

MINUTES OF THE WHITE RIBBON WORKING GROUP

22nd July 2025 at 7:30pm

Cllr J Rowlands	Present	Cllr BJ Martin	Present
Cllr L Coniam	Apology	Cllr T Martin	Present
Cllr R Crayford	Present	Carey Philpott (Sateda)	Present

Also Present:

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

1) Apologies for Absence

Cllr Coniam and PC Gary Morris

2) Minutes and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr Rowlands, seconded by Cllr T Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RECOMMENDED to accept the minutes of the White Ribbon Working Group dated 22nd January 2025.***

3) Identify and Invite Members

The Town Clerk advised that Rob Gibbs had been invited to attend future meetings, and she had liaised with local PCs.

Cllr Rowlands advised he had reached out to the football club, rugby club, and boxing club to encourage ambassadorships and would continue to do so. He also suggested contacting KCC Cllrs Antony Hook, and Rich Lehmann.

Cllr BJ Martin suggested approaching the High Sherif of Kent, Jonathan Neame, and to encourage Shepherd Neame to sign the White Ribbon pledge.

Carey Philpott suggested reaching out to Helen Whately MP. Kevin McKenna MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey was already an active supporter. Additionally, it was discussed approaching QE Grammar School, and Abbey School, and Creed Outdoor Learning.

Cllr Rowlands suggested contacting other youth group representatives and would draft an email that could be sent to potential members and circulate it to members of the Working Group.

4) Survey

The Town Clerk referred to the draft Survey that she had circulated.

Carey Philpott suggested taking a bold approach with the Survey and asking difficult questions.

Cllr Crayford suggested using the stats from the Survey to form the basis of an event to promote White Ribbon. Cllr Crayford agreed to take the lead on organising an event.

Cllr BJ Martin suggested adding 5 additional questions. Cllr Rowlands agreed to update the Survey draft and circulate to members of the Working Group. Using SurveyMonkey and standing in Market Place with an iPad on a market day was suggested. Carey Philpott agreed to share the Survey via Sateda's channels. Sharing with local Sixth Forms and sports clubs was also suggested. It was agreed a paper version should be included in the next newsletter.

5) Training

It was agreed to check what training was available from White Ribbon and circulate to members of the Working Group, full Council, and future invitees. Cllr BJ Martin agreed to check this and circulate to members of the Working Group.

Carey Philpott suggested Safeguarding Level One via Kent and Medway Safeguarding Partnership and agreed to circulate other training available once she had the details.

The Town Clerk advised that staff had had Level Three Safeguarding training and managers had received sexual harassment in the workplace training. Although training couldn't be mandatory for Councillors, it could be encouraged.

6) Develop a Three-Year Action Plan

The statement from the Town Council regarding KCC Reform Councillors marginalising groups including the Trans Community and Asylum Seekers as groups perpetrating violence against women and girls at a meeting on 10th July 2025 was discussed.

Cllr Crayford suggested rephrasing references to fighting violence with something less aggressive and not calling out organisations by name. Cllr T Martin suggested using the term "challenge".

Cllr BJ Martin agreed to email a re-worded statement.

Cllr Rowlands suggested attending a FCNG meeting to present the work the Town Council was doing on White Ribbon.

It was agreed to lobby housing associations regarding provision of housing.

Communicate with local business groups to promote White Ribbon – attend a meeting and deliver a presentation. Cllr Rowlands agreed to look into this.

Carey Philpott agreed to circulate a paper regarding schools' responsibilities around education on healthy relationships.

Cllr Rowlands would liaise with Cllr Perkin and the Mayor of Swale regarding the resurrection of the Swale Youth Forum.

The Town Clerk advised she had asked Stacey Woolf to speak to the Apprentices about signing up as White Ribbon Ambassadors.

It was agreed to refer the matter of staff complaints to the Staffing Committee.

Add White Ribbon posters on Town Council noticeboards.

Cllr Rowlands to look into the Hop Festival signing the White Ribbon pledge and having safe spaces during the event. Carey Philpott agreed to liaise with Cllr Rowlands regarding supplying volunteers for the safe spaces.

7) Items for Future Agendas

None.

8) Dates of Future Meetings

Future meeting dates were agreed as:

Tuesday 21 October 2025	7.30pm
Tuesday 20 January 2026	7.30pm
Tuesday 21 April 2026	7.30pm