

Appendix B(ix) General Comments

Please note comments are transcribed directly from the survey

Waterfront

Improve Facilities along the SeaFront

Build some Beach Huts / kiosks into the Sea Wall by the Grass behind the Swimming pool

Remove the Barrier to Accessibility 1. Steps at Neptune Terrace 2. Keep the Flood gates open during calm winter months

Small food and craft stalls at the beach front.

Extend out the rocks around to form a breakwater and pier arranged, the EA would benefit. As it would also extend the security of the sea defences at that point towards the sailing club. The EA may give some assistance as it would assist the rock extension for sea defence protection.

We need better access to those onto the seafront with disabilities and the area raised to make the most of the sea views

A massive cleanup of the beach area and sea front

Think of what we have here, all we have to offer and improve it, enhance it, sell it. It will reap benefits. I walk along the seafront from Minster to Sheerness most days, I swim in the sea most days and on many of those days I am asked by visitors where can I get a coffee on the sea front? Where are the toilets?

The scheme could benefit generations to come and the beach could be recharged with sand protected by the rock arm. The scheme would complement the Seacadets new proposed head quarters where their cadets could have safe launching facilities from the carpark into the sea for their sailing boats and motor boats close to their proposed new headquarters., where the entrance to the canal is opposite the ship on shore grass and car park, and hence the Seacadets facilities.

Giving access for all the community to the prom and beach which the existing car park doesn't provide access for disabled and mothers with prams, cyclists, mobility scooter etc.

Foot showers up the beach so you can rinse the mud sand off every other seaside town has them. Make it more like other towns Southend is a great example.

The fire brigade boat doesn't have launching facility. And local fishermen and boat persons struggle to get access to the wonderful water, because of inadequate launching facilities.

Maybe have street lights along seafront for evening walkers etc

Most seaside places I visit seem to have many more facilities for boats than we do on the island.

Perhaps have a popup first aid hut nearby. and have sea/beach staff patrollers to help tourists.

Provide a public slipway and the start of a mini harbour where the rocks at the Ship On Shore extend out to start the new attraction. 2 million could be used to start this long term ambition off, by providing a ramp from the ship on Shore car park with a new flood gate facing west

More beach huts (like) at Minster!! They are always empty when we go there (every week!). You are missing a trick there.

Sheppey is one of the most popular places for windsurfers and yachting and again, there is a lack of facility provision for this target group. The unused land adjacent to the coast road has the Sheppey Windsurfing Club, which is simply a ship's container and offers storage for surf boards. A small club house with changing rooms and a café would be very welcome and encourage more visitors

Some of the money. Could be used to start a much needed facility to gain access to the water that surrounds the island, Cornwall and Devon flourish because of their small and large harbours which adds to their economy and tourism

Visitor facilities / attractions

Allow motorhomes and campers who use the facilities and spend money - charge them for an overnight stay. These vehicles cost thousands so those people have money to spend in our area. Campers with tents etc near the sea front. Loads of people want to walk, sail, surfboard on our island but just leave at the end of the day - they need to stay overnight and spend

Have an aquarium at master's house or beachfields

Vincent Gardens has a massive field that could have better facilities for kids to play.

The picnic area could also be used for events like craft markets, food festivals etc.

Equine sports make safe riding places for animals to be off the road.

The provision of a cinema, like Sittingbourne's 'The Light' would be a huge asset for everyone's benefit. It would produce job opportunities and help reduce the anti-social behaviour of our bored youth. If eating places, such as Nandos, were incorporated into this entertainment hub, it would be as busy as Roman Square in Sittingbourne.

Will be lovely to see a mini golf course and new swimming pool for family's to enjoy!

Dog parks you can book to use.

Establish a new snorkelling/canoeing experience for visitors run by trained professional businesses and maybe partner up with the sailing club.

I work in a day centre for adults with learning difficulties and we always drive off the island for activities and facilities so it'd be lovely to not do that and stay local!

Look at places like Whitstable and use the blue print they have implemented to regenerate the area.

