

Sheppey Area Committee meeting: March 2021 – Matters arising

Item	Who initiated?	Action	Comments on updates
<p>Conservation issues, including ponds</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Planning</p>	<p>Swale BC 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>	<p>The Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group have confirmed they are happy to work with SBC on this in the following ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They can provide species data for all ponds in Swale, not just the ponds in public ownership. This will require Swale to sign a data sharing agreement 2. They would be happy to attend meetings and provide advice and guidance where possible. 3. They can provide a database of known ponds, however they will need to get agreement for a third party for this. <p>Kent Fire and Rescue have also indicated that they hold data on all known water sources they are able to use for firefighting operations, including ponds and are happy to share this data with SBC.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Environment has advised that this should be dealt with as a borough-wide issue and referred to the appropriate officer to deal with in due course.</p>

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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> <p>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.</p>	This will be dealt with as part of the Local Plan review.
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.	This will be dealt with as part of the Local Plan review
Sheerness town centre regeneration	Member of public	The Committee to prioritise which local issues should be added to future agendas for substantive consideration and discussion.	Cllr Bonney will give a verbal update at the meeting.
Tree planting in urban areas	Member of public	The Committee to prioritise which local issues should be added to future agendas for substantive consideration and discussion.	Martyn Cassell will give a verbal update at the meeting.
Safety and upkeep of playgrounds	Member of public	The Committee to prioritise which local issues should be added to future agendas for substantive consideration and discussion.	Martyn Cassell will give a verbal update at the meeting.

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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.	The Area Committees are widely publicised through different methods but the comments have been noted and officers will continue to explore further avenues to encourage public participation.
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> <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</i></p>	Martyn Cassell will give a verbal progress report at the meeting.

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		<p><i>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>	
Post office provision	Committee member	The chairman suggested Members liaised with local community groups to put a proposal together for a community post office in Queenborough and bring that back to the next meeting of the Committee.	Queenborough Town Council have organised a public meeting with Post Office Ltd and all interested parties. The Vice Chairman will provide a verbal update at the meeting.
CCTV at Leysdown	Committee member	the Vice-Chairman suggested the matter be referred to the Cabinet Member for Community	This was referred to the Cabinet Member for Community and the Economy and Community Services

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			Manager. They agreed that there is justification for a new CCTV system at Leysdown. Leysdown Parish Council and Swale BC have each agreed to fund a third of the costs. Leysdown PC agreed that they would seek to approach the Area Committee for the remainder of the funding required.

Items to bring back to future Area Committee Meetings:

Item	Who initiated?	Background	Progress on actions
Brown tourism signs	Cabinet Member for Planning	<p>To commence an audit of existing local brown signs in concert with parish and town councils.</p> <p>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>	<p>So far nothing specific has been identified, although at the last meeting a local resident gave an update on the work of the Sheppey Community Development Forum stated that they have been considering brown tourism signs.</p> <p>The Chairman proposes waiting for the Sheppey Community Development Forum to finish their review and then bring back to a later meeting</p>
Queenborough and Rushenden regeneration	Member of public	The Committee to prioritise which local issues should be added to future	The Chairman proposes bringing this back to a future meeting at the appropriate time.

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		agendas for substantive consideration and discussion.	
Neighbourhood policing	Member of public	The Committee to prioritise which local issues should be added to future agendas for substantive consideration and discussion.	The Chairman proposes bringing this back to a future meeting when a presentation can be given.