

Agenda

Western Area Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, 8 June 2023

Time 7.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne ME10 3HT

Membership:

Councillors Mike Baldock, Monique Bonney, Ann Cavanagh (Vice-Chair), Lloyd Chapman, Roger Clark, James Hunt, Chris Palmer, Richard Palmer, Paul Stephen (Chair) and Sarah Stephen.

Quorum = 3

Pages

Information about this meeting

*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 by 7 June 2023.

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- (d) Anyone unable to use the stairs should make themselves known during this agenda item.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillors should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their families or friends.

The Chair will ask Members if they have any disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) or disclosable non-pecuniary interests (DNPIs) to declare in respect of items on the agenda. Members with a DPI in an item must leave the room for that item and may not participate in the debate or vote.

Aside from disclosable interests, where a fair-minded and informed observer would think there was a real possibility that a Member might be biased or predetermined on an item, the Member should declare this and leave the room while that item is considered.

Members who are in any doubt about interests, bias or predetermination should contact the monitoring officer for advice prior to the meeting.

4. Minutes

To approve the [Minutes](#) of the Meeting held on 16 February 2023 (Minute Nos.658– 666) and the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 May 2023 (to follow) as correct records.

5. New Councillor introductions

6. Walking and Cycling Project update

5 - 6

7. Achievements Report

7 - 26

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|-----|--|---------|
| 8. | Western Area Committee priorities | 27 - 28 |
| 9. | Matters arising from previous meetings | 29 - 44 |
| 10. | Public Forum | |
| 11. | Local issues to be raised | |
| 12. | Matters referred to Area Committee by Service Committees | |
| 13. | Matters referred to Service Committee Chairs for consideration | |

Issued on Wednesday, 31 May 2023

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

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WESTERN AREA COMMITTEE – June 2023

Project	Walking & Cycling Project
Lead Councillors	Cllr Sarah Stephen and Cllr Monique Bonney
Lead Officer	Adrian Oliver, Active Travel Co-ordinator
Objective	Use South-West Swale resources, the Villages, historical sites, food producers, ancient woodlands, nature reserves and war graves to name some, and create walking and cycling experiences similar to those created for Faversham
Budget	£13,000
Status	In Progress

The four walks and two rides – the Swale Trails - will be launched during Great Big Green Week.

Following the ground truthing we have commissioned new photography and an external agency to produce Ordnance Survey based maps. Graphic Design and print has remained in house.

Leaflets are available for distribution to VICs, and local hospitality & accommodation providers.

The routes can be found on Explore Kent and followed on the Kent Connected app.

The walks will also feature on Go Jauntly, the photo-led walking app. The team from Go Jauntly are working on digitising the routes over the coming weeks, ready for launch in time for the summer holidays.

As part of the project, we have also created an image library of over 300 photographs of the Western Area.

Using the format we have now established, more walks and rides can be explored as and when required.

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Western Area Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	8 June 2023
Report Title	Area Committees Achievements Report
EMT Lead	Larissa Reed, Chief Executive
Head of Service	Philip Sutcliffe, Communications & Policy Manager
Lead Officer	Janet Dart, Policy & Engagement Officer
Classification	Open
Recommendations	To note the report

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 To provide Councillors with a summary of the achievements of the four Area Committees since they were implemented in September 2020.

2 Background

- 2.1 One of the objectives of the administration, which was formed at Swale Borough Council (SBC) following the 2019 local elections, was to diffuse power among Members and improve public engagement in decision-making. The administration put in place arrangements to establish Area Committees in Swale in order to help meet this objective.
- 2.2 Membership includes all ward Members in the area and the Committees' boundaries are aligned with those of the wards it covers. Substitute Members are not permitted on Area Committees and only those councillors who are Members of SBC are able to take decisions.
- 2.3 However, public attendance and participation in the Area Committees is an important feature of them. The Council have incorporated provisions in the Constitution for there to be a session for members of the public or local organisations, including Parish and Town Councils, to propose items for future agendas for consideration by the Committees to ask relevant questions and make relevant comments to the Committee.
- 2.4 The purpose of the Area Committees is to enhance the quality of life and of Council services in the relevant area and to bring local insight to bear in Council decision-making. Their terms of reference are to:
- develop a work programme to enhance core services within the area and take a report to Council on an annual basis to provide an update on progress;
 - agree spending decisions in relation to specific funding allocated to Members of the Area Committee;

- provide area intelligence to the Policy and Resources Committee and Heads of Service, and assist with policy development on relevant matters; and
 - make recommendations to Full Council, Policy and Resources Committee or any Service Committee on issues in the Committee's area and respond to any other specific matter referred to it by Full Council, a Committee or a senior Council officer.
- 2.5 The first round of Area Committees took place in September 2020 and due to the Coronavirus pandemic legislation, the meetings took place remotely via Skype. This continued until restrictions were relaxed and the September 2021 round of meetings were the first to take place face-to-face in community/village halls. As remote attendance had proved to be popular with members of the public and Parish/Town Councils, a remote conference call device was purchased so that hybrid meetings could take place in external venues. This has been very effective and allows for wider engagement with people across the Borough, regardless of their accessibility needs, giving them the choice to participate either in person or remotely.
- 2.6 As mentioned in paragraph 2.4, each Area Committee was allocated funding which equated to each member receiving an identical amount. This was established in each Annual Council budget and to be allocated to projects in consultation and agreement with the Area Committee at large. When allocations were made during the first year 2020/21, there were some occasions where some Area Committee Members were not able to vote on funding decisions as they had declared an interest in one or more applications. Following this, an Area Committee Review Working Group was established which put together a recommended process to avoid the need for members to recuse themselves from voting. This process is set out in Appendix I. Eastern, Sittingbourne and Sheppey Area Committees decided to adopt this process, but Western Area Committee found it was not necessary for their approach to allocating funding.
- 2.7 Before each funding scheme was launched, the Area Committees set work programmes where priorities were agreed on how funding should be allocated each year. The majority focussed on schemes that improved the appearance, environment and facilities of the areas along with contributing to Swale's strategic priorities. As local needs became apparent these priorities were refined to take into account the 'cost-of-living crisis' and how residents could be supported. Each Area Committee could support interventions that were most appropriate to the residents in their area. They were also able to bring forward planned projects within their areas by funding them so that residents could benefit from them sooner. Some examples are improvements to closed church yards, conservation area reviews and replacing street lighting.
- 2.8 A total of £534,000.00 was allocated by the four Area Committees over the period September 2020 to May 2023 to a wide variety of projects overseen by both external organisations and internally led projects managed by SBC. Appendix II lists all allocations made over the three years.