Perhaps add aquarium centre or convert master's house into it....

river cruises to Southend

snorkelling/canoeing experiences near master's house or along seafront

miniature railway line along seafront.

orienteering/treasure hunts around island

Please invest into Sheerness. We desperately need it. We have been promised projects like this time and time again. We could do with a lovely restaurant, bowling centre, cinema, an A&E department. The people on the island desperately need this. Is there a way you can maybe use the old library that's near the Chinese and carpet shop be developed into indoor crazy golf or climbing wall adventure place as that building is an eye sore. That could be developed into a nice restaurant or food hall place.

High Street

Markets in the High Street

Have shops voluntarily sign up to a new "Sheppey safe scheme" where thieves etc can be radioed to other stores to warn them along with CCTV and warning posters on participating shop windows and controlled through town council CCTV

Take over large empty shop in Sheerness for Art & Craft Workshops & Pop up Shops eg Old Tesco or Bonne Marche - to lead an Arts Regeneration of Sheerness

Mobile History Boards to put in the windows of any empty shops - similar to the ones round the Clock Tower

The town centre itself needs reviving; better shops, more choice.

More decent shops, like Primark, a quirky little shop, a holiday shop (one that sells the holiday tat), a cinema and a decent club. We have Tantra but let's face it, it's dying a death and hasn't been jam packed since 2012..

Need a Primark store as not much clothing stores here..

Have street food markets monthly. Have small wooden huts near clock tower that sells homemade food / arts and crafts etc.

Tidy up the high street, make it look more appealing to the visitors and locals.

I'd like to see some more focus on the high street being free of bored youths and litter.

Use some money for upgrading of shop frontage

Consider how you link the high street to these areas with signage or how the areas flow to each other, as they're not easily accessible to each other if you're not local, maybe a park and ride scheme to link other parts of the island to keep traffic out of the centre of the high street. Would also be nice to have some better quality restaurants in Sheerness,

Need to make sure local high street is linked to plan so existing retailers are not disadvantaged.

Build a Primark and better shops down town

Sheerness high street needs to come back to being a holiday seaside town people want to visit.

Something to the standard of Mems Meze and not just another take away.

I feel like the high street needs to be revitalised as there's nothing there to make me want to come in, need more than Turkish barbers, hair dressers etc...

Other parts of Sheppey / Swale

Let's be really inventive and consider spending money on Leysdown

Improved facilities at Barton's Point

Barton's Point Coastal park is a very popular destination but I disagree that huge sums of money need to be spent on the area. A good person at the helm that has vision and passion, could easily turn BPCP around to be a profitable and well frequented place for visitors.

Give Barton's Point and the coastal park more investment and better management

To put the pool in Sheerness would not be beneficial as the pool is too small. A swimming pool which offers indoor out door swimming fun sections (whirl pools rapids) will generate more people visiting the island. Barton Point is an ideal spot to build this. The boating lake and wildlife sections can stay untouched. With a go ape type play area also will be packed. People go off the island for these facilities as they are not found on the island. Sheerness high street needs complete revamp encouraging new shops not pound land takeaways hairdressers nail bars and betting shops. You need to encourage other shops to for people to visit it. There needs to be athletic clubs build running tracks high jump long jump. If you find something for kids to do they won't be bored. There is none of these things here. Football rugby yes but not everyone likes these sports. And also make it affordable to be able to go to these things.

Water tower area needs to be turned into a venue of sorts . Get an order on it to promote businesses ideal for large hotel group . Nobody pushing for new projects just same old same old .

If Barton's Point is part of this upgrade then it's about time to permanently end the mud bath at the end of seager road and upgrade to access to a all weather section of tarmac linking up with the cycle path already there

What improvements will be made for sittingbourne swimming pool ? Same needs completing

The Sea cadets project has planning permission and we have a Business Plan already to promote use as a Community Hub to maintain it's viability. Car parking is ample. Planning is granted , support from the LUP will promote the additional funding required. The site is adjacent to what should be a refurbished Cafe in the Coastal Park and will make it more attractive. Basically the plan is ready it just needs the finance.

