

AGENDA

SITTINGBOURNE AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday, 9 March 2021
Time: 7.00 pm
Venue: Virtual Meeting Via Skype*

Membership:

Councillors Derek Carnell (Vice-Chairman), Simon Clark, Steve Davey (Chairman), Mike Dendor, Tim Gibson, James Hall, Ann Hampshire, Ken Rowles, Roger Truelove, Ghlin Whelan and Tony Winckless.

Quorum = 3

Pages

Information for the 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 8 March 2021.

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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 8 December 2020 (Minute Nos. 316 – 326) as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from last Meeting

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To consider matters arising from the last meeting held on 8 December 2020.

5. Public Forum

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

6. Consideration of funding applications

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7. Local Issues

8. Nomination for Area Committee Review Working Group

Nominations for a representative to sit on the Area Committee Review Working Group.

9. Matters referred to Committee by Cabinet

10. Matters referred to Cabinet by Committee

Issued on Friday, 26 February 2021

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 Area Committee, please visit www.swale.gov.uk

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

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Sittingbourne Area Committee meeting: 9 March 2021 – Matters arising

Item	Who initiated?	Background	Progress on actions
Brown tourism signs	Cabinet Member for Planning	To commence an audit of existing local brown signs - 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.	The Chair would like to discuss the audit with Committee Members further as some signs may be both area specific as well as Borough wide.
Conservation issues, including ponds	Cabinet Member for Planning	Swale BC 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.	The Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group have confirmed they are happy to work with SBC on this in the following ways: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They can provide species data for all ponds in Swale, not just the ponds in public ownership. This will require Swale to sign a data sharing agreement 2. They would be happy to attend meetings and provide advice and guidance where possible. 3. They can provide a database of known ponds, however they will need to get agreement for a third party for this.

			<p>Kent Fire and Rescue have also indicated that they hold data on all known water sources they are able to use for firefighting operations, including ponds and are happy to share this data with SBC.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Environment has advised that this should be dealt with as a borough-wide issue and referred to the appropriate officer to deal with in due course.</p>
Primary, secondary and further education	Committee member	Swale BC have been in discussions with Kent County Council regarding secondary school provision in Swale. It is suggested that the Committee hold off any consideration of this issue until matters become clearer in the new year.	Cllr Bonney will be in attendance to provide a verbal update on this.
Exploration of issues facing ward members in Sittingbourne area	Committee chairman	Area Committee Chairman to explore issues arising in wards across the Sittingbourne area.	Cllr Davey received a request from Kemsley Ward and he subsequently undertook a ward walk. Once it becomes possible, he is happy to do further ward walks should any Ward Councillors request one.
Sittingbourne town centre regeneration scheme	Member of public	Implementation of this scheme has been regularly reviewed by the Council's Scrutiny Committee for many years. It was proposed that the Committee receive the same written report that the Scrutiny Committee receive.	<p>Cllr Davey to provide a verbal update.</p> <p>The STC update report that was considered at the Scrutiny Committee Meeting on 25 February is in the agenda pack.</p>



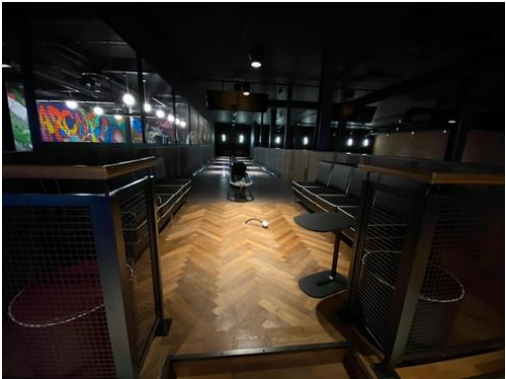
Entrance to skate park and Dolphin Barge Museum	Committee member	The skate park has now been handed over to Brogdale CIC to operate.	There is still an ongoing requirement for improvements to the entrance, including provision of an information board.
Tennis courts at Milton Recreation Ground	Committee member	The Head of Commissioning, Environment and Leisure said that the courts were run by Milton Fitness Club and the Council were trying to find how the supply to the floodlights at the tennis courts could be isolated so that they could be operated independently.	Martyn Cassell will be in attendance to provide a verbal update.