- 2.9 As part of the budget setting process for 2023/24, Members agreed at the Full Council Meeting in February 2023 measures to address the budget gap. This has resulted in funds no longer being available to allocate to the four Area Committees. Officers will work with Chairs and the new administration to develop a new approach to achieving Area Committee priorities without funding and where necessary amend the Terms of Reference in the SBC Constitution.

3 Achievements

- 3.1 The Area Committees quickly established themselves as a mechanism for residents, Parish/Town Councils and community groups to bring matters to the attention of their Borough Councillors. Regular updates have been given about ongoing projects and residents, Parish/Town Councils have been consulted on proposals within their area. Partner organisations such as Kent County Council (KCC), the Police and Southern Water, have attended meetings to discuss ongoing issues in the areas and also to consult on proposals they are considering.
- 3.2 Many of the Area Committee's achievements so far have been as a result of Members, Parish/Town Councils and members of the public identifying issues within the area which needed escalating, with a view to resolving, either with SBC or partner organisations. Some examples of these are listed below:

Eastern Area Committee

- 3.3 Highlighting the importance of defibrillators in public places being maintained and registered on relevant databases.
- 3.4 Specific anti-social behaviour problems were brought to the attention of the Police and the SBC Community Safety Unit to be monitored with a view to determining what wider action could be taken.
- 3.5 Tackling the increasing incidence of flooding in the Faversham area by involving the local MP Helen Whately who set up meetings with relevant agencies to identify an action plan. The Area Committee also liaised with KCC, Southern Water and officers at SBC to ensure that plans were put in place to resolve this issue.
- 3.6 The problems resulting from a change in the KCC travel provider for pupils with special educational needs were raised with the KCC Cabinet Member.
- 3.7 The lengthy waiting lists for families and children awaiting diagnosis for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism was raised with the KCC Cabinet Member.

Sheppey Area Committee

- 3.8 The issue of lack of coach parking on the Isle of Sheppey was raised and taken to the Community Committee where a three-year trial for chargeable coach parking in Minster was agreed.
- 3.9 The condition of the Queenborough Guildhall was brought to the attention of the Extraordinary Regeneration & Property Committee. A condition survey was recommended and carried out.
- 3.10 A group of horse owners requested the horse-riding ring at Scrapsgate Field, Minster be brought back into use. This matter was considered by the Environment Committee and it was agreed that regular grass cutting for an informal horse-riding area on Scrapsgate Field, along with reducing maintenance elsewhere on the site would take place. The success will be reviewed after a year.
- 3.11 Problems residents were having with parking in Trinity Road were resolved after they were raised at an Area Committee meeting.
- 3.12 The state of Blue Town was raised and the issues were addressed by the relevant SBC teams.
- 3.13 A site meeting with SBC, the Parish Council and the Environment Committee was arranged to look into flooding issues at Warden. Actions were agreed to clear the channel next to the village hall of overgrowth.

Sittingbourne Area Committee

- 3.14 Improvements to lighting in the Milton Regis town are being investigated.
- 3.15 Actions were put in place to brighten up the Roman Square and square opposite Swale House.
- 3.16 Safety concerns about ponds in Swale were raised with the Kent Fire and Rescue Service which have been escalated to their Education/Safety team to see what education programmes can be put in place in schools.
- 3.17 Residents raised an ongoing issue of vandalism taking place in the alleyway to the rear of their houses. SBC are continuing to work towards a Public Space protection Order to gate the alleyway.
- 3.18 Potential improvements to bus services in Sittingbourne are regularly discussed and local bus companies have been invited to a future meeting.
- 3.19 Difficulties connected to engagement with the Police were raised due to the Sittingbourne area being unparished. The Community Committee appointed two Members to sit on the Swale Community Safety Partnership, both are members of Sittingbourne Area Committee and can raise strategic issues through that mechanism.

3.20 Problems with e-scooters were highlighted and reported to the Police.

Western Area Committee

3.21 The increased incidence of flooding in rural areas due to changing weather patterns was raised and subsequently discussed by the Environment Committee. It was agreed that the Chair of the Environment Committee would write to the Government to ask that a funding package was needed to deal with the issue.

3.22 The impact on surrounding roads/villages due to the improvement works at the Stockbury roundabout (M2 Junction 5) was raised. The Chair is gathering details about the impact with a view to write to KCC, the Police and Highways England.

3.23 A resident raised an issue about reduced funding for bus services and how this impacted residents living in villages. The Chair of the Western Area Committee wrote to the KCC Cabinet member for Highways and Transport who replied to explain the financial situation following budget cuts and to advise that funding has been made available to support Parish Councils and other Community groups if they want to find local solutions to transport needs in their area.

3.24 Following a matter raised by a Member, the Chair of the Western Area Committee wrote letters to Medway Council and KCC highlighting the implications of implementing the proposal to prohibit HGV's on the A2. Medway Council responded to say they would take the Committee's comments into account and KCC responded clarifying their position.

3.25 A Member raised concerns about the run-down state of the Western Area, highlighting footpaths, litter in hedgerows and road signs as particular issues. The issues were escalated to the partner organisations and SBC teams responsible who took action to resolve the issues.

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

4.1 As this report is for noting there are no alternative options to be considered.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 The four Area Committee Chairs were consulted when preparing this report.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
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Corporate Plan	The achievements of the Area Committees support the Corporate Plan priority “ <i>Renewing local democracy and making the Council fit for the future</i> ”.
Financial, Resource and Property	This report is for noting but the funding awarded to the Area Committees since 2020 has been allocated and spent in line with the Terms of Reference as set out in paragraph 2.5.5 of the Constitution.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	None identified at this stage.
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	None identified at this stage.
Health and Wellbeing	None identified at this stage.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	None identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	The implementation of hybrid meetings held in community venues ensures that people with varying needs are able to attend and participate in a way that is most suitable for them.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: Area Committees funding process
- Appendix II: Area Committees funding allocations 2020-2023

8 Background Papers

There are no background papers.

Recommended processes for the operation of Area Committees

Introduction:

After the first year of the Area Committee meetings taking place, the Area Committee Review Working Group were tasked with considering how the meetings went, looking at what went well and what improvements were required. This paper sets out their recommendations on the operation of Area Committees funding.

Funding:

Area Committees are among the few committees in the Council which are quasi-executive which means they have the power to make decisions that could involve allocating funds. The decisions must be taken openly, impartially, with sound judgement and for justifiable reasons.

It is therefore very important that a robust process is established and adhered to ensure transparency, as well as to obviate issues of apparent bias which can arise when committee members are also involved in organisations bidding for funding.

To enable this there needs to be an element of impartial officer assessment. However, it is important to ensure that outcomes of decisions on what are and are not funded sit squarely with members.