I would like to see Swale give more help to the on going project for the Sea Scouts building

Transport / Roads

Bus Stops in Trinity Carpark to keep busses out of the High Street (Alley way through from the Co-op)

Needs to tie up with other project work such as what is going on at Bluetown. For me the infrastructure to get to these places and maintain services are as important.

The roads into sheerness need to be considered if we are trying to improve and attract visitors! Marine parade (shrimp terrace) area is a major main road that is more like a country lane as only one way traffic can pass due to parked cars! The sea wall bollards need to be removed and parking bays provided as the path still has enough pedestrian space! This road (especially when other island roads are closed) is congested constantly! The bollarded wall/covered walkway is never utilised where it could free up the traffic to move smoothly and freely allowing traffic towards sheerness and out again ! Including bus routes to bring visitors from other sheppey areas I don't see any "levelling up" possible for Sheppey without seriously rethinking the Island's transport situation. The historic provision is not working. Sheerness is not the centre of the island nor is it any longer its most populated area. There are trains but you cannot use them unless you live in Sheerness or Queenborough (no buses no car parking). Work that is available locally is totally dependent on car access. Sheerness-centric thinking means that teenagers can get not to the excellent youth provision on offer in Sheerness without mum or dad's taxi. (Cycling is not safe particularly at night). There is no easy answer but I think that until serious thought is given to the problems of providing internal access that is not car dependent Sheppey will sink further rather than levelling up.

I think this area really needs this but transport is a serious issue no late buses, no easy connection from train station to leysdown for visitors, taxi very expensive for all living or arriving here.

I would like some of this money spent on fixing the roads where I live. They are dangerous and the council needs to adopt these roads and make the area safer for residents

Yes, please consider infrastructure! All too often a new thing is created that just further exacerbates the issue of busy roads.

Employment / job creation

I do seriously think you all need to look at how this would benefit everyone and help with employment

I hope the council consider what would attract visitors to Sheppey as thus will bring in revenue which will create jobs and hopefully wealth to the area .

More job opportunities for the residents on this little island as well as enticing others to travel here for work (like when the steel mill was running) that shutting down killed this island....

More chances to expand small home businesses.

Whatever construction needs to take place try to use local businesses or the collage to carry it out as that will be a boost to our local economy.

Yes get many quotes and try to involve local businesses in consultation and construction of these projects

Health

Add in new infrastructures such as doctors that are willing to open and see patients.

Need more medical centres

you also need to think about more doctors, dentists, vets for the local community

Safe free to use environment and facilities for all and be more inclusive would help build a better and stronger community and this will help mental and physical health and help reduce demand on NHS and other health care.

Include a domestic violence support centre within the new community hub at masters house or in the health centre..

Traffic / parking

20 is Plenty Speed for the whole of Sheerness

Traffic Free High Street & Broadway

It might be worth subsidising existing parking facilities

Need an area Where school coaches and coach visitors can park.

If college is extended into pay n display carpark akin mcdonalds where can visitors park? Rose st parking is too small. and consider where school and oap coaches parking area.

Cycling / walking

Improved Cycle Paths for the whole island. Encourage a bike hire scheme especially along the Promenade

A bike route round the island would be amazing

I believe that the PROW footpath ZS55 that runs between Scrapsgate Road and Power Station road should be improved as a shared footpath and Cycleway and called ' Railway Walk'.

We have the most beautiful coastline that we are not exploiting enough. Accessibility for the seafront promenade is a must. The 'Island Run' brings in thousands of competitors and there are several walking and running clubs on the Island. They all have to use the main roads for parts of their running which is dangerous.

Natural environment

Better treatment for wildlife

We have a beautiful island that isn't recognised for all that it has to offer and is often disrespected but it has a wonderful community and some great and beautiful places. I travel to the island for the sea and the friendships I have made and I believe others will do this if we build on what we have to offer and make the sea and beach area of Sheerness better.

More help for wildlife instead of cutting down more trees.

More natural areas, like a man made forest, nautical/wild garden, the shops need a lick of paint and brought back

History / heritage

Focus on what makes Sheerness unique. It has a rich history and this can be utilised to help people feel a pride in where they live. Careful consideration of how to make these attractions self-sustaining will mean we can get the best out of this money without having to think about charging for maintenance.

