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## WESTERN AREA COMMITTEE

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**MINUTES** of the Meeting held in Hartlip Village Hall, The Street, Hartlip, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 7TH on Thursday, 9 June 2022 from 7.00 pm - 9.58 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mike Baldock, Roger Clark, Nicholas Hampshire, Alan Horton, James Hunt, Richard Palmer, Paul Stephen and Sarah Stephen (Vice-Chair).

**NOMINATED PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:** Parish Councillors Graham Addicott (Hartlip PC), Nicola Butlin (Borden PC), Brian Clarke (Bredgar PC), Vivien Rich (Tunstall PC) and Steve Tolhurst (Iwade PC).

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Janet Dart, Adrian Oliver and Larissa Reed.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Amanda Turner – Kent County Council (KCC) Youth Hub Delivery Manager, and Rebecca O’Neill – Commissioned Provider of Youth Provision at KCC.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Monique Bonney and Corrie Woodford.

### 66 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

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

### 67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

### 68 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 March 2022 (Minute Nos. 645 – 655) and the Meeting held on 18 May 2022 (Minute Nos. 32 – 33) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Vice-Chair in-the-Chair as correct records.

### 69 YOUTH PROVISION IN THE WESTERN AREA

Amanda Turner the Kent County Council (KCC) Youth Hub Delivery Manager and Rebecca O’Neill the Commissioned Provider of Youth Provision for KCC, were welcomed to the meeting to talk about youth provision in the Western Area.

Rebecca O’Neill spoke about the work of Brogdale CIC (Community Interest Company) and VIBE (the name for all the youth work in the Brogdale CIC group) which worked with organisations such as Optivo, Sheppey Matters, Creed and Sateda delivering projects in the whole of Swale. Examples of projects included youth clubs, after school and holiday clubs, peer mentoring, mental health mentoring, the Mill Skatepark in Sittingbourne, school transition, NEETS (not in employment, education or training) and a programme of special needs activities. A

youth van visited villages on a Wednesday evening, however, in the Western Area there had only been interest in Iwade and Newington.

Brogdale CIC worked closely with Amanda Turner the KCC Youth Hub Delivery Manager. Amanda explained that the Youth Hub had previously been located at Newhouse but as this had not reopened since the Covid-19 Pandemic due to health and safety reasons, they were now based at Milton Regis. However, there was only capacity for 16 young people at the Youth Zone. They ran four sessions: junior, special educational needs, senior and transition. They operated some detached work in some Wards and some targeted work. They were a small team of four, and as such were not able to deliver any services in Borden due to lack of capacity.

A discussion ensued and comments made are summarised below:

- The Government had recently announced funding for youth centres, Brogdale CIC would like to put a community centre/youth hub in the Sittingbourne Skatepark. They had been awarded half the funds. It was suggested that Western Area Committee might wish to consider allocating some funds to this project;
- a significant part of Swale was rural and with bus services being poor, young people would not be able access projects. There was a lot of rural house building taking place so there should be Section 106 funding going into youth services. Amanda Turner said it was her understanding that the Section 106 money was absorbed into KCC. The KCC Divisional Member for Swale West undertook to look into this;
- communication about the services with young people throughout the borough was identified as being a problem. Parish Councils could help with this, however, some parts of the Western Area were unparished; and
- the youth van could be used to take young people in rural areas to venues.

**Resolved:**

- 1) That the KCC Divisional Member for Swale West would look into the issue of Section 106 money being absorbed into KCC.**
- 2) That ways of working together should be looked at.**
- 3) That the Western Area Committee would consider allocating funds to youth provision.**

**70 SWALE LOCAL CYCLING & WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN (LCWIP)**

The Active Travel Coordinator, Adrian Oliver, introduced himself and spoke about the Government ten-year walking and cycling initiative, the Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), which was to help local authorities establish good cycling and walking routes. For a scheme to receive funding it needed to match the guidelines. The Active Travel Coordinator was writing a Swale LCWIP and he welcomed suggestions from residents and Parish/Town Councils.

There would be an online survey which would ask about trips that were currently made that could be taken by foot or cycle and what were the barriers to taking such trips. There would also be workshops with community groups.

Some initial ideas were discussed which included safety issues on the Bapchild/Tonge route, linking up existing routes, areas where footpaths are lacking and pedestrians had to walk in the road, dealing with landowners, ongoing maintenance, footpaths coming out onto fast roads and the issue of some HGV drivers not using the industry approved satnav which resulted in them taking unsuitable routes.

## 71 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members noted the progress on actions.

### **Walking and cycling project**

The Active Travel Coordinator went through the update he had provided in the agenda pack. He stressed that these were initial ideas which could be changed. A Parish Councillor spoke about disputes between cyclists and motorists and requested that street clutter in the form of signs was not increased. He was assured that most of the information would be provided via apps and maps and all routes would be tried out. Some specific routes were discussed and the need to take livestock into account was stressed. It was agreed that a workshop in Swale House with Western Area Committee Members and Parish Councillors would be a useful way to consider routes in detail.

### **Charging of electric cars at home where there is no driveway**

The Chief Executive advised that she had spoken with Paul Nichols at Brighton and Hove City Council where they had installed 600 charging points to lamp-posts. KCC were adamant they were not considering this option. Swale Borough Council (SBC) were looking at other pilots using gullies and gathering evidence to present to KCC. The Chief Executive would be talking to the relevant Director at KCC. Kent District Leaders all agreed something needed to be done. She would provide further updates at future Area Committee meetings.

### **Resolved:**

- 1) That a Walking and Cycling project workshop be set up in Swale House with Western Area Committee Members and Parish Councillors to consider routes.**

## 72 UPDATE ON WORK PLAN

The Vice-Chair in-the-Chair introduced the report setting out recommendations for the Western Area Committee Work Plan for 2022/23.

There was a discussion on the proposed priorities and ambitions set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report. Members agreed to take out the Active Travel and tree planting projects. They also agreed to add a Youth Provision project to find out where young people were based who would like to engage with the Brogdale CIC VIBE services with a view to providing them with transport. Members would also

like to consider the Bredgar and Hartlip Conservation Area Reviews once the quotations have been received. It was also suggested that a proposal might come out of the discussion on pond maintenance at the September 2022 Area Committee meeting.

Members also agreed that they would not open up their funding to external bids until all of the costings on the agreed projects had been considered at the September 2022 Area Committee meeting. If there were any remaining funds, they might decide to allow some external bids.

Councillor Alan Horton moved the following motion: that officers made contact with Western Area Committee Members to check what priorities they would like costings/proposals for. Proposals to be brought back to the September 2022 meeting for consideration. This was seconded by Councillor Nicholas Hampshire and on being put to the vote the motion was agreed.

**Resolved:**

- 1) That officers made contact with Western Area Committee Members to check what priorities they would like costings/proposals for. Proposals to be brought back to the September 2022 meeting for consideration.**
- 2) That Western Area Committee funding would not be made available to external bids until the costings and proposals had been considered at the September 2022 Area Committee meeting and it was established if there was any remaining funding.**

**73 PUBLIC FORUM**

Item deferred to the next meeting.

**74 LOCAL ISSUES TO BE RAISED**

Item deferred to the next meeting.

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

Item deferred to the next meeting.

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Item deferred to the next meeting.

**77 ADJOURNMENT**

There was an adjournment from 8.50pm to 9pm.

Chair

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