This can be achieved using a three-stage process in which members decide on outcomes but not on individual applications. The table below sets out a proposed process:

Stage 1	<p>At the March meeting, members agree a short list of priorities they want to support in the forthcoming funding year, as a means of inviting bids.</p> <p>The Committee may decide to use the funding exclusively for a proactive theme/ambition or open the scheme up for external organisations to make bids or a combination of the two.</p> <p>Priorities need to be detailed enough to enable officers to evaluate bids against priorities without officers needing to exercise much or any decision-making authority beyond a technical assessment of the contribution each bid would</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application forms and guidance notes should make it clear what the required priorities are. • The full details of the funding priorities, to be publicised in the form of direct emails to organisations known by Swale Borough Council (SBC), press releases and internal member updates. • A deadline will be set for getting applications in for each round of meetings and this must be adhered to so that the checking process can take place. Bids presented on the night will not be accepted as they will not have gone through the three-stage process.
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	make to the priority relative to other bids.	
Stage 2	<p>Officers to carry out an assessment of bids against the criteria established by members and using a methodology previously agreed by members.</p> <p>Committee members will have the opportunity to challenge the scoring before the options report is finalised.</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Policy & Engagement Officer (PEO) to check that the form has been correctly completed and supporting quotes attached. • PEO to pass to the relevant officer/head of service to check that there is no cross over with other work being carried out by SBC or other organisations. Also, to check that there are no SBC financial/officer resource implications. Comments to be fed back to the PEO by an agreed deadline. • On the close of the application period, PEO to compile a report and pass to 3 impartial officers to carry out scoring process against the priorities. • The outcome of the scoring will be passed to Committee members to give them the opportunity to challenge the scores. Any challenges will go through a review process carried out by the PEO and one officer not involved in the scoring process.
Stage 3	<p>Once any review has been completed the final report will be presented to members at the December meeting and voted on en-bloc.</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report prepared by the PEO setting out the results of the assessment of the bids to be published with the agenda 5 clear working days before the meeting. • Officers will recommend options to vote on, these will depend on numbers of applications received but an example is set out below:

		<p><i>Option 1 – the four top scoring applications receiving 100% of their bid.</i></p> <p><i>Option 2 – the six top scoring applications receiving 80% of their bid.</i></p>
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In addition to a clearly articulated and transparent process for determining individual bids in any given year, there is also a need for a general set of pass/fail criteria to be applied to all bids in any year, in order to ensure that only bids which meet the general intentions of the funding go forward for assessment. These criteria need to be agreed by members but should include both general restrictions on the type of activities which can be funded and any more specific exclusions such as ensuring organisations or activities are not double funded from council budgets.

Ideally there should be one set of guidance notes and one application form which will cover the general criteria and also include separate sections for the individual Area Committees priorities.

The principle aim is to prioritise external agencies for funding that deliver something in the area boundary, however each Area Committee during stage 1 of the process will decide if it will accept internal bids from members for funding.

The only realistic alternative to a system such as this, should members want to be able to vote on individual bids, is that any member with an interest which could give them an apparent bias, will have to recuse themselves from all such votes. In addition to unnecessarily disenfranchising members, this also runs the risk that meetings becoming inquorate for these agenda items.

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Area Committee funding allocations summary report - September 2020 to May 2023

Below is a summary of the funding allocated by each Area Committee covering the period from their inaugural meeting in September 2020 up until the end of the electoral cycle in May 2023.

Western Area Committee – funding allocation over three years - £114,000.00

Applicant:	Project description:	Date approved by Area Committee:	Funding awarded:
Upchurch Parish Council	Replace fencing around Upchurch Recreation Ground	01/12/2020	£4,655.00
Newington Parish Council	Refurbish the car park and track at Newington Recreation Ground	01/12/2020	£4,000.00
Wyvern Heritage & Landscape	Conservation Area Reviews for Milstead, Rodmersham Green and Tunstall	01/12/2020	£6,270.00
Hartlip Parish Council	Installation of Kissing Gate on the Parkland, Lower Road, Hartlip to allow resident access	02/03/2021	£1,030.80
Sittingbourne in Bloom	Sensory garden refurb at King George V Playing Field	02/03/2021	£7,085.41
Member bid - Cllr Sarah Stephen	Walking & Cycling Routes project to commission a local cycling and walking infrastructure plan (LCWIP) for South-West Swale and its surrounding area	02/03/2021	£13,000.00
Member bid - Cllr James Hunt	Drafting of Woodland Management Plans and Work Plans for Rose Hill Woods and The Meads Community Woodland. To provide funding to Friends Groups set up to carry out some of the recommendations in the Work Plans for Rose Hill Woods and the Meads Community Woodland	02/03/2021	£2,758.79
Iwade at the Barn	Timber storage shed to be erected adjacent to Iwade Barn. This will allow the hire space to be clear of unused equipment and allow different types of equipment to be	01/03/2022	£5,000.00

	stored away from other items thus allowing for greater flexibility to types of hiring.		
Newington History Group	Design, print & install 3 lecturn frame interpretation boards on footpaths at key points south of the A2 to attract walkers and visitors to the unique historic remains of military defences built to protect London had the Axis powers invaded in World War I	01/03/2022	£4,041.00
Borden Parish Council	Install fencing to boundary of Nature Reserve	01/03/2022	£9,546.75
Newington Parish Council	To improve and add to the adult gym equipment at the recreation ground	01/03/2022	£9,546.75
Upchurch Parish Council	Installation of nature trail equipment in The Paddock at the Children's play area	01/03/2022	£2,349.50
Member bid – Cllr Mike Baldock	Bringing forward lower priority improvement works in closed churchyards sites within the Western Area Committee Area	01/03/2022	£9,516.00
Brogdale CIC	A youth provision activity carried out by VIBE project workers	01/09/2022	£6,930.00
Member bid – Cllr Mike Baldock	Hartlip and Bredgar Conservation Area Reviews	01/09/2022	£8,400.00
Member bid – Cllr Sarah Stephen	Refurbishment of the public toilet at the King George V Playing Field in Sittingbourne	01/09/2022	£5,054.00
Swale Foodbank	Donation to the foodbank to benefit the residents in the Western area	01/09/2022	£5,000.00
Swale Bus Shelter Foodbank	Donation to the foodbank to benefit the residents in the Western area	01/09/2022	£5,000.00
Kent Tree and Pond Wardens	Donation to provide equipment to assist the pond wardens with their work	01/12/2022	£292.87
Children & Families, Swale	Donation to the Fuel and Water Home Advisor Service to provide energy efficient packs to assist households in the Western area to reduce their use of energy and associated costs	01/12/2022	£4,523.13