Items to bring back to a future Area Committee Meeting:

Item	Who initiated?	Action	Comments on progress
Heritage issues	Cabinet Member for Planning	Background: Cabinet adopted a Heritage Strategy and Action Plan on 18 March 2020. The Action Plan contains a programme of Conservation Area 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.	As there have been no suggestions regarding additional conservation area reviews in the Sittingbourne area, the Chair proposes postponing this until the June meeting when more information will be available.

Bomb shelter at Trots Hall Gardens	Committee member	After discussion with officers, it has been decided not pursue this any further given competing priorities.	Cllr Simon Clark is in the process of making enquires and will report back at the June Area Committee Meeting.
Signage around the town centre	Committee chairman	The Chairman had circulated a schedule of signage around the town centre and invited members to comment on whether they thought any needed changing.	There has been no feedback on this from members. The Chair proposes waiting until the signage in town centre has been finalised and then bring it back to a future meeting to see if there are any gaps.
Improvements to lighting in Milton Regis area	Committee Chairman	It was noted that the clock had been reinstated in Milton Regis and the Chairman would be exploring how lighting in the area could be improved.	The Chair will continue to explore this and will report back at a future meeting.

**Sittingbourne Town Centre Regeneration
Update to Scrutiny Committee 25th February 2021**

	Progress Update
SBC	
Bourne Place Unit Fit Outs (Cinema and Bowling Alley)	<p>The Light completed the fit out of both the cinema and the bowling alley just before Christmas 2020 with building control sign off and practical completion being reached on 18th December.</p>   

Unit Fit Outs (Unit 3b – Nando’s)	Nando’s are awaiting completion of the base build changes being carried out by PDR prior to taking possession of their unit (3b). Currently Nando’s are in the process of submitting a planning application for slight changes to the front of their unit including the introduction of a hatch for takeaways and deliveries. The planning team have reviewed Nando’s outline drawing and confirmed that this can be done as a non-material amendment.
Prospective Tenants	Savills continue to work to fill the vacant units in a challenging market caused by COVID-19. There is current interest in unit 1 which is being explored.
Travelodge	Travelodge has continued to trade throughout the lockdown periods.
Communications	SBC and Spirit’s communications team will work towards a communications strategy to coincide with the opening of the cinema, bowling alley and Nando’s when these dates of known.
Princes Street Retail Park	The Food Warehouse, Home Bargains and Costa Coffee all continue to trade well on the retail development. Lease payments are being paid on time and currently Cushman & Wakefield maintain a healthy balance sheet for the site.
Managing Agent	Cushman & Wakefield continue to assist with the Managing Agent duties for the Retail Park, MSCP and Bourne Place. Cushman & Wakefield are also providing Building Surveyor expertise to monitor the fit outs.
Spring Street car park	The edge protection/railing installation around Spring Street car park was completed by Lemar contractors on 29 th January 2021.
Footpath between MSCP & High Street	The 1 st certificate was issued by KCC on 1 st December 2020 with a requirement that the two highway lighting columns still needed to be inspected and approved by KCC’s street lighting team. KCC’s Street lighting team inspected the 2no. highway columns on 20 th January 2021 and confirmed their approval of the installations.

