



AGENDA

EASTERN AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday, 17 December 2020

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Remote meeting via Skype*

Membership:

Councillors Lloyd Bowen, Alastair Gould, Carole Jackson, Denise Knights (Chairman), Benjamin Martin, Ben J Martin, Hannah Perkin, Julian Saunders (Vice-Chairman), David Simmons, Eddie Thomas, Tim Valentine and Mike Whiting

Quorum = 4

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 Wednesday 16 December 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 29 September 2020 (Minute Nos. 132 – 139) as a correct record

4. Matters arising 5 - 8

To consider matters arising from the last meeting held on 29 September 2020. Amended schedule added 15 December 2020.

5. Public forum

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

- Rev. Dan Corcoran – Joining up youth engagement.

6. Waste Collection and Street Cleansing - future provision 9 - 12

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

7. Health and wellbeing

The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Angela Harrison, has been invited to attend to update the meeting on health and wellbeing issues in the Eastern area of Swale.

8. Improving parish to town connections - next steps

9. Local issues

Members are asked to consider:

- a report by the Chair and Vice-Chair on funding and work planning;
- a request by ward members for Teynham and Lynsted and East Downs for funding for lollipop crossing patrol people outside our village schools, Pelican crossings, 20mph zones in Teynham, Lynsted and Oare, and rural buses; and
- a request by the ward member for East Downs for funding for Doddington Allotment Association: document added 16 December 2020.

11. Matters referred to Committee by Cabinet

12. Matters referred to Cabinet by the Committee

Issued on Wednesday, 9 December 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 Cabinet, please visit www.swale.gov.uk

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

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Eastern Area Committee meeting: 29 September 2020 – Matters arising

Item	Who initiated?	Action
Brown tourism signs	Cabinet Member for Planning	To commence an audit of existing local brown signs in concert with parish councils. Progress to be reported at next meeting on 17 December 2020. 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.
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 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. No such proposals were forthcoming at the Committee meeting held on 29 September 2020.
Conservation issues, including ponds	Cabinet Member for Planning	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 17 December 2020. 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.
Traffic on A251	Member of public	Covered by resolution on 'improving parish to town connections'.
Cycling routes and bus services between Faversham, villages and rural areas	Member of public	Covered by resolution on 'improving parish to town connections'.

Item	Who initiated?	Action
Health and wellbeing	Committee chair	Deferred to next meeting on 17 December 2020
Improving parish to town connections	Committee member	<p>Resolved:</p> <p><i>(1) That local knowledge of the most suitable walking and cycling routes between parishes and towns be shared across the Eastern area, both for the benefit of residents and visitors.</i></p> <p>The Cabinet would welcome any input from the Committee on walking and cycling routes to feed into the developing Transport Strategy which is being developed through the Local Plan Panel and which is considering the development of a cycling network. Officers in the Economic Development Team had also started to revise the Borough's Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (CWIP) although this work has been delayed because of officers being redeployed onto COVID related work. The Borough is also a partner in an AONB led EU funded project Creek to Downs which aims to develop leisure cycling and walking routes linking Swale's coastline with the Kent Downs</p> <p>Members of the committee could consider coming forward with a proposal for an Area Committee funded project to consult with parish councils and the local community over suitable walking and cycling routes and the physical improvements needed to increase their usage. This feedback could then feed into Swale's Transport Strategy and CWIP and the Creek to Downs Project.</p> <p><i>(2) That an investigation/report be made into reviewing existing community transport models to see what might be suitable for the Eastern area.</i></p> <p>.</p> <p>The developing Transport Strategy will also consider public and community transport. Members of the committee could consider</p>

Item	Who initiated?	Action
		coming forward with a proposal for an Area Committee funded project to look at models for community transport which could be potentially developed in the Eastern Area.

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Eastern Area Committee	
Agenda Item 6	
Meeting Date	Thursday 17 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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Eastern Area Committee	
Agenda Item 10	
Meeting Date	Thursday 17 December 2020
Report Title	Funding and work planning
Lead Members	Cllrs Denise Knights and Julian Saunders

Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

1. That the Committee consider how to allocate funding for the 2020/21 financial year, how to approach this process in future years, and develop a plan of work for the 2021/22 financial year.