Sittingbourne Area Committee – funding allocation over three years - £125,000.00

Applicant:	Project description:	Date approved by Area Committee:	Funding awarded:
Swale Media Arts Centre	Internal/External improvements to 34 High Street.	09/03/2021	£7,000.00
Brogdale CIC	Mill Skate park – purchase and installation of signage, benches and bins.	09/03/2021	£2,330.26
Milton Creek Country Park Trust	Purchase of additional park furniture at Milton Creek Country Park.	09/03/2021	£8,313.00
Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway	Signage at entrance to assist visitors to the heritage steam railway to find their way from the carpark to the station.	09/03/2021	£870.74
Kemsley Community Centre Trust	Replacement entrance and fire exit doors at Kemsley Community Hall	09/03/2021	£10,555.56
Member bid - Cllr James Hall	Flowers in Bloom – to fit flower beds in Murston Ward.	09/03/2021	£4,000.00
Dolphin Sailing Barge Museum	To provide a proper installation of electrical power to the wharf and workshop area via underground cabling and secured metal boxes.	09/03/2021	£4,537.20
Sailing Barge Raybel	To replace the Raybel bitt heads and diesel pump.	09/03/2021	£4,000.00
Member bid – Cllrs Davey and Winckless	Milton Rec Tennis Courts - to resurrect the floodlighting, separating the electricity and installing external switching	09/03/2021	£2,393.24
New Leaf Support	Continue with Healing together programme	01/02/2022	£3,080.00
Sittingbourne in Bloom (work to be carried out by SBC)	Improvements to Milton Regis High Street	01/02/2022	£9,649.25
Raybel Charters	Milton Creek navigation feasibility study proposal	01/02/2022	£12,000.00

Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway	Replacement firebox for the locomotive 'Superb' to comply with legal/safety requirements	01/02/2022	£8,170.00
Sittingbourne in Bloom	Installation of two signs on the wall in front of the library. Due to lack of funds to complete this project the Area Committee agreed to transfer the funding to the Milton Regis town sign project, which was underfunded.	01/02/2022	£568.80
Sittingbourne in Bloom (work to be carried out by SBC)	Replace damaged rail and bollard at Milton High Street	01/02/2022	£893.28
SATEDA	Provide a combined health and domestic response in Sittingbourne through the Iris initiative	08/03/2022	£2,994.55
Milton Creek Country Park Trust	Provide a community hub for Milton Creek Country Park	08/03/2022	£2,955.15
Diversity House	Three months pilot project aims to tackle Biodiversity and environmental topics	08/03/2022	£2,697.82
New Leaf Support	Support & Sing project with New Leaf	08/03/2022	£989.97
Youth Resilience UK CIC	Delivery of 1-1 support for young people in Swale schools	06/09/2022	£749.33
Diversity House	Happy to chat project – bench and ramp	06/09/2022	£4,111.71
Sittingbourne Community Radio	Continued delivery of radio service to the local community	06/09/2022	£3,386.39
Dolphin Sailing Barge Museum	Purchase of chairs and tables	06/09/2022	£943.58
Milton Creek Country Park Trust	Space in the Park – install trench for power and water supply	06/09/2022	£4,323.06
New Leaf Support	Activity days	06/09/2022	£3,158.24
Kemsley Community Centre Trust	Replace boilers	06/09/2022	£2,040.48
Ellie's Angels	Enhancements to Better-U app	06/09/2022	£1,921.36

Milton Regis Society	Improvements to Milton Regis town	06/09/2022	£3,841.71
Member bid – Cllr James Hall	Great Easthall shop feasibility work	06/09/2022	£1,921.36
Swale Media Arts Centre	Set up Visitor Information Centre at its premises at 34 High Street, Sittingbourne	06/09/2022	£4,338.43
Sittingbourne Christmas Lights & Sleigh Rounds	Purchase of new LED garland lights for Sittingbourne High Street.	06/09/2022	£1,556.30
Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway Ltd	Disabled/wheelchair accessible platform at SKLR Sittingbourne Viaduct Station	06/09/2022	£2,785.97
Member bid – Cllr James Hall	Shrubbery and flowerbeds in Murston	06/09/2022	£1,921.36

Sheppey Area Committee – funding allocation over three years - £159,000.00

Applicant:	Project description:	Date approved by Area Committee:	Funding awarded:
Queenborough Town Council	Queenborough Castle Site - Pye Play Park Access Path - installation of access paths	16/03/2021	£1,876.24
Teddy Bear Day Care Sheppey Ltd	Provision of a neuro-linguistic programming practitioner and wellbeing garden at the centre	16/03/2021	£7,000.00
Leysdown Parish Council	Contribution towards three CCTV cameras in Leysdown for the benefit of local residents to tackle anti-social behaviour and crime in Leysdown	16/03/2021	£6,092.40
Member bid - Cllr Cameron Beart	Reinstatement and extension of width of public footpath PROWZB50 between Stanley Avenue, Queenborough and Neats Court Retail Park	16/03/2021	£29,690.72
Member bid - Cllr Elliott Jayes	The provision of solar panels for Thistle Hill Community Centre	16/03/2021	£5,000.00
Member bid - Cllr Elliott Jayes	The Glen, Minster-on-Sea's village green improvements - replacement of the current benches and picnic tables	16/03/2021	£4,496.04
Member bid - Cllr Elliott Jayes	Thistle Hill Improvements - additional bins and dog waste bag dispensers	16/03/2021	£1,844.60
Warden Bay Playgroup	Resurface playgroup play area as current surface was unsafe	30/11/2021	£3,010.56
Sheppey District Scouts	Contribution to complete repairs to the Sheppey District Scout Hut	30/11/2021	£1,550.00
Queenborough Town Community Centre Ltd	Repairs and replacement flooring at the Castle Connections community hub	30/11/2021	£9,000.00
Member bid - Cllr Harrison	Installation of benches in shelters overlooking the gardens by the Sheerness leisure centre.	30/11/2021	£1,400.00
The Sheppey War Memorial Trust	Extend the Sheppey War Memorial wall to accommodate the names of all those from Sheppey who lost their lives in the two World Wars	30/11/2021	£21,464.00

