

Western Area Committee – Priorities and ambitions proposal for 2021/22

Work plan – future items

The following suggestions were made for consideration at future meetings and the Chair/Vice-chair propose they should be included in the work plan for the year 2021/22

- Continue with ongoing projects and receive updates.
- Potential positive activities for young people in villages.
- Noise from the M2 and other roads.
- Closed Churchyards.

If the Committee are in agreement, the Chair will instruct the Area Committees Coordinator to schedule these items in for discussion.

Funding proposals

There have been a number of suggestions from Committee Members and groups within the Western area for funding proposals, these are listed below:

- Brown signs proposals for Bredgar and Wormshill Light Railway.
- A conservation area in Hartlip and Bredgar.
- Newington History Group – interpretation boards on footpaths.

The Chair and Vice-Chair note that the majority of proposals seek to improve the appearance, environment and facilities of the area or should benefit residents across the Western area and therefore propose this should be the priority/ambition for the year 2021/22

Criteria for funding applications:

To support this theme, the Chair and Vice-Chair propose that bids for funding submitted to the December meeting should demonstrate they will have a positive impact on the appearance, environment and facilities of the Western Area or benefit residents across the Western Area.

Bids will also be considered that can demonstrate how the initiative or project will contribute to Swale's strategic priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan in Priorities 2 and 3 which are relevant to the Area Committee's ambitions for this year:

Priority 2: Investing in our environment and responding positively to global challenges;

- 2.1 Develop a coherent strategy to address the climate and ecological emergencies, aiming for carbon neutrality in the council's own operations by 2025 and in the whole borough by 2030, and pursue all opportunities to enhance biodiversity across the borough.
- 2.2 Encourage active travel and reduced car use, including through the permeability of new developments, and work with partners to address air quality issues.
- 2.3 Establish a special projects fund to provide much-needed investment in the borough's public realm and open spaces.
- 2.4 Recognise and support our local heritage to give people pride in the place they live and boost the local tourism industry.
- 2.5 Work towards a cleaner borough where recycling remains a focus, and ensure that the council acts as an exemplar environmental steward, making space for nature wherever possible.

Priority 3: Tackling deprivation and creating equal opportunities for everyone:

- 3.1 Undertake targeted interventions to identify our most disadvantaged families and communities, improve our understanding of the issues they face, and develop new ways of working to reduce social exclusion and enhance opportunities and quality of life.
- 3.2 Reduce health inequality by developing more productive relationships with local health partners and making health and wellbeing a central consideration in all relevant council decision-making, recognising especially the link between housing and health.
- 3.3 Develop a communitarian approach to partnership working based on shared objectives with like-minded agencies in the voluntary and community sectors.
- 3.4 Ensure that the council plays a proactive role in reducing crime and antisocial behaviour, including through the modernisation of CCTV provision.
- 3.5 Promote wellbeing and enjoyment of life by signposting and encouraging a wide range of sporting, cultural and other leisure activities appropriate and accessible to each age group.

Scoring of applications:

In accordance with the procedure set out by the Area Committees Review Working Group and agreed by Committee Chairs, a three-step process will be carried out and all applications will be assessed by officers to check the following:

- they meet the criteria set out above;
- they do not cross over with other work being carried out by SBC or other organisations;
- there are no SBC financial/officer resource implications;
- the amount of funding requested is evidenced by quotations/estimates; and
- they do not include any of the exceptions listed below.

Exceptions to funding:

- *Individuals (or where the benefit of the funding will only benefit an individual)*
- *Party political groups or political activities. This includes any Parish Council (or group of), District Councils, or the Kent County Council where any funding would challenge or oppose the democratic functions of that Local Government. Or where such funding would be deemed to risk the reputational standing of Swale Borough Council.*
- *Church or Faith groups who are using the funding to promote religious activity.*
- *Schools and Academies cannot apply for funds towards capital costs; teaching materials; or curriculum delivery (although they may apply for funding towards initiatives or projects that support wider community benefit).*
- *Business/ companies which do not reinvest surpluses for community benefit.*

This Council agrees to ban the use and release of sky lanterns, fire reworks and balloons and the misuse of drones from land owned or managed by Swale Borough Council and at all events organised, supported, funded by (fully or partially) and/or licensed by this authority. This is in the interest of public safety, protection of agricultural land and property, prevention of harm to wildlife, livestock and other animals and protection of the environment.

This Council will not fund any project or organisation that does not act responsibly, in line with the relevant laws and regulations.

Funds should not be used for business costs such as rent and utilities.

The applications will then be scored against the criteria and the area of impact and options for voting will be put to the Western Area Committee to vote on at the December meeting.