

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

Work plan – future items

After consulting with Committee Members, the following suggestions have been received to include in the work plan for the year 2021/22

- Ask KCC for a report on Secondary School placements in Sittingbourne and future plans (RT)
- An update on how the first few months of Light Cinema has gone (RT).
- A report back on how the survey on the long term pedestrianisation has gone with particular reference to Sittingbourne (RT).
- Invite various voluntary groups to report on their perspective on working with Covid has gone (RT)
- An update on vaccinations in Sittingbourne (RT).

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

Funding priorities

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

- Seats re-varnished in Milton High Street by the Court Hall in the Heritage part of Milton (TW)
- Seats by the Jordan's Way underpass, Staplehurst Roadside. (TW)
- Obtain costings of having the green bollards along the pavement in the Heritage part of Milton Regis as far as the top of Milton Hill (TW)
- Convert roadside verges into wild flower beds or raised beds (SD)
- Improve entrance and parking area for KKLR/Skate Park/Dolphin/Raybel (SD)
- The installation of 23 Round 100mm x 120mm timber Bollards and the Planting of 17 Red Robin Bushes. This is being carried out to ensure the safety of the residents with regards to parking issues and the reduction of damage caused to green areas with poorly parked vehicles. the residents of Woodberry Drive, Coombe Drive, Thistle walk and Oak Road will benefit from this proposed works - £4,800 (Cllr James Hall)
- Gareth Randall, Sittingbourne Christmas Lights will be coming forward with bids for possible activities.

- Milton Creek Country Park Trust – first aid training for volunteers plus purchase of a defibrillator - £2,715.00.

The Chair and Vice-Chair note that the majority of proposals seek to improve the appearance, environment and facilities of the 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 in the Sittingbourne Area.

Bids will also be considered that can demonstrate how the initiative or project will contribute to Swale's strategic priorities 2 and 3 as set out in the Corporate Plan as listed below

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, fireworks 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 Sittingbourne Area Committee to vote on at the December meeting.