



AGENDA

WESTERN AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday, 1 December 2020

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Virtual Meeting Via Skype*

Membership:

Councillors Mike Baldock, Monique Bonney, Roger Clark, Nicholas Hampshire, Alan Horton, James Hunt, Richard Palmer, Paul Stephen, Sarah Stephen and Corrie Woodford.

Quorum = 3

Pages

INFORMATION FOR PUBLIC

*Members of the press and public can listen to this meeting live. Details of how to join the meeting will be added to the website after 4pm on Monday 30 November 2020.

Privacy Statement

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1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of interest

Councillors should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves or their spouse, civil partner or person with whom they are living with as a spouse or civil partner. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

The Chairman will ask Members if they have any interests to declare in respect of items on this agenda, under the following headings:

(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) under the Localism Act 2011. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared. After declaring a DPI, the Member must leave the meeting and not take part in the discussion or vote. This applies even if there is provision for public speaking.

(b) Disclosable Non Pecuniary (DNPI) under the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council in May 2012. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared. After declaring a DNPI interest, the Member may stay, speak and vote on the matter.

(c) Where it is possible that a fair-minded and informed observer, having considered the facts would conclude that there was a real possibility that the Member might be predetermined or biased the Member should declare their predetermination or bias and then leave the room while that item is considered.

Advice to Members: If any Councillor has any doubt about the existence or nature of any DPI or DNPI which he/she may have in any item on this agenda, he/she should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer, the Head of Legal or from other Solicitors in Legal Services as early as possible, and in advance of the Meeting.

3. Minutes

To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 September 2020 (Minute Nos. 51 – 58) as a correct record.

4. Matters arising

5 - 6

To consider matters arising from the last meeting held on 1 September 2020.

5. Public forum

The purpose of this item is to enable members of the public to direct questions to the Chairman or suggest agenda items for future meetings.

6. Waste Collection and Street Cleansing - future provision

7 - 10

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Tim Valentine, will set out future provisions for waste collection and street cleansing.

7. Local issues

- Road safety
- Youth provision
- Phoenix House and the Bus Shelter project

8. Funding considerations - grant applications

11 - 14

- Upchurch Parish Council
- Newington Parish Council

9. Matters referred to the Committee by Cabinet

10. Matters referred to Cabinet by the Committee

Issued on Monday 23 November 2020.

The reports included in Part I of this agenda can be made available in **alternative formats**. For further information about this service, or to arrange for special facilities to be provided at the meeting, **please contact DEMOCRATIC SERVICES on 01795 417330**. To find out more about the work of the Council, please visit www.swale.gov.uk

Chief Executive, Swale Borough Council,
Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT

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Western Area Committee meeting: 1 September 2020 – Matters arising

Item	Who initiated?	Action
Brown tourism signs	Cabinet Member for Planning	<p>To commence an audit of existing local brown signs in concert with parish councils. Progress to be reported at next meeting on 1 December 2020.</p> <p>Background: Cabinet adopted a Visitor Economy Framework Action Plan on 28 October 2020. This includes a medium term action to undertake a wayfinding audit of signage and identify any gaps. The delivery partners identified for this action are: SBC; town and parish councils; Visit Swale; Kent Highways; and local businesses.</p>
Heritage issues	Cabinet Member for Planning	<p>To get quotes for the 3 proposed Conservation Area (CA) reviews - Tunstall, Bredgar and Rodmersham. To seek comments and quotes on possible new CAs for Iwade and Bobbing. To seek views of the affected parishes to see if they would contribute to them. Progress to be reported at next meeting on 1 December 2020.</p> <p>Background: Cabinet adopted a Heritage Strategy and Action Plan on 18 March 2020. The Action Plan contains a programme of CA reviews. It has been suggested by the Cabinet Member that the Area Committee may want to fund CA reviews for areas which are outside of the planned programme of reviews in the Action Plan.</p>
Conservation issues, including ponds	Cabinet Member for Planning	<p>Policy and Performance Officer to explore with officers and other organisations what information currently exists on the areas ponds. Progress to be reported at next meeting on 1 December 2020.</p> <p>Background: SBC only has details of the ponds which it manages directly. There is a strategic and heritage, conservation and tourism need for information, including ownership, condition and management of the ponds in the area.</p>

