

Agenda

Sittingbourne Area Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, 27 February 2025
Time 7.00 pm
Venue: The Sapling Room, The Appleyard, Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne,
Kent ME10 4DE*

Membership:

Councillors Derek Carnell, Shelley Cheesman, Simon Clark, Tim Gibson, Mark Last (Vice-Chair), Charlie Miller, Kieran Mishchuk, Carrie Pollard, Karen Watson, Tony Winckless and Ashley Wise.

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 26 February 2025.

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- a) There is no scheduled test of the fire alarm during this meeting. If the

alarm does sound, please leave the building quickly without collecting any of your possessions, using the doors signed as fire escapes.

- b) Assemble outside where directed. Await instructions before re-entering the building.
 - c) Anyone who requires assistance in evacuating the building, 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 12 December 2024 (Minute Nos. 498 – 506) as correct records.

5. Police update
6. Devolution update
7. Waste & Street Cleansing Scrutiny Review update
8. Matters arising from previous meetings
9. Public Forum
10. Local issues to be raised
11. Matters referred to Service Committee Chairs for consideration

5 - 10

Issued on Monday, 17 February 2025

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

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Sittingbourne Area Committee: Progress on matters arising – February 2025

No.	Item	Background	Actions/updates
1.	Heritage issues	<p>Area of Special Control of Advertisements (ASCA) Swale Borough Council currently does not have an ASCA. Since the adoption of the Heritage Strategy in 2020 and subsequent Action Plans wherein a number of Conservation Areas have been reviewed, it has been proposed that in order to better manage and maintain Swale’s historic environment and heritage, a borough wide ASCA can prove beneficial.</p> <p>Any designation needs to be based on public consultation and must follow specific legal steps, including consideration of the order by the Secretary of State.</p> <p>Following an all members briefing in May 2024, it was agreed that a draft consultation document be prepared for approval by the Planning Committee, before undertaking public consultation.</p>	<p>The draft consultation document is estimated to be ready by spring/early summer 2025.</p>
2.	Periwinkle Mill	<p>Updates have been given at previous meetings on Periwinkle Mill.</p>	<p>Works have commenced with site clearance, initial tidying up around the wheel and laying some of basic hard landscaping. Safety features including grates and rails have been manufactured with installation taking place imminently. Additional works above those planned are required on the flooring.</p>

			It is currently anticipated that works will be completed towards the end of March, with some soft landscaping potentially extending beyond this.
3.	Swale Local Heritage List	Updates have been given at previous meetings on the Swale Local Heritage List.	<p>The Selection Panel met on 17 October 2024; 278 nominations were presented out of which 150 were shortlisted to be designated as Swale's Local Heritage.</p> <p>The proposed designation list was presented to the Policy & Resources Committee on 27 November 2024, wherein it was unanimously agreed to designate the shortlisted assets with addition of one more asset - taking the total to 151 designated assets on Local Heritage List. The mapping work on SBC GIS system and associated data organisation that will include photo and brief description of each asset is ongoing.</p> <p>At the Selection Panel meeting there were several deferrals. Also, a few geographical gaps have been identified in terms of current nominations and there is a desire to include recommendations emerging from Conservation Area appraisal work. As such, an additional call for Local Heritage assets will be run early summer 2025, with the Selection Panel meeting again in the autumn of 2025. Following that, it is anticipated the list would be updated every three years following a call for nominations and Selection Panel. The next one being scheduled for 2028.</p>
4.	Sittingbourne Tennis Club – toilets at	The Chair of Sittingbourne Tennis Club asked for help to push forward a project to	The Greenspaces Manager advised that officers have quotes for the work and are seeking final