	<p>The final adoption certificate will be issued subject to an end of maintenance inspection in November 2021.</p>
Meetings	<p>High Level meetings continue to be held with Spirit on a monthly basis by conference call with the previous meeting being held on 11th February.</p> <p>Monthly meetings continue to be held with Cushman & Wakefield on a monthly basis by conference call with the previous meeting also being held on 11th February.</p>
SPIRIT OF SITTINGBOURNE	
Highway Works	<p>Following practical completion of the highway areas on 9th October 2020 Erith contractors completed the main snagging item which was the resurfacing and the installation of an additional lighting column on the footpath that runs from the new Network rail car park behind Kwikfit on 29th January.</p>
Bourne Place	<p>The vinyls for the glazing of the unlet units was installed by Spirit between the Christmas and New Year period.</p> <p>Spirit/Erith are still to provide an update regarding the date for the Vodafone fibre optic cable relocation in the North West corner of Bourne Place.</p> <p>Works commenced on 15th February to the base build for unit 3b ahead of Nando's taking possession. The original base build main contractor, PDR and their selected subcontractors are carrying out the agreed works to ensure all warranties are maintained. The works are estimated to take approximately four weeks to complete.</p>
Wayfinding	<p>Spirit's Wayfinding consultant is still to provide an illustration of the mapping, history stories and directions arrows/labels for each totem panel for approval. This is currently being chased by Spirit and SBC.</p>
Princes Street Retail Park	<p>Mitchells carried out the remedial sample area for the concrete slab in The Food Warehouse on 24th January. This was inspected by the STC Scheme Manager on 27th January and concerns were raised directly with Spirit's Director on the appearance of the remedial repair. Spirit's Director is currently liaising with Mitchells Contracts Manager to determine to appropriate action including re-</p>

	<p>doing the sample areas. This outstanding work still remains unresolved and the repairs to the slab could have an impact on the tenant.</p>
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Sittingbourne Area Committee Funding Scheme

Summary of applications received for the March 2021 meeting

Area Committee's allocation for 2020-21 - £44,000.00

Allocations previously agreed by Area Committee - None

Available to allocate at the March 2021 meeting - £44,000.00

(Applications arranged in the order they were received)

Reference:	SITT001
Organisation:	Swale Media Arts Centre
Applicant Name:	Steve Marians – Co-Director
Status of organisation:	Currently in the process of applying to become a Community Interest Company limited by guarantee
Details of project/activity:	Our aim to establish the Swale Media Arts Centre (SMAC) as a focal point for media and arts engagement in Swale, with our base being located at No.34 High Street, Sittingbourne. It is our plan to work with local businesses and community groups, supporting existing good work in Swale, as well as providing opportunities for local artists and media professionals to develop their skills with support from SMAC and collaboration with other partners. We also want to engage with aspiring media and arts students, and provide opportunities for them to work with our facilities, professionals and partners. <i>(See supporting paper for additional information).</i>
Supporting papers attached?	Yes
Total project expenditure:	Painting & Scaffolding - £3,390.00 Window & Signage - £1,074.59 Internal Decoration (estimate) - £2,884.00 Health & Safety £319.98 VAT - £1,192.92 Total project expenditure £8,861.49
Total project income (addition sources of income including cash/in kind):	Project Management - £3,000.00 Touchbase Media - £2,500.00 ActionPlus media - £2,000.00 Charitable Donations - £500.00 Cash Donation - £1,861.49 Total project income - £9,861.49
Funding request:	£7,000.00

Reference:	SITT002
Organisation:	Brogdale CIC
Applicant Name:	Rebecca O'Neill – Managing Director
Status of organisation:	Social Enterprise
Details of project/activity:	<p>The Mill Skatepark is being used (COVID permitting) by families and young people. It is our long-term intention to develop the adjacent part of the land to have a community centre to support all ages and encourage positive use of the site.</p> <p>In the interim period whilst planning is being sought, we are keen to enhance the current offer and to provide clear signage as to use for the site.</p> <p>We would thus like to apply for grant funding to provide a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metal signage stands to convey information about Health and Safety, the history of the project and to display up and coming events • Picnic benches x 2. 1 to be closer to the creek side and an additional one to prevent families from sitting on the ramps • 1 further refuse bin to be closer to the creek.
Supporting papers attached?	No
Total project expenditure:	Signage – 1 metal display holder - £440.30 2 anti-vandal picnic style benches - £1,559.98 1 additional refuse bin to have Creekside - £329.98 Total - £2,330.26
Total project income (addition sources of income including cash/in kind):	2 staff members to install equipment over 2 days - £320.00 Cement mixer, cement and tools to fix in place - £40.00 Total - £360.00
Funding request:	Happy for Committee to decide figure

