

---

## EASTERN AREA COMMITTEE

---

**MINUTES** of the Meeting held in the West Faversham Community Centre, Bysing Wood Road, Faversham ME13 7RH on Thursday, 15 December 2022 from 7.00 pm - 8.12 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Alastair Gould, Mike Henderson, Carole Jackson, Ben J Martin, Julian Saunders (Vice-Chair), David Simmons and Tim Valentine.

**NOMINATED PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:** Parish Councillors Kevin Fraser (Doddington Parish Council (PC) and Jeff Tutt (Dunkirk PC).

**NOMINATED PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE (Virtually):** Parish Councillor Alan Stewart (Graveney PC).

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Janet Dart, Lisa Fillery and Adrian Oliver.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE (Virtually):** Adrian Berendt, Berendt Consulting Ltd.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Denise Knights (Chair), Hannah Perkin and Eddie Thomas.

### 533 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Vice-Chair in the Chair read out the emergency evacuation procedure.

### 534 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Carole Jackson disclosed a non-pecuniary interest as a Trustee of Citizens Advice and West Faversham Community Association.

### 535 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 September 2022 (Minutes Nos. 339 – 347) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Vice-Chair in the Chair as a correct record.

### 536 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members noted the progress on actions.

### 537 ACTIVE TRAVEL FUND TRANCHE 4

The Active Travel Coordinator gave a presentation on the Active Travel Fund (ATF) Tranche 4. Three tranches of funding had come forward from the Government since 2020. Tranche 4 was announced in July 2022 by the ATF which included a three-year capital fund of £470m and a one year £250m revenue fund and the deadline for bids was 23 December 2022. Kent County Council (KCC) submitted its self-

assessment in August 2022 and was assessed as a Level 1 (Level 4 was the highest and Level 0 was the lowest).

Swale Borough Council (SBC) had put in a £165k Capability & Ambition Fund bid to improve an existing bid. Since October 2022, SBC had pulled together ideas for the ATF process, there was no criteria but there was guidance. The Government launched 'Gear Change' in 2020, the strategy to make the country more accessible. For the Eastern Area, the suggested improvements could include cycle lanes, low and light level segregation areas, improved security of footpaths, raised crossings and Dutch entrance kerbs.

The Active Travel Coordinator presented the AFT 4 proposals for the Eastern Area. After the meeting, the link to the maps would be shared.

A discussion took place and the following comments were raised:

- A Member asked what the connection was with the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP);
- how many other proposals were there in Kent?;
- how could Members support the proposals?; and
- was there a review process in place to ensure that new developments were compatible with the proposals?

The Active Travel Coordinator responded and explained that the bid was built on the LCWIP, but some adjustments were required. There were other ATF 4 bids in Kent. To start with there were 100, that was reduced to 80 and it was anticipated they would be further reduced to eight. If Members wished to support the proposals, they were asked to send emails or letters to the Active Travel Coordinator. To ensure developers plans were compatible with the bid, there were talks with Kent Highways and liaison with the developer.

## **538 TOWN TO PARISHES PROJECT UPDATE**

In March 2021, the Eastern Area Committee allocated Faversham Town Council £12,500.00 to undertake a Faversham Parishes to Town Project. Mr Adrian Berendt, from Berendt Consulting Ltd was in attendance remotely to provide an update on the progress of the project.

He explained the project was initiated following the introduction of the 20mph scheme and supports the development of a Swale LCWIP and the KCC Countywide LCWIP. The Parishes to Town concept was to explore active travel opportunities for local communities and to link with the different LCWIP proposals.

Parishes in Faversham had been consulted about the potential cycle network and walking routes that might be developed over time.

The next steps were to integrate this project with the Swale LCWIP and the Kent LCWIP, look at extending the 20mph speed limits to villages, and to look at reawakening the quiet lanes project. There would be some specific interventions proposed which would better link Faversham with Graveney, Oare, Painters Forstal,

Boughton under Blean and Teynham. The final report, when completed, would be submitted to the Eastern Area Committee.

The presentation would be circulated after the meeting.

#### 539 PUBLIC FORUM

No issues were raised.

#### 540 LOCAL ISSUES TO BE RAISED

Councillor Carole Jackson raised an issue about Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) using Ospringe Road, Faversham, by the Almshouses. It had been reported by a resident and it was dangerous for other vehicles driving under the railway bridge. There was not sufficient signage to make it clear it was not suitable for HGVs. The Active Travel Coordinator suggested that Councillor Jackson got in touch with Network Rail as it would be in their interests to protect the bridge. Councillor Jackson was also advised to contact Kent Highways.

#### 541 UPDATE ON WORK PLAN

The Policy and Engagement Officer advised that the Eastern Area Committee had been allocated a total of £40,000.00 for the financial year 2022/23. At the Eastern Area Committee Meeting on 29 September 2022, £27,237.00 of funding was allocated. Committee Members agreed that for the unallocated funding of £12,763, a second funding round should take place to allocate the remaining funding with a focus on the cost-of-living crisis. The deadline for applications was Thursday 3 November 2022 and bids to the value of £36,893.00 were received for consideration by the Committee. The applications were checked for eligibility by officers and a scoring process carried out by three impartial officers. The outcome of the scoring was used to put together the options paper for Members to vote on.

Eastern Area Committee Members discussed the Options and Options 1 and 4 were discounted. It was agreed to hold a vote on Options 2 and 3 with Members indicating their preferred Option with a show of hands.

On being put to the vote Option 3 was agreed.

#### **Resolved:**

***That the remaining £12,763.00 funding be awarded to projects in the following proportions:***

- 1) Faversham Umbrella – EAC031 - £4,393.44**
- 2) Brogdale CIC – EAC035 - £4,310.41**
- 3) Abbey Physic Community Garden – EAC033 - £1,937.27**
- 4) Painters Forstal Community Association – EAC030 - £533.79**
- 5) Faversham Salvation Army – EAC034 - £397.83**
- 6) Friendly Faces of Kent – EAC029 - £1,051.66**
- 7) Teynham Parish Council – EAC032 - £138.38**

**542 MATTERS REFERRED TO AREA COMMITTEE BY SERVICE COMMITTEES**

No issues were raised.

**543 MATTERS REFERRED TO SERVICE COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR CONSIDERATION**

No issues were raised.

Chair

Copies of this document are available on the Council website <http://www.swale.gov.uk/dso/>. If you would like hard copies or alternative versions (i.e. large print, audio, different language) we will do our best to accommodate your request please contact Swale Borough Council at Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT or telephone the Customer Service Centre 01795 417850.

All Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel