

Western Area Committee meeting: Progress on Matters arising – 9 June 2022

No.	Item	Background	Progress on actions
1.	Youth provision in villages	<p>At the June 2021 meeting the lack of youth provision was raised as an issue.</p> <p>At the March 2022 meeting it was agreed to invite a Kent County Council (KCC) representative from the Youth Service and the KCC Community Warden to the June 2022 meeting.</p>	<p>Amanda Turner the KCC Youth Hub Delivery Manager, Swale Integrated Children's Services and Rebecca O'Neill, the commissioned provider of Youth Provision for KCC will both be attending the June 2022 meeting. This will be discussed under item 5.</p>
2.	Bredgar and Hartlip Conservation Area Reviews.	<p>The Area Committee requested that quotes be obtained for Conservation Area Reviews for Bredgar and Hartlip for consideration at the June 2022 meeting.</p>	<p>The ballpark estimate for undertaking the two Conservation Area Reviews is between £5500-£7500.</p> <p>The officers have approached three consultants to provide us with their cost estimates to undertake the work and the costs are awaited. It is anticipated that we will receive fee proposals back from the consultants by the end of June and the relevant amounts will then be reported to the next meeting of the Area Committee for information.</p>
3.	Heritage issues	<p>Cabinet adopted a Heritage Strategy and Action Plan on 18 March 2020. The Action Plan contains a programme of Conservation Area (CA) reviews.</p>	<p>Updates for ongoing CA reviews will be provided at the September 2022 Western Area Committee meeting.</p>

		<p>The Area Committee agreed to fund CA reviews for the areas below which are outside of the planned programme of reviews in the Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodmersham Church Street • Rodmersham Green • Milstead • Tunstall 	
4.	The Agricultural Bill	<p>A Parish Councillor asked if the Area Committee could advise where guidance can be found on the Agricultural Bill so that parish councils can engage with land-owners.</p> <p>A Tunstall Parish Councillor had done some work on this and said that as the Bill could impact on Planning, if any suitable training was identified for Members, she will advise the Area Committee.</p>	No officer action requested at present.
5.	Changing Places Toilets	<p>A Parish Councillor for Bobbing brought the Committee's attention to the Government Fund Changing Places Toilets. Local Authorities were invited to submit expressions of interest to install larger accessible toilets. This was also raised at the Sittingbourne Area Committee meeting.</p>	<p>The Head of Environment and Leisure advised that Swale Borough Council has been provisionally awarded funding of £133,750 for three Changing places facilities. We are awaiting final terms and conditions prior to announcing further details.</p>

6.	Charging of electric cars at home where there is no driveway.	<p>A Parish Councillor for Bobbing raised the issue of residents in the future needing to charge electric cars at home when they had no driveway. There needed to be a policy change to allow for a wire to be run either under or over the pavement https://chargearm.com/</p> <p>The Area Committee were advised the EV policy was being drafted and it will pay reference to this type of issue and point to Kent County Council guidance as it is their responsibility.</p>	Parish Councillor Graham Addicott provided contact details of an expert in Brighton who could advise on this matter. Officers have attempted to make contact but so far had no response. They will keep trying.
7.	Conservation issues including ponds.	the Chairman suggested the Pond Warden be invited to a future Western Area Committee meeting.	David Carey, the Chair of the Kent Tree and Pond Wardens has confirmed he will attend the Western Area Committee meeting on 1 September 2022 for a discussion on the maintenance of ponds.
8.	Prohibition of HGVs on the A2.	<p>A Member advised that councillors representing Rainham South were seeking to progress with Medway Council and KCC the prohibition of HGVs on the A2. He said this would affect Upchurch, Hartlip and Newington along with other areas. It was agreed by the Area Committee that the Chair would write to KCC and Medway Council to highlight the implications for SBC.</p>	<p>The Chairman of the Western Area Committee wrote letters to Medway Council and KCC, highlighting the implications of implementing the proposal to prohibit HGV's on the A2.</p> <p>Medway Council have responded to say they will take the Area Committee's comments into account when they discuss the matter further.</p> <p>The response from David Brazier the KCC Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport is attached to this update, Appendix 1.</p>

9.	Rose Hill & Meads Woodland Management & Work Plans.	<p>In March 2021 the Area Committee allocated funding to develop management plans. These had now been completed by an external consultant and there were £2,158.00 of funds remaining.</p> <p>The plans indicated if the tasks should be carried out by a contractor or a volunteer group.</p> <p>Members agreed that SBC seek volunteers to set up Friends Groups and to assist them in that process as well as helping them to report progress back to the Western Area Committee.</p> <p>The Area Committee agreed that known potential volunteers be contacted by Members to see if they were interested in forming Friends Groups and report back to the June 2022 meeting.</p> <p>It was also agreed to adopt the Management and Work Plans for Rose Hill Woods and The Meads Community Woodland and the remaining funding to be split 50/50 between the two Friends Groups once established.</p>	<p>Cllr Mike Baldock reported that a Friends of Rose Hill Woods Group has formally been founded with requisite officers and the paperwork is currently being processed.</p> <p>Cllr James Hunt advised there are 5 residents who are interested in forming a friends group for The Meads Community Woodland and they hope to meet soon. The Aspire School are progressing with a Forest School and have a copy of the management plan to assist with some of the work. Cllr Hunt met with the Greenspaces Manager on site with one of the teachers to discuss an area that could be made secure for the children and this is being progressed with legal to see if work is possible to do within the restrictions of the lease. The school have funding for a forest school teacher who will be able to work with the friends group once up and running.</p>
	Walking and Cycling Project	At the March 2021 meeting, the Area Committee awarded £13,000.00 in funding for a walking and cycling project.	An update has been prepared by the Active Travel Coordinator (Appendix 2).