Item	Who initiated?	Action
Walking and cycling routes around the villages	Committee member	<p>Background: The Council is currently undertaking a review of its Local Plan. One of the documents that is being developed alongside this review is a Transport Strategy.</p> <p>The Cabinet would welcome any input from the Committee on walking and cycling to feed into the developing Transport Strategy which is being developed through the Local Plan Panel. It is important that there is no duplication of effort by the Committee's and Local Plan processes.</p>
Maintenance and care of woodlands	Committee member	<p>Background: The Council has a grounds maintenance contract for its parks and open spaces. Maintenance of woodland owned or managed by the Council forms part of this contract, but priority is given to maintaining areas which have a heavy footfall, so inspection of woodland is therefore generally done on an ad hoc basis in response to information received.</p>
Addressing littering in parks and open spaces including litter picking and awareness campaigns	Committee member	<p>Background: The Council has a contract in place to maintain Swale's parks and open spaces. It also has details of all the litter picking and friends groups who help maintain our parks and open spaces.</p>
Anti-social behaviour on unregistered land near new developments	Committee member	<p>Background: The Swale Community Safety Unit have taken this up with the member who raised it and are exploring options to prevent further incidences of anti-social behaviour on this site.</p>

Western Area Committee	
Agenda Item 6	
Meeting Date	Tuesday 1 December 2020
Report Title	Waste and Street Cleansing – Future provision
Cabinet Member	Cllr Tim Valentine, Cabinet Member for Environment
Lead Officers	Alister Andrews and Kelly Upson
Head of Service	Martyn Cassell, Head of Commissioning, Environment and Leisure

Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

1. This report is to raise awareness that the current Mid Kent Waste Contract is due to end in October 2023 and therefore work has started on the preparation for the new contract. The Mid Kent partner authorities (Ashford, Maidstone and Swale) and a working group of Swale BC Members are exploring the future opportunities to deliver these services. One action from the working group was to raise awareness at the four Swale Area Committees to enable discussion around what factors are important to residents with regards to future waste collection and street cleansing.

Background

2. In 2013, Swale Borough Council entered into partnership with neighbouring authorities Ashford and Maidstone Borough Councils and Kent County Council to deliver a Mid Kent Waste Contract. This provided consistency of service across the three Boroughs, delivered significant cost savings and improved recycling rates.
3. Biffa Municipal Ltd are currently contracted to deliver waste collection services for the Mid Kent Waste Partnership. In Swale this includes general waste, recycling, garden waste, clinical collections, and bulky collections. Biffa also deliver the Street Cleansing functions for Swale and Ashford (at Maidstone street cleansing is delivered in house).
4. Street Cleansing includes the emptying of public litter bins, litter picking of streets and the collection of fly tipping on public land. It is an outcome-based contract which means that all streets are classified within one of four different 'zones' (zone 1 includes High Streets and zone 4 may include remote rural roads). These are continually monitored. The amount of litter is graded from A to D as per national guidelines. If cleanliness falls below the accepted standard for that zone, the contractors respond within a pre-determined timescale e.g. Grade D litter in zone 1 must be collected within 1 hour.

5. The end of the current waste contract offers the opportunity to consider a wide range of factors including alternatives to how recycling is collected and how the service is to be delivered.
6. The Mid Kent partnership currently has a fully 'co-mingled' collection, where all recycling is collected within a single wheeled bin. Kent County Council, as the disposal authority, prefer the 'twin-stream' collection method, whereby paper and cardboard are collected separately to the other recycling i.e. plastic bottles and tubs, glass, and cans. This system is currently operated in East and South West Kent. Such a system would require an additional container for Swale residents.
7. The government sets recycling targets for local authorities. By 2020 household recycling should be at 50%. The national level of performance sits at around 43%. At the time of writing this report the Swale 2020/21 YTD figure for recycling is approx 44%. The government has determined that recycling should be at 65% by 2035.
8. There are many operational and legislative factors to be considered. Calculating potential costs will be complex but overall we are expecting a price increase to retain a similar level of service to current standards. Any improvements to current standards will likely be at additional cost.
9. The council will be considering further engagement in the New Year in the form of a resident satisfaction survey to seek opinion on the current and future services.

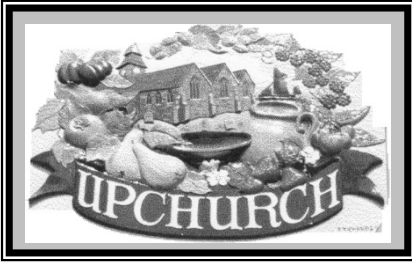
Points for discussion

- a) Co-mingled collection is a straight-forward system and as such it costs less to collect the waste (one bin). However, costs are higher when it comes to sorting the recycling at the material recycling facility (MRF). The cost benefits of residents separating out this waste stream are yet to be finalised. In principle, would residents be willing to accept and store an additional container for paper and card and separate these materials prior to collection, or is this a potential barrier to recycling?
- b) Do Members/residents see air quality improvements such as the use of electric power on refuse freighters as money well spent? How does cleaner air and environmental improvements rate on the list of resident's priorities regarding the waste and street cleansing contract. Where does this topic rate in relation to other Swale priorities?
- c) By 2023, every house in England must be able to recycle food waste. The vast majority of houses in Swale already have this option. Campaigns have been undertaken to reduce the amount of food waste created and to increase the number of households in the Borough that separate food waste. What are the barriers to recycling food waste and what could the council do to encourage residents to recycle more food waste?
- d) Contamination in wheelie bins affects recycling figures and costs much more to dispose of. Food waste (including unwashed cans and glasses); garden waste;

textiles; black plastic bags and used nappies are all items that regularly get placed in the recycling incorrectly. Swale BC undertakes regular campaigns to promote correct recycling. What further measures can Swale BC undertake to reduce these contamination rates?