Member bid Cllr Jayes	Repaint the Whitehouse toilet building	30/11/2021	£2,500.00
Blue Town Remembered	To contribute to the installation of a lift to provide disabled access to all floors of the Blue Town Remembered centre	30/11/2021	£2,000.00
Teddy Bear Day care Sheppey	To contribute to the replacement of the ceiling at the Centre to reduce heat loss and make the building more environmentally friendly and carbon neutral	30/11/2021	£2,798.00
Sheppey Heritage Trust for Eastchurch Aviation Museum	To provide an extension to existing Eastchurch Aviation Museum to provide new facilities and additional exhibition space	30/11/2021	£4,228.70
Member bid - Cllrs Eakin and Harrison	To contribute to the Sheerness Promenade replacement lighting project	15/03/2022	£8,048.74
Youth Resilience UK CIC	Delivery of 1-1 support for young people in Swale schools	22/09/2022	£1,560.00
Sheppey Matters	Sheppey Tourist Information Centre support	22/09/2022	£6,585.42
Queenborough Town Community Centre Ltd	Bump, Baby and Beyond community project	22/09/2022	£5,045.00
Song Signing	Starting a new community group in Eastern Sheppey	22/09/2022	£3,936.00
Member bid – Cllr Elliott Jayes	New Road Play Park, Minster-on-Sea improvements	22/09/2022	£20,000.00
Queenborough Town Council	Queenborough Railway Station Building Mural	22/09/2022	£1,285.68
Warden Parish Council	Replacement flooring in village hall	06/12/2022	£4,322.70
Curly's Farm	Extra staff resource for 'outpost' learning base	06/12/2022	£2,075.00
Friendly Faces of Kent	Warm hub funding for Rushenden	06/12/2022	£2,190.20

Eastern Area Committee – funding allocation over three years - £136,000.00

Applicant:	Project description:	Date approved by Area Committee:	Funding awarded:
Doddington Allotment Association	Replacement noticeboard and gates at Doddington allotments	17/12/2020	£837.00
Boughton under Blean	Install an outdoor gym at Bull Lane for residents and visitors of all ages to use free of charge	18/03/2021	£14,663.00
Gem72 – Faversham & Surrounding Area (St Mary of Charity)	Mobile youth project to engage with young people in local neighbourhoods	18/03/2021	£10,000.00
Abbey Physic Community Garden	To repair and refurbish an area near the APCG entrance that wraps around the front of the cabin using composite decking	18/03/2021	£5,000.00
Faversham Town Council	Parishes to Town Project to benefit all local residents by identifying good walking and cycling routes linking Faversham and neighbouring communities and producing a report with recommendations for a series of interventions to make walking and cycling on those routes easier and safer	18/03/2021	£12,500.00
Oare Parish Council	To contribute towards the regeneration and rewilding of the village	18/03/2021	£5,000.00
Green Cube CIC	Flowering up Teynham village project – to create a brighter, cleaner and greener environment for all of the local community	03/02/2022	£2,870.00
Member bid - Cllrs Gould, Saunders & Whiting	To carry out a public consultation on local bus services, the results to be used to influence KCC and local bus companies in renewing and developing local bus services	03/02/2022	£10,000.00
Doddington Parish Council	To contribute towards Wicksteed Simba toddler multiplay at the playing field	03/02/2022	£5,000.00
Faversham Town Council	To contribute towards the Swale Eastern Area Park and Pedal Project – an e-bike hire scheme	03/02/2022	£7,796.00

Faversham Town Council	To contribute to bike hanger supply and installation to provide secure cycle storage for individuals who live or work in the town centre with no space to securely store a bike within their building	03/02/2022	£7,580.00
Faversham Swimming Pools Management Committee Ltd	To purchase and install a new, energy-saving pool pump at Faversham Pools	22/03/2022	£8,670.00
Friends of Oare Gunpowder Works	To engage a specialist contract to restore the Leat system	22/03/2022	£4,800.00
Painters Forstal Community Association	Painters Forstal - cycle destination project to install bicycle racks and information boards at the community hall	22/03/2022	£1,266.37
Youth Resilience UK CIC	Delivery of 1-1 support for young people in Swale schools	22/09/2022	£1,560.00
West Faversham Community Association	Youth project	22/09/2022	£4,000.00
Faversham Swimming Pools	Replace lockers	22/09/2022	£10,000.00
Swale Friends of the Earth	"Lovely World" exhibition	22/09/2022	£1,233.00
Teynham Parish Council	CCTV system, Teynham	22/09/2022	£5,444.00
Oare Village Hall	Repairs to Oare Village Hall	22/09/2022	£5,000.00
Friendly Faces of Kent	Warm hub funding for Teynham	15/12/2022	£1,051.66
Painters Forstal Community Association	Painters Forstal – community hunger heroes project	15/12/2022	£533.79
Faversham Umbrella	Joint bid offering support in the community as part of the response to the cost-of-living crisis	15/12/2022	£4,393.44
Teynham Parish Council	Heat, light & power for the Teynham Warm Bank	15/12/2022	£138.38

Abbey Physic Community Garden	Supporting food resilience in the community	15/12/2022	£1,937.27
Faversham Salvation Army	Community Wardrobe	15/12/2022	£397.83
Brogdale CIC	Project working with vulnerable families	15/12/2022	£4,310.41

Western Area Committee Priorities

This discussion paper follows on from the previous item which reviewed the achievements of the Area Committees over the last three years.

As explained in that report, there is no longer funding available for Area Committees to allocate to support their priorities, however, Western Area Committee can feed into and influence the corporate priorities and objectives that are relevant to their specific areas.

One of the first tasks for the new council will be create a corporate plan to set out what the council wants to achieve in the next four years. This will help make sure council resources are allocated in a coherent, accountable and effective way.

The current Corporate Plan priorities are:

- Building the right homes in the right places and supporting quality jobs for all;
- investing in our environment and responding positively to global challenges;
- tackling deprivation and creating equal opportunities for everyone; and
- renewing local democracy and making the council fit for the future.

Area Committees are being asked to have an input into the Corporate Plan at an early stage, by outlining their own aspirations for their individual areas, which will help inform the new Corporate Plan.

When considering what these aspirations should be, it is important to bear in mind the challenging budget position which is likely to continue over the next few years and the capacity of the organisation to deliver on them on top of previously agreed workloads.

The aspirations of the Area Committee could be issues that are the responsibility of Swale Borough Council to achieve, or things that are the responsibility of external organisations which we could try to influence. They could also be ambitions to work towards for the future.

Council Services:

Examples of things that fall within the area of responsibility of Council services are:

- Identifying areas that would benefit from being prioritised for deep cleans; and
- addressing problems that affect our open spaces.

External Services:

Examples of things that fall within the area of responsibility of external partners are:

- Lobbying Kent County Council on matters such as education, youth provision and transport issues;
- lobbying the Government on the need for policy change specific to the needs of the borough;

- lobbying water companies and or/the Environment Agency on matters such as fresh water supply, waste water and flooding;
- lobbying the Police on matters such as traffic management enforcement, rural crime or drug related crime; and
- lobbying the Swale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

Activity:

The Chair will invite those in attendance – including members of the public - to split into groups of 4 or 5 to talk about what is important for the Western area and put a list of suggested priorities together. Ten minutes have been set aside for this task.