Sheerness has lost its Victorian seaside attraction and needs something to make it special again. A focal point.

Mobile History Boards to put in the windows of any empty shops - similar to the ones round the Clock Tower

Current plans make very little reference to the identity of the island as a selling point, and there is no evidence of local demand for bowling or crazy golf. Do your consumer research into seaside rebranding, use the last 20 years success in Cornwall to evidence the truth of the importance that the beach is our biggest selling point, for locals and tourists. Place perception of Sheppey needs to change and a tidal pool will bring communities of swimmers, families, water sports people and urban populations who would travel far to make use of these free facilities. The cost of another refit of the leisure centre and swimming pool could build and maintain a tidal pool for decades.

Young people

I believe more needs to be done for children and teenagers to spend time productively

The youth here are very misguided maybe some mindfulness courses for them.

Sheerness has a bad reputation for being a run down area where youths have little to no respect for anything. I believe we can change this view by investing in Sheerness and making it a place worth coming to and visiting and spending time with the family in. The biggest issue affecting children and young adults in this area is boredom. We need a youth centre, a safe place for those that need it. Having more opportunities in the college would help more kids to be motivated to go to college, get an education and respect their home town. As an adult with step children in lots of debt I would love to spend more time here in my home town enjoying the local area and making memories with the kids without having to travel or spend a lot. We need something in town children would enjoy doing like a studio for children who want to be creative with their voices or an art studio that each week children from different age groups get to show their best work and the art studio gets a percentage of what's sold and so on,

Homes

Stop building houses.

No further new builds private or commercial sector until Southern Water has resolved its treatment issues, that the road infrastructures are upgraded along with public transport

We need our facilities to be updated and improved. With the amount of new houses on the island we need new investment and better infrastructure as we are often overlooked.

Education

Build a new secondary school to give Oasis competition, which will in turn force them to improve (hopefully).

I think locals should benefit more than visiting holiday makers so college expansion is a good idea

Schools for the local community

Public realm / art

Commission art to be part of the public realm improvements.

Bid advice / general commentary

As a resident my whole life I'm really looking forward to seeing this project. Personally I think the fund is being split over too many projects like the College and masters house and should be focused on what makes Sheppey appealing and the potential for greatest return. The beachfront projects in my opinion should be the focus of this investment.

I hope the council gets this funding as the area certainly needs help. Plus Me True Love is right it's about time Sheppey got something

I really hope this funding goes ahead and is spent with the islanders in mind. All generations that is. Me personally I would love to see a cinema.

I think the current consultation is flawed and the community have seen through it. There is little if any support to spend funds putting right decades of neglect in Beachfields under the pretense of levelling up. As much as I share the Council's opinion that any success relies upon community support I find little of merit to support.

I would like the island to be seen as an equal to the rest of Swale and Medway and a levelling up could help this

If this bid fails, then further funding bids need to carry on - Sheerness needs some investment & TLC

If you don't invest properly in this area it would be just as easy for people to go off the island to find more suitable facilities. Please please please invest in Beachfields

Listen to what residents' ideas are and not just go forward with your own ideas.

This island, the whole of it needs to be looked at and a lot of changes made. But starting with moving the pool to a better nicer location would be a start

Let's not drag our heels with these changes! Sheerness is declining rapidly.

The island has such beauty and it would be nice to have something for the local community as well as tourists

This should have been taken to the Sheppey area committee for ideas before some random ideas were put together. This should also include the whole island.

While spending £20m on much needed leisure and education projects is needed. This is levelling up funds. How do your proposals level up in actuality. Could the money not be spent to revive the high street, encourage entrepreneurs, fix roads, provide youths with an outlet, encourage more investment to the island, such as a chain hotel and leisure complex. Provide a tidal pool, a cycle track, outdoor activity, skateboard park, outdoor courts, invest in island policing and neighbourhood policing. These are things that would help level up. Be aware that you may fail if you fail to show how this money actually levels up. Crazy golf and demolishing a perfectly good swimming pool do not level up.

