urge to be considered by all, as a matter of urgency.

I look forward to your comments in due course and thank you for your time in reading this.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Leppard', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Maureen Leppard
Clerk
Capel-le-Ferne Parish Council