



## AGENDA

### SHEPPEY AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday, 15 June 2021

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Virtual Meeting Via Skype\*

#### Membership:

Councillors Cameron Beart, Richard Darby, Oliver Eakin, Simon Fowle, Angela Harrison, Ken Ingleton, Elliott Jayes, Peter Macdonald, Peter Marchington, Lee McCall, Pete Neal, Padmini Nissanga, Ken Pugh and Bill Tatton.

Quorum = 4

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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 on Monday 14 June 2021.

#### Privacy Statement Swale

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1. Election of Chairman
2. Election of Vice-Chairman
3. Apologies for Absence

#### 4. 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 Interests (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 meeting 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.

#### 5. Minutes

To approve the [Minutes](#) of the Meeting held on 16 March 2021 (Minute Nos. 534-543) as a correct record.

#### 6. Matters arising from previous meetings

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#### 7. Public Forum

#### 8. Local issues

#### 9. Update on Area Committee Review

#### 10. Future funding

#### 11. Matters referred to Committee by Cabinet

#### 12. Matters referred to Cabinet by Committee

**Issued on 7 June 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 Committees, please visit [www.swale.gov.uk](http://www.swale.gov.uk)

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

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**Sheppey Area Committee meeting: 15 June 2021 – Matters arising**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Who initiated?</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Comments on updates</b>
Connectivity across Sheppey	Member of public	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.	Please see the attached update (Appendix 1) on bus services across Sheppey provided by the Public Transport Unit, Kent County Council.
Sheerness town centre regeneration	Member of public	At the March meeting Cllr Bonney provided a verbal update on the restoration of the Grade II listed Sheerness clock tower, refurbishment of Master's House, Sheerness and the Sheerness High Street project	Cllr Bonney has been invited to give a further update.
Restoration of war memorial, Sheerness	Committee members	The Head of Commissioning, Environment and Leisure gave an update on the restoration of Sheerness war memorial. He reported that ground works were completed and the York paving had been laid, and commissioning of the wall would be included in the next phase of the project.	The first phase of the works is complete as reported at the last meeting with the renovation of the paving area around the memorial. The foundations have been laid for the memorial wall and the order for the stones for the wall has now been placed. Collation of names for the wall continues to be undertaken by the Sheppey War Memorial Trust.
Post office provision	Committee member	At the December meeting the Chairman suggested Members liaised with local community groups to put a proposal together for a community post office in	Cllr Shiel will be invited to provide an update at the September meeting when more information is known.

Item	Who initiated?	Action	Comments on updates
		<p>Queenborough and bring that back to the next meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>At the March meeting it was reported that the Town Council were exploring options as it had not been possible to apply for a community post office.</p>	
Brown tourism signs	Cabinet Member for Planning	<p>To commence an audit of existing local brown signs in concert with parish and town councils.</p> <p>So far nothing specific has been identified, however, the Sheppey Community Development Forum are considering brown tourism signs as part of their review.</p>	The Chairman proposes waiting for the Sheppey Community Development Forum to finish their review and then bring back to a later meeting.
Queenborough and Rushenden regeneration	Member of public	<p>The Committee to prioritise which local issues should be added to future agendas for substantive consideration and discussion.</p> <p>The Chairman proposes bringing this back to a future meeting at the appropriate time.</p>	An update will be provided at the September meeting when more information will be available. Homes England and Emma Wiggins to be invited.
Neighbourhood policing	Member of public	The Committee to prioritise which local issues should be added to future agendas for substantive consideration and discussion.	There is going to be a neighbourhood policing briefing for Swale Borough Council members. Parish Councils will

Item	Who initiated?	Action	Comments on updates
			be invited to attend. A date will be circulated in due course.
Flooding issues in Warden village	Member of public	A representative from Warden Parish Council spoke about flooding issues in Warden village which she considered was caused by a blocked outfall. She asked the Council's Cabinet to put pressure on the Environment Agency to repair the outfall.	On the 26 April the Chair attended Informal Cabinet and raised the issue of flooding in Warden Village. Officers have since contacted the Environment Agency relating to on-going flooding issues at Warden Village hall. They maintain that the replacement outfall installed some 10 years ago is of sufficient capacity. However, the issues suffered are as a result of a combination of heavy rain and a high tide resulting in the outfall becoming tide locked. Furthermore, it takes longer to drain away as there is minimal drop across the system. They have modelled solutions to these periodic incidents and despite working it out on doubling the size of every culvert leading into the drain and installing two new outfalls, the modelling shows that it would only make a fractional impact and certainly not stop the flooding. As with coastal erosion, their criteria takes into account viability and due to the low number of residential properties affected, they have recommended individual property protection. So work

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			by parish council needs to establish protection methods of the hall itself.
Leysdown Children's Centre	Member of public	A representative from Warden Parish Council spoke about a children's centre in Leysdown on Swale Borough Council-owned land which was not currently being used. She asked whether the Council could investigate and liaise with KCC and the NHS about the possibility of using it as a medical centre.	On the 26 April the Chair attended Informal Cabinet and raised the issue of Beaches Children's Centre. The Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing subsequently contacted Kent County Council and was advised that the centre was only temporarily closed on 23 March 2020 due to the pandemic. Up until that point it was extremely busy with a wide variety of activities taking place there. The full response was sent to the Parish Councillor.



## **Appendix 1 - Matters Arising update**

### **Sheppey Bus Service provision – briefing to Members**

Dear Member(s)

I wrote to you on 31<sup>st</sup> March this year advising that Arriva were looking to close their Sheppey depot and as such would be de-registering a number of services on the Island including the 360, 361 and 362. I can now confirm that Arriva have completed their consultation with staff and these plans are moving ahead as planned with the last day of operation being 11<sup>th</sup> July.

KCC has been talking to a number of other local operators in the district to see if there is any interest in taking these services on a commercial or part commercial basis. We have received interest from a number of operators and I can now advise you that a local company Chalkwell have come forward and have registered replacement services on a broadly like for like basis.

These replacement services will largely mirror the current Arriva network albeit with a few tweaks to timings to better connect with train times etc. Final versions of the timetables are currently being finalised by Chalkwell and come into effect from 12 July and will be available on their website in due course. Please note that the Sunday 360 service is not included, Chalkwell were unable to take this on commercially so the Council has issued a tender to replace this service on a subsidised basis, the results should be known within the next couple of weeks.

We understand that for a while now there has been an aspiration to simplify and improve services on the Isle of Sheppey. We are confident that Chalkwell will bring a renewed enthusiasm and focus for service provision in the area, but we have also gained a commitment from them to work with the Council and local representatives to review the network in the medium to long term to ensure that it best reflects the aspirations of bus users and local residents and will give this consideration when forming the Councils Bus service Improvement Plan and Enhanced Partnerships as part of the recent National Bus Strategy. In the meantime, I hope that I have provided an assurance that the needs of bus users will continue to be met and if I can answer any questions please let me know.

Kind Regards

**Steve Benjamin | East Kent Public Transport Planner  
Public Transport Unit | Kent County Council**

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