

Sittingbourne Area Committee meeting: 7 September 2021 – Matters arising

No.	Item	Background	Progress on actions
1.	Primary, secondary and further education	Swale BC have been in discussions with Kent County Council regarding secondary school provision in Swale. It is suggested that the Committee hold off any consideration of this issue until matters become clearer.	The KCC Area Education Officer Marisa White will attend the September meeting to give a briefing on secondary school provision in Swale.
2.	Exploration of issues facing ward members in Sittingbourne area	<p>Area Committee Chairman to explore issues arising in wards across the Sittingbourne area.</p> <p>The Chair is happy to do ward walks should any Ward Councillors request one.</p>	The Chair will give a verbal update.
3.	Sittingbourne town centre regeneration scheme	Implementation of this scheme has been regularly reviewed by the Council's Scrutiny Committee for many years. It was proposed that the Committee receive the same written report that the Scrutiny Committee receive.	The Committee to note the Scrutiny update attached to this report.
4.	Entrance to skate park and Dolphin Barge Museum	<p>The skate park has now been handed over to Brogdale CIC to operate.</p> <p>At the June meeting the Chairman advised that an investigation would be carried out to establish ownership with a view to clearing rubble. The Chairman requested that the greenery should remain in place.</p>	The Chair to provide a verbal update.

5.	Heritage issues	<p>Background: Cabinet adopted a Heritage Strategy and Action Plan on 18 March 2020. The Action Plan contains a programme of Conservation Area 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.</p>	<p>The Sittingbourne High Street Conservation Area Review and Milton Regis Conservation Area Review to be discussed under item 8 of this agenda.</p>
6.	Bomb shelter at Trotts Hall Gardens	<p>The Chair and Cllr Simon Clark had agreed to meet with Richard Emmett from the Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne to discuss further.</p> <p>At the June meeting the Chair advised that the bomb shelter had been filled in and concreted over. The matter had been referred to the Estates officer at KCC. The principal archaeologist at KCC had been consulted.</p>	<p>The Chair to give a verbal update.</p>
7.	Improvements to lighting in Milton Regis area	<p>It was noted that the clock had been reinstated in Milton Regis and the Chairman would be exploring how lighting in the area could be improved.</p> <p>The Chair will continue to explore this and will report back on Court Hall and the Library at a future meeting.</p>	<p>The Chair to give a verbal update.</p>

8.	Swale Borough Council website	<p>A Member raised concerns about the difficulties residents and Councillors experienced when trying to navigate the Swale Borough Council website. Some items appeared to be 'buried' and took a number of steps to find. It was agreed that the Chairman would refer this matter to Cabinet.</p> <p>The Chair attended Informal Cabinet on 26 April and set out the concerns raised at the last meeting. Officers explained the reason for the current design of the website and advised a survey is about to be launched so there will be opportunity for further feedback.</p>	The Communications Manager has advised that the survey will be coming out late September/early October.
9.	Periwinkle Water Mill Site	<p>At the June meeting an update was given on the current situation and the project proposals.</p> <p>The following issues were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • greenery to be cleared; • checks to be carried out to ensure the voids are safe; • the Drainage Officer to inspect the pavement in Church Street; and • investigations to take place to identify the source of water at the bottom of the void. 	The Conservation & Design Manager to give a verbal update.
10.	Options for Roman Square & Square opposite Swale House	At the June meeting members considered designs for the square opposite Swale	Discussions are ongoing, updates will be provided at later meetings.

		<p>House and they felt they did not address anti-social behaviour issues.</p> <p>Members commented on the update report for Roman Square and suggested some improvements including better enforcement where drinkers congregate, improvements to the archway, addition of hanging baskets and addressing fly-tipping outside the charity shops.</p>	
11.	Traffic flow outside the bus station	A member of the public raised some issues regarding traffic flow outside the bus station in Sittingbourne and suggested some changes which could improve the flow. Members suggested these ideas should be taken to the Swale Joint Transportation Board.	No update available at the moment, update to be provided at the next meeting.
12.	Toilets and recycling bins near the cinema	A member of the public commented that the toilets near the cinema close early and that there was a lack of recycling bins.	<p>The Head of Environment and Leisure advised waste contract officers have surveyed the bus depot. There are sufficient litter bins for the size of area.</p> <p>The litter bins in the Bourne Place leisure park are managed separately and meetings have been held with those contractors to make improvements.</p> <p>We are currently awaiting delivery of newer style recycling bins and may choose this site for locating one when they arrive.</p>

			<p>We have reviewed the opening of toilets until later in the evening. Due to each of the facilities attracting people to the area having their own facilities it is not felt necessary to open the forum toilets later than 7pm at the current time. This will however be monitored.</p>
13.	Sittingbourne Tennis Club	<p>An update was given at the June meeting about a way forward regarding the tenure of the Club. The Committee were advised that a meeting was scheduled to take place between the Club and officers.</p>	<p>The Head of Environment and Leisure advised a meeting took place. An agreement of set times for use were agreed with the tennis club, a basketball club and running club. SBC officers are working on basic legal agreement to formalise the use.</p> <p>The lights have been isolated away from the pavilion, although some are not working, so further fixes are being investigated.</p>
14.	Sports facilities in the area	<p>At the June meeting the Chair suggested reviewing sports facilities in the Sittingbourne area to see if any required work.</p> <p>It was agreed to bring this back to a future meeting once Members had been able to look at facilities in the area.</p> <p>This could also tie in with an SBC review that will be taking place of sports facilities</p>	<p>Ongoing – please pass any comments to the Chair.</p>

		and the Committee's input would be welcome.	
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Items to bring back to a future Area Committee Meeting:

	Item	Action	Comments on progress
	Signage around the town centre	The Chairman had circulated a schedule of signage around the town centre and invited members to comment on whether they thought any needed changing.	There has been no feedback on this from members. The Chair proposes waiting until the signage in the town centre has been finalised and then bring it back to a future meeting to see if there are any gaps.
	Brown tourism signs	To commence an audit of existing local brown signs - 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. At the last meeting an update was given and the Committee were advised that the The Brown Signs audit for the borough is	The Chair will bring this back to a future meeting.

		<p>not underway as yet as it is programmed in for a later stage of delivery of framework Year 4 (currently in Year 2). This is to enable other actions to take place which will identify and support the businesses and develop the offer. We will then be in a stronger position to identify where signs are required and also where the signs are no longer appropriate.</p>	
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