Yes. Remember £974k Big Lotto windfall from 2012? Sustainable Sheppey programs that weren't sustainable past 2014? Please watch out for fees and middle men and "consultants" and "feasibility studies". Don't let this money get wasted on paper pushing and people who aren't 100% on board with making Sheerness a wonderful place to live... a place we can all be proud of. Money like this is chum in the water for money sucking sharks. The people who live here should benefit first and foremost. Don't build things you don't have the funds to maintain. There is broken glass, rubbish, and sometimes human excrement on your public tennis courts. A crazy golf course would fare no better if funds aren't allocated for upkeep. And last comment: people who have never bothered to dip a toe into our seawater or support shops on our High Street should not be representing any locals on our Council. That was a shameful, albeit candid comment.

These are some great ideas to improve the town and bring more activities and facilities

Less consultation and more action. Sheppey residents are over consulted so let's hope this bid is successful.

The little things count too.

Now is the time to get moving on this. The staycation is now one of the fastest growing sections in England. Being a seaside town we should be on this train carving out our market! We've had some fantastic press recently, singling out shellness and Elmley, the rest of the island needs to level up to these. Sheerness town and sea front have definitely seen better days.

This is a long time coming and I hope very much you're successful.

Please can you ensure that ALL local people can access whatever facilities are built - that they aren't excluded by finances or disabilities.

Your consultations are so disgusting, you've already made your mind up without listening to your constituents.

Stop acting like stroppy children at council meetings and focus on improving the community not just scoring points.

Please don't waste this wonderful opportunity

The committee needs to look more "outside the box" and not just looking at the same things other seaside towns are projecting. We need to be different.

The whole island would benefit from the regeneration of Sheerness, it's needed for this island to prosper otherwise it will become a large housing estate

The people who this money is meant to help by 'levelling up' must be able to access it, and helping them feel pride and ownership will do that much better than introducing facilities they will have to pay for and are already not accessing.

Sheerness and Sheppey are massively overlooked when it comes to funding and support in Swale, places like Sittingbourne and Faversham always benefit ahead of us. But Sheerness and Sheppey have such huge potential and the people here are so deserving of an opportunity to improve their community.

So much potential so little imagination

We are the most deprived area in the South East, everything feels worn out, old or nonexistent. It would be nice to get something to 'level us up' leisure and a learning pool would improve people's chances at health and encourage exercise.

Seeing the sea would help our minds.. I would be very happy if any of this actually happens. Thank you for the opportunity to have my say.

Thank you for taking the time to consult the community and for all your hard work in submitting this proposal.

Miscellaneous:

Attend to the BIG stuff. Water supply, sidewalks and street and promenade lighting all over the island.

Disabled access needs to be improved and the area raised to enjoy our sea views

I would love to be able to have a bistro selling local produce and using staff from Sheppey who need work. Or mums that can't work away from home, who can bake from home for me. Young people in foster care, to work and get experience. I

have a few ideas to help the community within my business

I WOULD LOVE TO SEE SHEERNESS REMODERNISED FOR THE YOUNG AND THE OLD BUT ALSO WE DO NEED THIS PLACE CLEANED UP IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH YOU SPEND IF IT'S AN ISORE WHICH IT HAS BECOME

It's such a shame Sheppey is treated like the 'poor relative' compared to Sittingbourne & Faversham!

Let's make the island somewhere to be proud of again and show visitors that we have lots to offer

There are so many nice areas with beaches that have lots to offer and I think Sheerness should have the same.

Local Giving Foundation is excited to explore ways to integrate our plans for cultural, social and economic regeneration at Shurland Hall with SBC's promising levelling up plans.

Sheppey FM site could be improved with better tech and facilities to make it a 'must listen' local channel whereby local business can be championed and good news features can be shared with the local community. Introduction of new and improved community parades championing the local area and the local people.

I don't necessarily feel safe in Sheerness in the evenings after dark so if any aspect of the scheme is to have night time usage would need to consider locations and safety, lighting etc...

Yes, don't let anyone paint on the concrete wall it doesn't look nice and cannot be maintained.