Please focus on answering the following questions:

1. What issues affect residents in your Ward that fall within the responsibility of Swale Borough Council?
2. What issues affect residents in your Ward that fall within the responsibility of an external partner?
3. What changes would you like to see that could improve the life of residents in the future?
4. What are the top three issues you would like to Area Committee to take forward in the coming year?

You will be provided with paper and pens to make a note of your suggestions, one person from your group will be asked to feed back at the end of this session.

Those attending remotely are invited to type their suggestions in the meeting 'chat'.

All suggestions will be collated and fed into the preparation of the Corporate Plan.

If anyone has further ideas after the meeting, please email them to areacommittees@swale.gov.uk

Western Area Committee meeting: Progress on Matters Arising – 8 June 2023

No.	Item	Background	Progress on actions
1.	Youth provision in villages	<p>At the June 2021 meeting the lack of youth provision was raised as an issue. At the request of the Area Committee a project proposal was taken to the September 2022 meeting for VIBE youth workers to engage with young people. The proposal was agreed by Members and it was also agreed to run the project twice at a cost of £6,930 in total.</p>	<p>Please see Appendix I for the final report on this project from Brogdale CIC.</p>
2.	Bredgar and Hartlip Conservation Area Reviews.	<p>The Area Committee requested that quotes be obtained for Conservation Area Reviews for Bredgar and Hartlip.</p> <p>These were considered at the September 2022 meeting and it was agreed to allocate £8,400 for Peter Bell to carry out the CA reviews. And that the Graphics Officer would be producing the documents.</p> <p>The Heritage Consultant agreed to undertake the work within the allocated budget, and the Conservation & Design Team would organise a site walkabout with the consultant and key stakeholders, including parish councils.</p> <p>The Director of Resources advised that as the work was commissioned and ongoing, Swale Borough Council (SBC) were committed to pay for the works. Therefore, it can be paid for when the work is complete after of May 2023.</p> <p>Members requested that officers presented the review to the Western Area Committee in the Autumn of 2023, in addition to the Planning and Transportation Policy Working Group.</p>	<p>The Conservation & Design Team advised that draft documents for both the Conservation Area Appraisals have been received. The Conservation Officer is liaising with the consultant regarding the final document. Estimated date for start of public consultation is 12th June 2023.</p>

3.	Refurbishment of King George V Toilet Refurbishment	<p>Cllr Sarah Stephen brought a proposal to the September 2022 meeting to consider the refurbishment of the King George V toilet. The Western AC agreed to allocate £5,054 to this project.</p> <p>The Buildings Manager advised that the project was completed in March 2023 and photographs were circulated to the Area Committee Members.</p>	Project complete, no further action.
4.	Flooding in rural areas	<p>Councillor Mike Baldock raised the issue of flooding in rural areas. Due to changing weather patterns, drains were not able to cope and this was now a problem for some residents in the Western area. Members felt that this matter was beyond Kent County Council (KCC) and should be taken up with the Government as a proper funding package was needed to deal with the issue.</p> <p>This matter was referred to the Environment Committee Chair who in turn took it to the Environment Committee on 2 March 2023 when the Committee's endorsement was provided for Councillor Julian Saunders to write to Central Government.</p>	<p>See Appendix II for letter sent by Environment Committee Chair to central Government.</p> <p>Appendix III is the response received.</p>
5.	Donation to foodbanks that provide a service to residents in the Western Area.	Members agreed to allocate £10,000 of the 2022/23 funding to The Swale Foodbank and The Bus Shelter Foodbank. Both foodbanks agreed to meet the conditions and £5,000.00 has been transferred to each of them:	The Sittingbourne Foodbank have provided 170 food parcels across the Western Area wards which translates into feeding 506 people since this funding cleared in their account on 11th November 2022.

			<p>In total They have spent £3641.40 of the allocated £5000 and expect to have spent all of it in the next few months.</p> <p>An update has not yet been received by the Bus Shelter Foodbank. As soon as it arrives, it will be circulated to all Area Committee Members.</p>
6.	<p>Proposal to support residents having difficulties purchasing alternative heating products.</p>	<p>Area Committee members considered a proposal to help homeowners in the Western area with reducing their energy costs. SBC provided a Fuel and Water Home Advisor Service, managed by the Swale charity Children and Families. One of the services provided by the Advisor was to give households advice on ways to reduce their use of energy and thereby reducing costs. As part of the service, energy efficient packs were given out which contained items like radiator reflectors, draft excluders, LED light bulbs and timers. The content of the packs were tailored to the needs of the household. Each pack costed approximately £50. The proposal was to allocate funds to the Fuel & Water Home Advisor Service via the charity Children and Families so the Advisor could provide energy efficient packs to households in the Western area.</p> <p>Western Area Committee agreed to allocate £4,523.13 to the Fuel and Water Home Advisor Service, via Children and Families, to provide homeowners with energy efficient packs to be given out after advice was given.</p>	<p>The Fuel and Water Home Adviser has confirmed that £2,235 of the funding allocated has been spent on energy saving products to households across the Western area. The households supported have received energy saving products and or energy advice. Also, eligible households were referred to access</p>

		<p>A leaflet was produced for Area Committee Members and Parish Councils to distribute to residents.</p>	<p>food and HSF support.</p> <p>The Fuel and Energy Adviser asked of Area Committee Members and Parish Councils could continue to make residents aware of the advice and energy saving produces available. Paper copies or PDF of the flyer promoting this service can be obtained from the Policy and Engagement Officer.</p>
7.	Rose Hill & Meads Woodland Management & Work Plans.	<p>In March 2021 the Area Committee allocated funding to develop management plans. These had now been completed by an external consultant and there were £2,158.00 of funding remaining. The plans indicated if the tasks should be carried out by a contractor or a volunteer group.</p> <p>Two Friends groups have been formed, Rose Hill Woodland Friends Group and The Meads Woodland Friends Group. It was agreed that a Borough Councillor would sit on each Friends Group and they should provide annual updates to the Western Area Committee.</p> <p>Funding has been transferred to the Rose Hill Woodland Friends Group. Awaiting bank details for the Meads Woodland Friends Group.</p>	<p>The bank details for the Meads Woodland Friends Group have been received so the funds have been transferred.</p>