	Milton Recreation Ground	get some basic facilities to support the development of the Tennis Club.	agreement to additional budget to enable completion of the planned works. An order will be placed imminently.
5.	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)	Members requested that some communications go out on how the UKSPF had been spent in Swale. Members requested an update be brought to a future Sittingbourne Area Committee meeting.	Please see Appendix 1 of this report.
6.	Railway usage	<p>Mr Jackie Davidson said he would like to carry out a survey locally on why the use of railways in the south-east has declined.</p> <p>Before committing to carrying out a survey, the Head of Housing & Community Services agreed to speak to the Active Travel Co-ordinator to find out what data they had</p>	<p>The Chief Executive has met with Mr Davidson and they are undertaking some joint thought as to how to reach the people who are not using the railways to understand why this is the case.</p> <p>There is a source of railway data via the following link: RailwayData Stations and Stops</p>
7.	Transport issues	<p>Members discussed the difficulties residents were experiencing with bus services in Swale and agreed the following actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Invite the bus companies and a representative from Southeastern Trains to come along to a future Sittingbourne Area Committee meeting; 2) The Chair would write to Kent County Council (KCC) to find out when the Government Funding allocated to improve bus services would be activated in Swale; and 	Members will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

		<p>3) Councillor Karen Watson would report back to the Sittingbourne Area Committee after she had attended the next Bus Forum meeting on 30 January 2025. Members would then consider if transport issues should be added as a standing item on the Area Committee agenda with an Area Committee Member taking the lead.</p>	
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**UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) Update
Sittingbourne Area Committee
February 2025**

The current UKSPF programme runs from April 2022 to March 2025, and the REPF programme commenced in April 2023 and concludes in March 2025. The programme is split into 3 priorities, and a further priority for REPF. The projects in the programme are listed below with the latest update:

Community and Place

- Town Centre Radio Scheme – completed. Linking town businesses with CCTV in Sheerness, Faversham, Sittingbourne and Leysdown.
- Town Centre Action Plans/Grants – ongoing. Open competition for grants of up to £10,000, for community focused projects. In Sittingbourne, projects which received funding include:
 - Remembrance Event 2023 (Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne); floral displays in Milton High Street (Milton Regis Society); Sittingbourne Carnival 2024; Swale Media Arts Centre exhibition; paper making workshops in the Forum Shopping Centre (AMTeC Heritage Science CIC); The Sick Dolls, Toys and Books Clinic (Sittingbourne Heritage Museum)
 - Lift at the Avenue Theatre to improve accessibility; refurbishment of public toilet at Swale Community and Voluntary Services (CVS), new CCTV in Milton Regis, and Swale Wassail high street event organised by AMTeC Heritage Science CIC.
- Faversham Town Centre Capital Project – ongoing. Wayfinding investment for the town.
- Sittingbourne Town Centre Capital Project – ongoing. The restoration of and creation of a public space at Periwinkle Mill.
- Isle of Sheppey Capital Project – ongoing. Trinity Gardens improvements and feasibility work for the Old Library.
- Sheerness Levelling up Fund support – ongoing. Work at Beachfields as part of Sheerness Revival Project.
- Community Infrastructure Grants for community facilities (also funded through the REPF) – ongoing. Small capital grants scheme to support community facilities with carbon reduction measures and digital connectivity. In Sittingbourne, funded projects include:
 - Community Hub “Space in the Park” at Milton Creek Country Park; amenity enhancements at Murston Old Church (Murston All Saints Trust); paving and accessibility improvements at Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway.
 - Contribution towards the refurbishment of Heather House Community Centre (applications from SATEDA, Swale Community Care Project, Age UK Kent Rivers); and creation of a new sanctuary space at New Leaf Support.



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- Capacity building the CVS in Swale – ongoing. Working with local civil society organisations to improve capacity and efficiency through improved collaboration.
 - TS Hazard feasibility work – ongoing. Study to explore feasibility of community operation of building

Support for business

- Community business support – Pilot to introduce specialist support for the development of community run businesses in Great Easthall, Sittingbourne.
- Market feasibility work – Feasibility work to look at the markets in the Borough and how they can be developed for the future.
- Visit Swale photo/video – ongoing. Revenue investment in creating marketing materials to support the visitor economy.
- LUF Capital Support (Sheerness) – ongoing. Contribution to Sheerness Revival project – match funding for development of workshops at Masters House.

People & Skills

- Programme providing employment and skills support, digital inclusion and engaging local employers in upskilling existing staff.
- Capital Investment in an adult learning space in Swale House.

REPF

- Rural Swale Small Business Grant – ongoing. Grants to support micro and small businesses to invest in capital projects and grants for the development and promotion of the visitor economy.

The government recently announced a further allocation of £554,150 UKSPF funding for the 2025/26 financial year. The Economy and Regeneration Committee will consider the future programme on the 20 March 2025.