Background

Funding

2. The twelve councillors who make up the Eastern Area Committee have funding of £48,000 annually to award to projects or activities in their area. This is calculated on the basis of £4k for each councillor. The funding is not like members grants, any portion of the funding can only be allocated with the agreement of the committee on a majority vote. The funding has to be allocated, but not spent by the end of the financial year.
3. The initial view of the Chair and Vice-Chair is that in future years it will be desirable to try and allocate all or a large part of the funding to projects that benefit the whole of the area. But that for this financial year a more contingent approach might be more appropriate because of time constraints.
4. We are therefore proposing that in the lead up to meeting on 23 March 2021, members of the committee liaise with their colleagues and come forward with projects for which they will allocate their funding. The members for Teynham and Lynsted and East Downs wards have already made some suggestions and we think it likely that other groups of committee members will be able to identify projects that they would like to see funded.
5. To avoid the risk of the committee rejecting project ideas at their March meeting and therefore not spending its funding allocation, we would propose that project proposals are submitted well in advance using a standard form and then reviewed by the Chair, the Vice-Chair and officers in order to identify whether it is likely to be supported by a majority of other members of the committee. If it feels there is a risk that it won't be, the submitters will be encouraged to revise their proposal and reminded that if it doesn't gain the support of other members they are likely to find the funding allocated to other projects for this year, as decided by a majority of the

committee. We would want to encourage spending on one off projects, rather than ideas that will require ongoing revenue spending.

Work planning

6. The Chair and Vice Chair are keen to ensure that the committee keeps a good focus on issues that are of strategic importance to the eastern area, most appropriately dealt with at an area level and supportive of the corporate objectives of the administration rather than getting diverted onto issues which are better dealt with by individual members, parish councils or the administration as a whole or spending all its time responding to consultative items from the Cabinet.
7. In order to facilitate this we would propose to develop a plan of work for 2021-22 – a set of topics we will address through the committee agenda during the year. Where a topic has been agreed into the work plan we would ask the original proposer to prepare a short paper for the meeting identifying why the issue needs to be discussed and what outcomes they would expect to come out of the discussion. We will also need to be responsive to items that come forward in the public forum and from parish councils.
8. Topics that have been proposed by members so far are:
 - better coordination of youth activities and support;
 - relationships with Network Rail;
 - benefits to be gained from the Cleeve Hill Solar Farm development; and
 - review of boundaries of Faversham Town Council area to reflect growth of town.
9. If members or parish councils identify other items that need to come forward during the year for discussion it is proposed that they mail the chair, including the vice chair and the relevant officer in the correspondence. Prior to the committee meeting the chair, the vice chair and the officers servicing the meeting will finalise agenda items at an agenda setting meeting.

Points for consideration

10. Are the Committee:
 - a. happy with the suggested process for allocating funding proposed for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years?
 - b. content with the proposal to develop a work plan for 2021/22? If so, what provisional list of items should be considered for inclusion at the meeting scheduled for 23 March 2021 and what process should be agreed for items to go on the agenda?

Request by Doddington Allotment Association for Eastern Area Committee funding

Text of two e-mails to Councillor David Simmons from the Doddington Allotment Association:

From: Matthew Jevons
Sent: 08 December 2020 10:10
To: David Simmons (Cllr)
Subject: Doddington Allotment Association.

Good morning again Mr Simmons,

Following our recent conversation, the allotment noticeboard was wrecked in the recent gales and the current one is past repair I feel. Having looked into a replacement the noticeboard I would like to purchase for the allotments is £350.

Also, the entrance gates are rotting away and to maintain the appearance of the area, we feel the entrance gates should look in good condition. I think we should be able to replace the two 1.5m wide gates for £500.

During the lockdown, the allotments have been an enormously popular area for members. Allowing them to be out in the fresh air, exercise and produce food for their households. More than one person has commented to me how their allotment has kept them sane in these restricted times.

Any contribution towards these purchases will be gratefully received.

Kind regards,

Matthew Jevons.

Allotment association chairman.

From: Matthew Jevons
Sent: 10 December 2020 12:21
To: David Simmons (Cllr)
Subject: Doddington Allotments.

Good morning Mr Simmons,

Many thanks for your email. I am afraid our allotment association doesn't 'run' to headed writing paper. We run our allotments using a very fine pencil !!

However, I can with pleasure give you more details of our allotments.

We have 20 full size plots, some of which are divided in two.

Currently, we have 39 members.

We have a waiting list of 4 presently.

The land is owned by Richard Oldfield who rents the land to the Parish council who in turn rent it to the allotment association for £1 annually.

During the current pandemic, the allotments have given members an opportunity to exercise in the fresh air. Also to produce something that is edible, boosting their well being and their mental health. Which is so important in these uncertain times.

The gates I am interested in partly because they are made by a local firm M Belsom and Sons will cost in total £410. Which includes good quality timber, furniture, rabbit fencing and hanging. Others I have investigated are considerably more namely £474 and that does not include furniture and hanging. Mr Belsom comes recommended by a retired local land surveyor.

The notice board I am looking at will cost £427. It will be aluminium, lockable and mounted on posts provided by the manufacturer. Other noticeboards I have investigated are of a similar price.

I hope this gives you all the information you require and I look forward to hearing from you,

Kind regards,

Matthew Jevons.

Allotment Association Chairman.