8.	Impact of improvement works at Stockbury roundabout	<p>Members spoke about the impact of the improvement works at Stockbury roundabout (M2 Junction 5) on the villages and roads in the surrounding area and considered a better approach was necessary for future slip road closures. It was agreed that the Chair would write to KCC, Highways England and the Police explaining the issues and asking what could be done to reduce the impact of the works.</p> <p>It was agreed that Area Committee members would email the Policy & Engagement Officer with specific issues that were being experienced in their Wards. The Chair would use this information when writing to KCC, Highways England and the Police.</p>	<p>The Chair wrote to Kent County Council, Highways England (HE) and the Police about the impact of the works at Stockbury roundabout and asked what could be done to reduce the resulting congestion.</p> <p>A response has been received from HE, please see Appendix IV.</p>
9.	Walking and cycling project	<p>In March 2021 funding was allocated to a walking and cycling project in the Western area. The Active Travel Coordinator consulted with the Area Committee and Parish Council to consider potential routes.</p>	<p>The Active Travel Coordinator will provide an update on this project under item 6</p>
10.	Heritage issues	<p>Cabinet adopted a Heritage Strategy and Action Plan on 18 March 2020. The Action Plan contains a programme of Conservation Area (CA) reviews.</p> <p>The Area Committee agreed to fund CA reviews for the areas below which are outside of the planned programme of reviews in the Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodmersham Church Street • Rodmersham Green • Milstead 	<p>The current position of the four Conservation Area Reviews is set out below:</p> <p>The adopted version of the Conservation Area appraisal document is now published on the</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tunstall	Swale Borough Council website, along with a link to the latest map of the Conservation Area. All formalities regarding notifications to local residents, the parish council, local newspaper, and the London Gazette are complete.
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Western Area Committee Youth Provision Report May 2023

Provision started at the beginning of November 2022 and ended May 2023, led by Adam McKinely, (Community Safety Warden and Vibe Detached Youth Worker), with a team of Vibe Youth Workers.

The team worked in pairs for 6 hours a week, spread over 2 or 3 evenings. They have trialled different times to target young people as they get home from school and as they are out in the evening with friends.

The team have taken the Vibe youth van to as many areas as possible including The Meads (Sonora Fields), Iwade (Heron Field & Play Area), Newington (Recreational Ground), Upchurch, Hartlip (Play Area, Muns Lane), Borden (Youth Shelter), Lower Halstow, Bredgar & Tunstall (King George Playing Field), Rodmersham (Park nr Hall), Milstead (Village Hall & Church), Bobbing and Bapchild.

These meet ups have been focused on recording and reporting the opinions and feedback of young people in these areas. The general feedback from young people is that they feel overlooked or isolated as they live in villages and are unable to attend youth provision in Sittingbourne. They want somewhere for older young people to hang out, and the provision of older youth clubs. Two of the team attended the Iwade Parish council meeting on request to represent the voice of the young person and youth provision in the village, and were able to provide this feedback. Further information on youth feedback is provided overleaf.

Most recently we have attended Meads, Iwade, Hartlip, Borden Bredgar/Tunstall and Newington on Wednesday evening and have engaged with their Parish Councils and Community Halls. We were discussing potential youth provision in these areas and how it could look. Newington will give us access to their Village Hall in the winter, if needed. However, The Meads is more about finding funding for use of the Hall.

We found our presence in The Meads (Sonora Fields) was noticed quickly, so we proceeded to set up regular activities to engage with the 10-15 young people who attended. This has been so successful that the young people asked if we could do a picnic and street games at the last session.

Feedback on Sonora Fields:

To whom it may concern, I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you and your team that have attended Sonora fields on Wednesdays that sadly came to an end yesterday. Having nothing like this locally, it was great to see many young children participating and some parents attending to supervise too. It was something my 2 children looked forward to every week. They bonded with the youth team and really enjoyed chatting to them and participating in the activities they set up... the youth van really gave them a sense of freedom and somewhere safe to go and interact. I see many other children

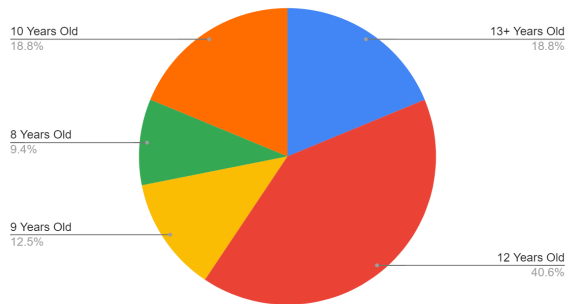


attending alone and eager to get involved. It would be a real shame if we didn't get any funding to continue this as I feel it is really engaging and offers the children on Sonora fields something which they haven't had before. I think the Vibe youth van gives our new generation of youngsters a trouble free start and gets them engaging with youth teams as opposed to the current youths going around causing trouble. Thank you to your team; Adam, Tina .. who have given many children great memories over the past few months. I would be keen to know if this will continue and how I may help approach anyone for further funding. Thank you so much. Parent of 2 young people

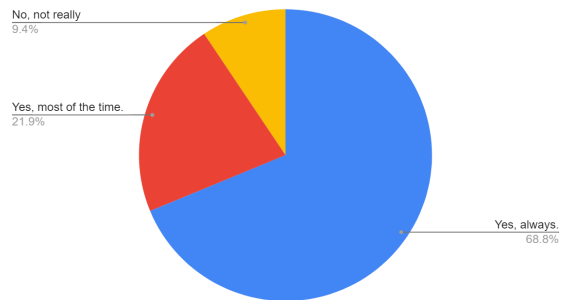
Thursdays have focused on Bapchild, Milstead and Rodmersham. We have visited numerous areas where young people are said to hang out, however we struggled to engage with many. In Teynham it's a different story, we have a group of 20+ who meet us on a weekly basis, and another 15-20 regularly using the facilities at the Recreational Ground - this is funded by KCC.

As you can see from the charts below, the general consensus among the area's young people is that YES they do feel safe, however, they are bored. They simply want more places to play. Either by improving the local equipment at Parks, or with Youth Clubs. Young people can often feel overlooked when it comes to their local town/village as investment often goes elsewhere. They are crying out for more places to play and hang out. If there aren't 'designated' areas, they will just hang out wherever is convenient. This data was collected by using a QR code survey, and verbal questionnaires.