- e) With regards to the street cleansing contract, do Members/residents feel that the current levels of street cleansing are acceptable?

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UPCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council:

Mrs Wendy Licence

14 Trapfield Close, Bearsted, Maidstone ME14 4HT

Tel: 01622 739324

e-mail: clerkupc@outlook.com

23 October 2020

Dear members of the Western Area Committee

Upchurch Parish Council would like to apply for a grant from the Swale Area Committee towards replacing the fence around Upchurch Recreation Ground. The Council has received three quotations with a quote of £9,313 being the preferred option.

The Recreation Ground is well-used by residents and community groups as well as a local football team which occasionally uses the pitch. The fencing around the Recreation Ground has deteriorated and is in urgent need of replacing. A good quality fence will ensure that all users, especially those who partake in activities which include the use of balls, are kept safe and that balls will not routinely go into the road causing a hazard for motorists.

The percentage of residents in Upchurch rating their health as 'very good' is less than the national average, the percentage of residents in Upchurch rating their health as 'very bad' is more than the national average, suggesting that the health of the residents of Upchurch is generally worse than in the average person in England.

The Parish Council is currently embarking on a project to install adult gym equipment in the Recreation Ground and the fence will ensure the safety of users. It is hoped that this will encourage greater usage of the playing field and its facilities as well benefitting the physical and mental well-being of residents.

This project will provide a facility which will give residents access to a safe and pleasant area. It will also meet identified local needs, making a leisure and recreation facility readily available to the whole community and improving local amenities. The project will also contribute to healthier and more active people in the Parish.

The Council has already received a grant of £2,000 from County Councillor Mike Whiting Members' Grant Fund towards the project; the Parish Council has £2,658 from its own funds and would like to apply for a grant of a minimum of £4,655 please, however, any more would be greatly appreciated. The Parish Council will publicise the grant through the village magazine which is distributed to every house in the parish.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Licence

Wendy Licence (Mrs)
Clerk to Upchurch Parish Council

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14 Trapfield Close
Bearsted
Maidstone
ME14 4HT
29 October 2020

Dear Members of the Western Area Committee

Newington Parish Council would like to apply for a grant from the Swale Area Committee towards improvements to the car park and track at the Recreation Ground.

The track to the car park needs to be improved to allow better access to the car park which also needs to be resurfaced to enable greater use of the local amenities. The Council has received three quotations with a quote of £11,900 being the preferred option.

Adjacent to the car park is the community woodland which is enjoyed by residents. The allotments are also next to the car park and some of the allotment holders have limited mobility and need to drive there. The Recreation Ground is well used by those living in the parish as well as others from Hartlip, Lower Halstow and the surrounding areas. This project will be beneficial to all age groups.

In the last three years the Parish Council has invested heavily in the Recreation Ground. It has completely refurbished the Pavilion to enable use by a local junior football team and community groups and it also provides affordable private hire for small parties. The Council has installed five-a-side goal posts on the playing field and it has also added a zip wire next to the play area; this has generated significant interest in and usage of the Recreation Ground. The Council is currently embarking on a project to refurbish and extend the play area. The proposed improvements to the track and car park will make the Recreation Ground and play area more accessible. The improvements so far have seen an increase in visitors to the area enjoying the amenities available.

In the 2011 census, the percentage of residents in Newington rating their health as 'very good' is less than the national average. Also, the percentage of residents in Newington rating their health as 'very bad' is more than the national average, suggesting that the health of the residents of Newington is generally worse than in the average person in England.

Improving the car park and access will meet identified local needs, making leisure and recreation facilities readily available to the whole community and improving local amenities. Greater use of the facilities will benefit residents' physical and mental well-

being. It will contribute towards the objectives of Swale Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2023:

Priority 3: Tackling deprivation and creating equal opportunities for everyone:

Promote wellbeing and enjoyment of life by signposting and encouraging a wide range of sporting, cultural, leisure and development activities appropriate and accessible to each age group.

Newington Parish Council is fully committed to these amenities and the improvements to the car park and track will enable the facilities to be more accessible to residents of the parish and surrounding areas. This will encourage people to be more active and it will improve their general well-being and enjoyment of life by participating in a wide range of activities. The Parish Council would like to request a grant of £4,000 towards this project.

Kind regards

Wendy Licence

Wendy Licence (Mrs)
Clerk to Newington Parish Council