Reference:	SITT003
Organisation:	Milton Creek Country Park Trust
Applicant Name:	Lynda Marshall – Trustee - Fundraising
Status of organisation:	Registered Charity
Details of project/activity:	<p>The MCCP Trust would like to apply for a grant from the Sittingbourne Area Committee to provide additional furniture in the Park as it is becoming an increasingly popular destination for the local community particularly during the Covid pandemic, allowing people to benefit from being closer to nature without having to travel too far. A number of areas have been identified as not having a litter bin and picnic tables in particular have been requested by Park users.</p> <p>We would also like to provide training for the growing band of volunteers, who provide an essential workforce required to carry out the recently completed management plan, in order to maintain the environment for the benefit of both the public and wildlife.</p> <p>Each year since 2013 we have added a piece of artwork to the Art Trail but the initial piece, the Shril Carder Bee Mural in the children's play area is now looking rather sad and has suffered from some fire damage so we would like to get this repainted this spring.</p> <p>The furniture will be installed by the volunteers, who will also do the preparatory work prior to the repainting of the Bee Mural by a local artist.</p> <p>Please see attached document for additional details.</p>
Supporting papers attached?	Yes
Total project expenditure:	3 x Picnic tables with disabled provision - £2,178.00 3 x benches - £1,317.00 3 x bins - £1,020.00 Delivery - £138.00 3 x training courses for 4 volunteers (brushcutter, cross cut and felling) - £3,110.00 Repainting Bee Mural - £550.00 Total – 8313.00
Total project income (addition sources of income including cash/in kind):	Furniture will be installed by the volunteers We are not VAT registered, goods and services are ordered by Swale BC and reimbursed by the Trust.
Funding request:	£8,313.00

Reference:	SITT004
Organisation:	Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway
Applicant Name:	Elizabeth Fuller – Chairman of the Trustees
Status of organisation:	Company Ltd by Guarantee Registered Charity
Details of project/activity:	<p>he SKLR is an important heritage asset to Sittingbourne and Milton Regis being one of the last remnants of the transport network that linked the Sittingbourne Papermill with the wharf on Milton Creek and also Kemsley Mill and the docks at Ridham. It has been run totally by volunteers for over 50years with no paid employees.</p> <p>Last October the SKLR were awarded a grant in the Cultural Recovery for Heritage Scheme. This has allowed us to install Water and Electricity to our Sittingbourne Viaduct Station and early next month toilet facilities and a storage container will be added to the station. A new step free access has been created which will allow wheelchairs and push chairs to avoid the present flight of steps to the station. CCTV is also being fitted which will connected to the Swale Borough Council System.</p> <p>The funding however does not cover the additional signage that will be required to assist vistors to our heritage steam railway to find their way from the SKLR carpark to our station. We are applying a grant to pay for the new signage and the materials for its installation.</p>
Supporting papers attached?	No
Total project expenditure:	SEC Signworks – signs - £605.82 Parker Steel – Steel tube and Aluminium channel - £221.90 Screw Fix – bolts, nuts and washers - £43.02 VAT - £174.15 Total - £1,044.89
Total project income (addition sources of income including cash/in kind):	SKLR is registered for VAT Installation of all signs will be undertaken by SKLR volunteers.
Funding request:	£870.74

Reference:	SITT005
Organisation:	Kemsley Community Centre Trust
Applicant Name:	David Gawler - Trustee
Status of organisation:	Incorporated Registered Charity
Details of project/activity:	<p>Replacement of two sets of fire exit doors and one entrance door due to very poor condition compromising health and safety, security, and insulation of the Centre.</p> <p>It will contribute towards the objectives of Swale Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2023: Priority 3: 3.5 "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.</p>
Supporting papers attached?	Yes
Total project expenditure:	<p>Front entrance doors incorporating fire exit provision - £4,495.30</p> <p>Fire exit doors including frame - £4,301.00</p> <p>VAT - £1,759.26</p> <p>Total – £10,555.56 (subject to survey and updated quotes)</p>
Total project income (addition sources of income including cash/in kind):	<p>Not registered for VAT.</p> <p>The project is not receiving and other sources of income for these replacements.</p>
Funding request:	£10,555.56

