



Green Times

Ashford's Future Water, Energy & Waste Forum last met in November. Since then, much work has continued to progress the projects within this valuable workstrand of the Ashford's Future Partnership. Recent highlights of activity in the last 6 months include completion of the AIWMS monitoring report demonstrating that the current action plan is on course, see below for details and an update on water quality. Further work is being considered, in partnership with developers, to take forward sustainable energy generation at Chilmington Green. Feasibility is going ahead for an exciting combined energy & water retrofit project for Ashford. The Remade projects continue to promote waste management to construction & commercial sectors. However, improvements to waste infrastructure by KCC have been put on hold in the short term.

The next forum meeting will be at 2pm November 17th, where the forum will hear about progress of Water, Energy & Waste projects including the Chilmington Green sustainable energy business case and combined retrofit project feasibility study.

Ashford's Future Company Limited

Ashford's Future was established as a new company on 20th November and staff transfer from Ashford Borough Council to the new company was completed by April 2009. The Ashford's Future Company and Partnership Boards have approved the Ashford's Future business plan which sets out our priorities for the coming two years. Tom Dobrashian joined the team in March as Program Director, and with the recent appointment of Jack Murdock-North as skills coordinator, Ashford's Future is at full staffing capacity

Included in the program of work to deliver sustainable communities in Ashford are various Water, Energy and Waste projects that partners have been developing.

Ashford Integrated Water Management Strategy Action Plan

The Ashford Water Group has been monitoring progress made by all partners towards the aims of the Ashford Integrated Water Management Strategy ([AIMWS](#)) and action plan. The annual monitoring report was approved by the Ashford Water Group and highlights presented to the Ashford's Future Partnership Board in March. The board was pleased to note that:

- Southern Water have proposed phosphorus treatment at three small upstream waste water treatment works as a means of preventing deterioration in river water quality as Ashford grows. Ofwat's decision is anticipated in November, but the proposals are supported by the Environment Agency.
- Strategic Sewerage upgrade planned by Southern Water, due for completion by 2010 will provide strategic infrastructure necessary to support growth to 2020
- The Upper Stour Strategic Review of flood risk has been completed by the Environment Agency. No strategic options were identified for Ashford, beyond the existing flood storage reservoirs at Aldington and Hothfield, but local schemes are under further investigation

The Ashford Water group brings together key partners and receives updates from:



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Ashford Water Quality Task Group

This group was set up following modelling predictions that rising phosphorus levels in the Stour, due to population growth, could not be addressed by improvements at the Bybrook waste water treatment works, as phosphorus removal there is already at best available technology. Through the use of the Ashford River Health Toolkit (ARHT) model and the work of the group in raising awareness of the issue, Southern Water have completed feasibility studies on phosphorus removal at small upstream waste water treatment works that would provide a means of reducing phosphorus levels in the river despite proposed growth. This has been included in Southern Water's business plan and is waiting for approval from Ofwat. Use of the ARHT model has also identified discharge standards to enable the river to meet Freshwater Fisheries and Water Framework Directives water quality ammonia and dissolved oxygen targets. We will be working to have appropriate investment allowed by Ofwat for the Bybrook discharge to meet the necessary standards.

The group has also been considering other sources of pollution that could affect river quality. The Environment Agency has received no reports of significant pollution incidents in Ashford

The 2007 improvements at Southern Water's Bybrook waste water treatment works have led to significant improvements in both effluent quality and river water quality downstream of Ashford



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Ashford (Bybrook) WWTW and its downstream River Stour monitoring point (Longport Bridge) results 2006-08

| | Ammonia | Biological Oxygen Demand |
|------------|---|---|
| WWTW | | |
| downstream | | |
| | <p>Ammonia; improvements in effluent quality in 2007 strongly reflected in river water quality.</p> | <p>BOD; improvements in effluent quality less strongly reflected in the river probably due to higher background river levels. Note, the Environment Agency ceased widespread routine river BOD sampling at the end of 2007. This has now been reinstated in the River Stour</p> |

As a result of the success of the water quality task group in identifying options to tackle phosphorus levels, the task group will not need to meet again. The Ashford Water Group will continue to monitor progress with long term water quality solutions and receive updates on water quality.

Exploring Feasibility of Development in Canal District

A 2D model is planned to examine provide baseline data that will enable feasibility of development in the Canal District to be tested and enhancements of flood mitigation at Willesborough Dykes. Ashford's Future are leading this partnership project with the Environment Agency. Once completed the model can be used to test different development scenarios. Anticipated date for model completion is February 2010.

Sustainable Energy Generation

Ashford's Future are looking to take forward the results of the [Sustainable Energy Feasibility Study](#) and develop a business case for viable sustainable generation options at Chilmington Green, one of Ashford's urban extensions. Working with landowners and developers a brief for the work is currently being developed. We anticipate procuring this work in May, and will look forward to updating the forum of progress in November.



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Combined Resource Efficiency Retrofit

Applying experience from the successful Savings on Tap water efficiency retrofit project Ashford's Future, Environment Agency & Kent County Council are exploring the feasibility of developing a combined water and energy, resource efficiency retrofit project in Ashford. Initial work will explore how a project could be managed in the long term.

Waste Infrastructure

Kent County Councils proposals for improvements to Ashford's waste management infrastructure have been postponed. The proposed second household waste recycling facility will not go ahead as part of the current capital program and the provisional GAF3 allocation to support this has been withdrawn.

Waste Management & Recycling

Remade's Ashford Construction and Recycle for Ashford projects continue to focus on commercial waste management. The first year saw the construction sector in Ashford provided with expertise and advice for site waste management and reducing resource use. Remade will continue to offer this support and link to construction project within the Ashford's Future Program.

Recycle for Ashford has been promoting recycling opportunities to businesses in Ashford, and created strong links to the Kent Waste Partnership. A website is planned later this year that will promote commercial recycling in the area.

Monitoring Ashford's Sustainability

Ashford's Future is working with Exeter University on an EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council) funded research project. Ashford Integrated Alternatives will focus expertise from 5 institutes into integrating infrastructure provision to maximise sustainability using Ashford as a case study. The 2 year project started in April, 2009.

Ashford's Future Partnership News

For the latest updates on Ashford's Future please see our [Partnership news website](#).

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