

Sheppey Area Committee meeting: 16 September 2020 – Matters arising

Item	Who initiated?	Action
Brown tourism signs	Cabinet Member for Planning	<p>To commence an audit of existing local brown signs in concert with parish and town councils. Progress to be reported at next meeting on 15 December 2020.</p> <p>Background: Cabinet adopted a Visitor Economy Framework Action Plan on 28 October 2020. This includes a medium term action to undertake a wayfinding audit of signage and identify any gaps. The delivery partners identified for this action are: SBC; town and parish councils; Visit Swale; Kent Highways; and local businesses.</p>
Heritage issues	Cabinet Member for Planning	<p>Background: Cabinet adopted a Heritage Strategy and Action Plan on 18 March 2020. The Action Plan contains a programme of CA reviews. It has been suggested by the Cabinet Member that the Area Committee may want to fund CA reviews for areas which are outside of the planned programme of reviews in the Action Plan. No such proposals were forthcoming at the 16 September 2020 Committee meeting.</p>
Conservation issues, including ponds	Cabinet Member for Planning	<p>Policy and Performance Officer to explore with officers and other organisations what information currently exists on the areas ponds. Progress to be reported at next meeting on 15 December 2020.</p> <p>Background: SBC only has details of the ponds which it manages directly. There is a strategic and heritage, conservation and tourism need for information, including ownership, condition and management of the ponds in the area.</p>
Connectivity across Sheppey	Member of public	<p>Background: 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.</p>

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		The Cabinet would welcome any input from the Committee on walking and cycling to feed into the developing Transport Strategy which is being developed through the Local Plan Panel. It is important that there is no duplication of effort by the Committee's and Local Plan processes.
Levels of new housing development	Member of public	The Committee to prioritise which local issues should be added to future agendas for substantive consideration and discussion.
Queenborough and Rushenden regeneration	Member of public	“
Sheerness town centre regeneration	Member of public	“
Neighbourhood policing	Member of public	“
Tree planting in urban areas	Member of public	“
Safety and upkeep of playgrounds	Member of public	“
Access to promenade at Marine Terrace, Sheerness	Member of public	“
Publicising the existence of the committee	Member of public	Background: The Council's Communications and Democratic Services Teams are exploring further how to publicise the Committee and encourage public participation. We are actively seeking to engage the input of parish and town councils.
Restoration of war memorial, Sheerness	Committee members	<p>At the meeting held on 16 September 2020, the Committee resolved: That Cabinet be asked to reconsider providing match funding for restoration of the war memorial in Sheerness from the Special Projects Fund.</p> <p>Funding for the war memorial at Sheerness was also the subject of a question at Council on 11 November 2020 and the response from the Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance was as follows:</p>

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		<p><i>Thank you for your question. It is very appropriate on a day when we remember the loss of life in war, and especially in this question the loss of life on the Isle of Sheppey. I am assured by the Chair of the Area Committee that this project will be much appreciated on the Island. We are establishing a Sheppey improvement fund, for small capital projects on Sheppey. The fund will be for £250,000 and I would ask the Area Committee through its Chair to bid against that fund for the Memorial. This will enable the project to proceed without Island members having recourse to either their members grant or the Special Projects funding for the Area Committee. Apart from the Sheppey Improvement fund, further funding will be allocated to Sheerness Town Centre improvements and the administration is planning other larger capital investments on the Island. We are confident that this is the right thing to do considering our determination overall to improve the public realm in Swale, the need to equalise for Sheppey on the funding we have recently devoted to other areas of Swale and because Sheppey is acknowledged to have areas of deprivation in need of more public investment, not just from Swale Borough Council.</i></p>