

Sittingbourne Area Committee meeting: 8 March 2022 – Matters arising

No.	Item	Background	Progress on actions
1.	Sittingbourne town centre regeneration scheme	<p>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.</p> <p>However, as the project has ceased there are no further update reports going to Scrutiny on this and the June 2021 report was the last one.</p>	The Chairman will provide a verbal update.
2.	Entrance to skate park and Dolphin Barge Museum	At the December 2021 meeting the Chairman advised that the graffiti fence was still to be installed. The old gate entrance had been closed off. There was an issue with emergency services and lorries not able to get through the gate, an emergency meeting was to be held to discuss this matter. The litter issues were under control.	The Chairman will provide a verbal update.
3.	Heritage issues	The Sittingbourne High Street Conservation Area Review and Milton Regis Conservation Area Review	The Senior Conservation & Design Officer will be in attendance to provide an update.
4.	Bomb shelter at Trotts Hall Gardens	At the September 2021 meeting the Chair advised he met with Richard Emmett	The Chair will be contacting Richard Emmett to see if there has been time

		regarding the bomb shelter at Trotts Hall Gardens and there could still be evidence of a shelter there. More investigations would take place.	scheduled to proceed with a ground radar examination
5.	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>At the December 2021 meeting the Chairman advised he was still looking for potential contractors to provide quotes for the work.</p>	<p>The Chair advised this has not moved on much further. Efforts are being made to contact the owner and the Chair has started work on having the building listed.</p> <p>Regarding requests for a quote, none have been returned to date.</p>
6.	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 Communications Manager advised three surveys will be carried out, one each for councillors, officers and the public. Officers are currently checking the questions in the surveys before they go live to make sure they will provide valuable insight.</p>	The Communications Manager advised that the questions in the surveys are being finalised and hope to go live soon.

7.	Periwinkle Water Mill Site	<p>At the September 2021 meeting an update was given on the current situation. The Conservation & Design Manager advised that the greenery that needed to be cleared was from neighbouring land.</p>	<p>The Senior Conservation & Design Officer will be in attendance to provide an update.</p>
8.	Options for Roman Square & Square opposite Swale House	<p>At the September 2021 meeting the Chair advised that he spoke to the occupants of Roman Square and the Working Group about brightening up the area.</p> <p>At the December 2021 meeting the Chairman reported that some work had been done and new planters had been installed in the area opposite Swale House. Work on greening the High Street was being looked at and if any Committee Members had ideas could they please email the Chairman.</p>	<p>The Chair will be providing a verbal update.</p>
9.	Sittingbourne Tennis Club	<p>It was reported at the September 2021 meeting there were still ongoing issues regarding the legal agreement to be finalised. The Club would like to take on the toilets and facilities at Milton Recreation Ground, an SBC officer was looking into the lease arrangements and would report back.</p> <p>Following the contribution from the Area Committee to get the electrics isolated, the floodlights have worked but only</p>	<p>The Leisure & Technical Services Manager advised the agreement hasn't progressed as it has been agreed with the club to hold it back while the LTA and Government funding (£30m) is being worked out. The club is being kept up to date with news and we have logged our interest with the LTA to be able to apply for funds to resurface the courts as well as at King Georges.</p>

		intermittently. Officers and contractors continue to try and find a solution but it may be necessary for full replacement. Funding options are being discussed and at this point LEDs would be used.	
10.	Sports facilities in the area	<p>At the June 2021 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 and the Committee's input would be welcome.</p>	The Leisure & Technical Services Manager advised that we have recently commenced a full review of our Built facilities Strategy (BFS) and we will be reviewing all areas in the coming months.
11.	Local Heritage List	Following a presentation on the Sittingbourne High Street and Milton Regis Conservation Area Reviews, a member of the public asked about making nominations to the Local Heritage List. It was suggested this should be added to the agenda for the next Area Committee Meeting to be discussed.	This item will be covered under item 6.
12.	Swale Media Arts Centre lease.	A resolution needs to be found.	Please see Appendix 1 for an update on this item.

13.	Bus services	<p>At the December 2021 meeting a member of the public commented on bus services, in particular route 347 only having one bus instead of two. Residents were not able to use the new facilities in Sittingbourne without a reliable bus service. Stagecoach had said they would not come to Sittingbourne without a depot. The Head of Housing & Community Services said that a meeting was due to take place with KCC, SBC and the bus operators and she would raise this matter at the meeting.</p>	<p>The meeting with KCC and the bus operators has not taken place. When it does the issues mentioned at the December 2021 meeting will be raised. An update will be given at the June 2022 meeting.</p>
14.	Anti-social behaviour in Sittingbourne Town Centre, Eden Village and Kemsley	<p>A Member commented that he witnessed a number of Police in Sittingbourne Town Centre on the evening of 2 December 2021 and asked if information could be provided to Ward Members on the incident.</p> <p>Members reported persistent problems with e-scooters being used in Town Centres.</p>	<p>The Police were consulted about this incident and after reviewing their systems they advised there was nothing to note. However, it was likely to be due to the additional uplift in response to the violence against women and girls operation in the build up to Christmas. There were an additional 4-6 officers each weekend in the town centres.</p> <p>With regards to e-scooters, the Police advised that 42 people were educated around the correct use of e-scooters between January and March 2021. Those that have continued to ignore this advice and been dealt with by way of S.59 warning or seizure. Problem</p>

		<p>Members expressed concerns about reported difficulties when using 101 to report crime as some residents have found they could not get through or no action or updates occurred.</p> <p>A resident reported that the Kemsley Arms were frequently broken into and there were reports of teenagers on the roof of the Kemsley Community Centre.</p>	<p>solving task force and OSARA (<i>objective, scanning, analysis, response and assessment model</i>) has been utilised to address this emerging trend. In Eden village S.34 dispersal powers were used and the Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) Task force were deployed in the area.</p> <p>The Police are not aware from any internal communications that there are issues with 101 and the time it takes to report a crime. The website functionality for reporting a crime/ASB online is now well used. The Community Voice function is also now available and anyone can sign up to this – it contains regular posts on the work the local Policing team do.</p> <p>As this is a repeat issue, the Police have advised they are going to look into this further.</p>
15.	Staplehurst Road	At the December 2021 meeting a member of the public mentioned problems at Staplehurst Road where motorists were turning right when it was left turn only. As there was no enforcement there was no deterrent. The Chairman agreed to ask the Police	The Chair will provide a verbal update on this item.

		Community Support Officer (PCSO) to monitor the area.	
16.	Creekside Plan	At the December 2021 meeting, the Chairman advised that he had spoken with charities about developing an overarching project to rejuvenate the Wharf. He already had a number of ideas from the charities and was in discussion with the Legal Team about forming a group and taking this forward. The Chairman circulated the ideas to the Area Committee Members.	The Chair will provide a verbal update on this item.

Items to bring back to a future Area Committee Meeting:

	Item	Background	Comments on progress
17.	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.
18.	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	The Chair will bring this back to a future meeting.

		<p>are: SBC; town and parish councils; Visit Swale; Kent Highways; and local businesses.</p> <p>The Brown Signs audit for the borough is 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>	
19.	Closed Churchyards	The Conservation and Design Manager explained that over £1 million of works needed to be carried out across Swale on closed churchyards to ensure they were maintained for heritage and health and safety reasons but the Council did not have this funding.	It was agreed to bring this back to a future meeting.