Reference:	SITT006
Organisation:	Flowers in Bloom
Applicant Name:	Cllr James Hall Proposer – Member bid Lead Officer Mr Jay Jenkins
Status of organisation:	Community Project
Details of project/activity:	<p>This is a community project. Cllr Hall has been working with Swale Borough Council and “Flowers in Bloom” to fit flower beds in various open spaces in Murston Ward (Council owed land) which will improve the area for both the community and biodiversity.</p> <p>Cllr Hall is also working with Kent County Council to get a few timber bollards in the open space areas.</p>
Supporting papers attached?	No
Total project expenditure:	Estimate £4,000.00
Total project income (addition sources of income including cash/in kind):	Cllr Hall will allocate what remains of his Members Grant to assist.
Funding request:	£4,000.00 estimate

Reference:	SITT007
Organisation:	Dolphin Sailing Barge Museum Trust
Applicant Name:	Clive Reader – Chairman of Trustees
Status of organisation:	Registered Charity
Details of project/activity:	<p>The Dolphin Sailing Barge Museum Trust is working with Swale Council Regeneration, Heritage Lottery Fund, Raybel Charters C.I.C. Ltd, volunteers, local history groups, schools and other community projects to develop a new venue in central Swale celebrating the past glories of Milton Creek, paper and brick manufacturing and social history of barges and bargefolk.</p> <p>The museum is in development and pending an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for permanent Sailing Barge Exhibition whilst retaining a flexible venue of interest to all Swale Residents.</p> <p>The building was handed over from the builders in July 2019 and an extensive activity plan has been thwarted by Covid 19. There are still some outstanding pieces of infrastructure needed to ensure a good customer experience. Most urgently the Wharfside and workshop are currently served with electrical power via surface extension leads which is dangerous. This bid is to provide a proper installation of electrical power to the wharf and workshop area via underground cabling and secured metal boxes.</p>
Supporting papers attached?	No
Total project expenditure:	£4,537.20
Total project income (addition sources of income including cash/in kind):	<p>Dolphin SB Museum – Ongoing commitment to new museum build - £320k</p> <p>The Lloyd Wharf has been vested to the museum by Swale Council on a 125-year lease.</p> <p>The building was constructed with insurance payments from the old museum's loss by fire. The museum has partnered with Raybel Charters Ltd who have brought a £670k Heritage Lottery Fund project to the Borough. The museum enjoys mooring fees from 2 historic vessels at Lloyd Wharf and the old museum site, and a modern vessel undergoing construction.</p>
Funding request:	£4,537.20

Compiled by Janet Dart, Interim Area Committees Coordinator

Date: 25 February 2021

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Swale Media Arts Centre Funding Application continued:

In addition to working with professionals and businesses, we are passionate about creating activities and events to engage all parts of the local community, including children and young people, mothers and babies, single parents and the elderly. We also want to support minority communities such as those from low income families, hearing and vision impaired, BAME and LGBTQ+.

SMAC will be set up as a Community Interest Company to run as a not-for-profit organisation.

We want to cater for **all** members of society in Swale who want to feel engaged and included in the local community via artistic creation and expression.

In bringing this type of community business to 34 High Street in Sittingbourne, we would be supporting Swale Borough Council's priority to progress the redevelopment of Sittingbourne's town centre. 34 High Street is a beautiful, historic building in the heart of Sittingbourne, which has a history of hosting arts organisations. 34 High Street will act as a hub for media and arts in Swale, providing opportunities for collaborative and creative workspaces for local professionals and the wider community.

34 High Street will also provide a space for exhibition. SMAC will celebrate the work of creatives across many art forms, including those working now and those who have created iconic work in the past with a connection to Swale.

The building will also feature a Media Library, containing material and exhibition pieces spanning over 100 years of the television and film industry. It will also be the Kent base for the British Entertainment History Project, initially set up by the Broadcasting Entertainment Communications and Theatre Union (BECTU - the union for creative ambition) and supported by the British Film Institute (BFI).

Summary of Aims:

SMAC aims to:

- be the local hub for media and arts professionals, with opportunities for them to work in a physical, as well as opportunities for collaborations and project working.

- provide a space to display media exhibitions, including historic film equipment, local creatives' work, celebrating the individuals in media and arts with a Swale connection.
- work with the local community to provide inclusive workshops and activities for groups including children and young people, mothers and babies, the elderly, LGBTQ+ and BAME communities.
- provide media equipment such as cameras, lighting, green screen, sound recording facilities, studio space and editing systems for creative exploration, learning and development.