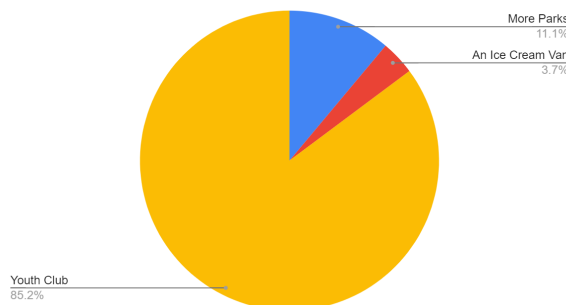
Age of YP



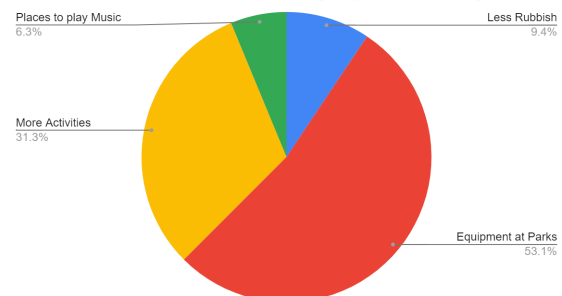
Do you feel safe in your town/village?



What would YOU like for young people in your town/village?



What do YOU think needs improving in your town/village?





Images from Sonora Fields on the last day.

**Blurred: Due to the nature of detached work, many young people are not with parents, as such we do not have permission to share their images.*

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Rebecca Pow MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary DEFRA

Please ask for:

Direct Line: 01795 417444 (Maria Clarke)
E-mail: JulianSaunders@swale.gov.uk
Our Ref: Cllr Julian Saunders
Date: 19/4/23

Dear Rebecca Pow

Flooding in Rural areas

I write to you requesting information on the Government's plans for tackling flooding created by increased housing, ageing drainage systems and the impacts of extreme weather events through climate change.

Councillors at local area committees across Swale Borough have been discussing and are concerned by the increasing amount of flooding created by these issues and the impact it is having on local residents. During extreme events which are becoming more and more frequent, the drainage systems are not able to cope.

We are aware of the responsibilities of the various agencies (public and private sector) but feel this needs a much more joined up approach and national funding package as it is beyond the means of any one organisation.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Julian Saunders
Chair of the Swale Environment Committee

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Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Rebecca Pow MP
Minister for Environmental Quality and Resilience

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Councillor Julian Saunders
Chair of the Swale Environment Committee
Swale Borough Council
Swale House, East Street
Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT
MariaClarke@Swale.gov.uk

Your ref: Cllr Julian Saunders
Our ref: PO2023/07633/EBT

15 May 2023

Dear Councillor Saunders,

Thank you for your letter of 19 April about flood risk management.

The Government is acting to drive down flood risk from every angle. In March 2020, the Government announced that the amount invested in flood and coastal erosion schemes would be doubled in England to £5.2 billion between 2021 and 2027, providing schemes to better protect communities across England from flooding and coastal erosion.

In addition, our long-term Policy Statement, published in 2020, sets out our ambition to create a nation more resilient to future flood and coastal erosion risk. It includes five ambitious policies and a number of actions which will accelerate progress to better protect and prepare the country against flooding and coastal erosion in the face of more frequent extreme weather as a result of climate change.

We will ensure our country is better protected to reduce the likelihood of flooding and coastal erosion. Boosting our resilience will mean that more properties will be protected, and communities will be better prepared to reduce the impacts when flooding does happen.

The Environment Agency National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England describes what needs to be done by all risk management authorities involved in flood and coastal erosion risk management. This includes the Environment Agency, lead local flood authorities, district councils, internal drainage boards, highways authorities and water and sewerage companies, who must exercise their flood and coastal erosion risk management activities, including plans and strategies, consistently with the Strategy. The Strategy provides a framework for guiding the operational activities and decision making of practitioners, supporting the direction set by Government policy.

National planning policy requires new development to be resistant and resilient to all sources of flooding and safe for its lifetime, taking account of climate change.

In August 2022, the Government published significantly updated planning guidance on flood risk and coastal change to help councils take climate change into consideration and make more informed decisions on whether a new development should go ahead. Under the changes to the Planning Practice Guidance, councils will be better placed to apply Government policy, where new homes in areas at risk of flooding should be appropriately flood resilient. The guidance will also help councils apply strict criteria to new development in locations at risk of flooding before they are approved, to make sure local communities are not negatively impacted as a result. This applies to all sources of flood risk, including areas at risk of surface water flooding, and covers flood risk now and in the future.

We are tackling surface water flooding through our £5.2 billion flood defence programme. This is currently expected to deliver around 500 surface water schemes, including sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).

The Government has reviewed making SuDS mandatory in new developments and will do this through implementation of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. SuDS mimic natural water flow and are designed to reduce the impact of rainfall on new developments by using features such as soakaways, grassed areas, permeable surfaces and wetlands.

Schedule 3 provides: a framework for the approval and adoption of drainage systems; an approving body and national standards on the design, construction, operation and maintenance of SuDS for the lifetime of the development. It also makes the right to connect surface water to public sewers conditional on the drainage system being approved as meeting the mandatory sustainable drainage standards. This will help limit volumes entering drainage networks which will help ease the pressure on the sewerage system and mitigate flood risk.

The Government is now looking at how best to implement, considering scope, threshold, and process. There will be a public consultation later this year with implementation expected during 2024.

Thank you once again for taking the time to contact me about this important issue.



REBECCA POW MP

Councillor Corrie Woodford
Chair of Western Area Committee
Swale Borough Council

Daniel Rollinson
Project Manager – M2 junction 5
Bridge House
1 Walnut Tree Close
Guildford
GU1 4LZ

28 April 2023

Dear Councillor Corrie Woodford,

RE: Improvement works at Stockbury roundabout (M2 Junction 5)

Thank you for your email dated 27 April 2023, regarding the M2 junction 5 improvement scheme.

I am sorry to hear of the disruption that our works are causing you across the A249 and the surrounding roads. While we understand that during the works there will be disruption on the roads, it is important to remember that the finished scheme will be significantly safer and more free flowing for all road users. This will also significantly benefit the surrounding roads that are impacted by rat-running due to the build-up of traffic on the A249, our work is also essential to the growth of the area.


I can assure you that before any closures or diversions are put in place, we work with the emergency services and the local authorities. Through this, we aim to find the least disruptive and efficient way to construct the project, however I acknowledge that some disruption to our roads will unfortunately still take place.

Regarding HGV usage of unsuitable roads, there should be 7.5 tonne weight restriction signs on all routes deemed unsuitable. While we encourage drivers to stick to the rules of our roads, we cannot control driver behaviour or the usage of satellite navigation systems.

If you would like to arrange a meeting with our project team to discuss these matters further or any of our upcoming works, I would be happy to arrange this.

Thank you again for contacting us, if you have any further queries in relation to this scheme, please feel free to contact me again.

Yours sincerely



Daniel Rollinson
Project Manager
Email: Daniel.Rollinson@nationalhighways.co.uk

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