# Councillor G D Clarkson CBE BA (Hons)



Civic Centre

Tannery Lane

Ashford

Kent TN23 1PL

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www.ashford.gov.uk

 @ashfordcouncil

 AshfordBoroughCouncil

# Leader of the Council

# Charing Ward

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Our Ref: GDC0727

Date: June 2018

Dear Kent Ambassadors

**Re: Kent Ambassadors Visit to Ashford, Thursday 23rd August 2018**

I have great pleasure in inviting you to Ashford on the 23rd August 2018 to hear about the dynamic plans that Ashford Borough Council and its partners have been taking forward within the Borough over the last few years, and the plans that we have for the future.

As a finalist in this year’s Local Government Chronicle awards in the categories of Council of the Year and Entrepreneurial Council of the Year, we would welcome presenting our innovative approach to becoming a commercial Council, whilst delivering high performing services for our residents. Over the last 5 years, we have developed the challenging programme called the Big 8 projects in Ashford along with our partners, and set up the Ashford Strategic Delivery Board to co-ordinate successful cross-organisational working.

The Kent Ambassadors visit to Ashford will give us a great opportunity to update you on the successes we have achieved against this challenging programme, by presenting our progress and with a key part of the afternoon being a tour of some of the £590 million worth of developments that are currently being delivered in Ashford Town Centre.

We look forward to welcoming you from 12.30pm to 4.30pm on Thursday 23rd August 2018 at Ashford Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL. Parking will be provided on site for those that will need it, and our Civic Centre is only a short walk from Ashford International Station for those travelling by train. A buffet lunch will be provided and both Councillors and Officers from Ashford Borough Council will present on the exciting developments and activities that they are helping to facilitate within the area including:

* the Ashford Designer Outlet expansion
* Delivery of the new M20 Jct10a junction
* 5,750 homes at Chilmington Green
* Ashford College Campus
* Hotel, Cinema and Restaurants at Elwick Place
* Curious Brewery
* Commercial Quarter Office development.

Ambassadors will have the opportunity to go on a short walking tour of some of these Town Centre sites, and hear more from the developers themselves.

Please RSVP to Allison Campbell-Smith the Kent Ambassadors Programme Manager at [Allison.Campbell-Smith@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Allison.Campbell-Smith@kent.gov.uk) and let her know if you will require parking and have any dietary requirements. If you have any questions you can contact her by email or telephone 03000 417040.

I look forward to meeting you all in August for an inspiring day.



Gerry Clarkson, CBE

Leader of the Council