However, we cannot do any of this without the support from volunteers, partners, sponsors and outside funding. Any contributions or support will be gratefully received.

Dear members of the Sittingbourne Area Committee

The Milton Creek Country Park Trust would like to apply for a grant from the Sittingbourne Area Committee towards improving facilities at the Country Park.

During the last year it has become evident how important the Park has become to people locally as somewhere to get out into the fresh air, exercise and get the benefits of being close to nature. As many people have no longer been commuting due to the Covid pandemic the Park has become increasingly popular, allowing people who had previously never visited to benefit from being closer to nature without having to travel too far. It would be a real benefit to the Park users, as we come out of lockdown, to have some more furniture of the same quality and design that has already been installed. Picnic tables in particular have been requested by Park users, a number of areas have been identified as not having a litter bin and there is scope to add a number of additional benches. The cost of 3 disabled access picnic tables, 3 benches and 3 litter bins with delivery is £4653.

We would also like to provide training for the growing band of volunteers. They provide the essential workforce that is required to carry out the recently completed management plan, in order to maintain the environment for the benefit of both the public and the wildlife, some of which is rare and endangered. There are 3 courses covering brush cutter training, chainsaw cross cutting and felling up to 200mm. For 4 volunteers on each course the total cost would be £3110.

Each year since 2013 we have added a piece of artwork to the Art Trail but the initial piece, the Shril Carder Bee Mural in the children's play area is now looking rather sad and has suffered from some fire damage so we would like to get this repainted this spring. I am still waiting for a quote from the local artist who did the mural on the storage container but I estimate that this will cost £600.

The Park has been entered into the South & South East In Bloom competition and has won gold for the last 7 years. We would like very much to do so again this year and the installation of additional facilities and the strong volunteer commitment would enhance our entry. We are also working towards entering it for a Green Flag.

This project will contribute towards the objectives of Swale Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2023:

Priority 2: Investing in our environment and responding positively to global challenges:

2.4 Recognise and support our local heritage to give people pride in the place they live and boost the local tourism industry.

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

3.5 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. Our plan is to encourage community involvement, increase their pride in the environment and get actively involved in a wide range of activities to increase enjoyment and wellbeing.

Yours sincerely



Lynda Marshall

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Post Correspondence to:
Trustee
Kemsley Community Centre
c/o 8 Celt Close, Kemsley, Sittingbourne
ME10 2NJ



Kemsley Community Centre
Registered Charity Number 1152049



The Square, Ridham Avenue
Kemsley Sittingbourne ME10 2SL

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Dear Members of the Sittingbourne Area Committee

Summary

Kemsley Community Centre Trust (KCCT) would like to apply for a grant from the SBC Sittingbourne Area Committee towards urgent replacement of fire exit and entrance doors on the western side of Kemsley Community Centre. The estimated cost is £10,556 (subject to survey and updated quotes) for one set of double fire exit doors in main hall including frame; one set of double fire exit doors in main entrance including frame; and main entrance door including frame.

Background

Kemsley Community Centre meets identified local needs, providing a place for adults and children to meet and socialise in safety. In providing a safe venue, it helps to keep children off the streets whilst giving parents peace of mind. It gives charities and community groups a venue for providing services to the whole community including benefitting residents' physical and mental well-being.

Reason for Replacement

Having been fitted in the 1960s, these wooden doors have got worse and worse over the years through wood swelling, hinges becoming impossible to reset, gapping, doors not fitting into the surrounding frame, and wood starting to rot. Their condition is now at a point where it is causing grave concern on:

- Health & Safety/Fire Regulations – fire doors are getting to the point of being difficult to open;
- security – gapping & bad fit which sets off false intruder alarms and allows intruders to be able to force the doors;
- insulation – loss of heat leading to increased heating costs.

Replacement of the doors will contribute towards the objectives of Swale Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2023: Priority 3:

3.5 "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.

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."

David Gawler
Trustee on behalf of Trustee Board
Kemsley Community Centre

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