

Eastern Area Committee meeting: September 2022 – Matters arising

| No. | Item | Background | Progress on actions |
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| 1. | Bus consultation project | <p>At the December 2021 meeting, Eastern Area Committee Members agreed to award £10,000.00 to undertake a public consultation on local bus services. Due to SBC resource issues there was a recommendation by the Head of Regeneration and Economic Development to explore an alternative delivery option such as project management by a town or parish council.</p> <p>At the Area Committee meeting on 22 March 2022, Members questioned if a parish or town council would have the resources to carry out this consultation and felt that it would be better for SBC to run this project, which was of huge importance to the residents of the Eastern Area.</p> <p>The following options were identified to take forward at Informal Cabinet on 4 April 2022.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Seek a suitably qualified temp or student placement to undertake the work under the direction of either the Capital Projects Manager or the Economy and Community Services Manager. 2) Contract the work out to a third party with the contract managed by either the Capital Projects Manager or the Economy and Community Services Manager. | <p>Contact with the University of Kent did not identify graduate candidates to be recruited for this project and with the submission of funding bids to Government concluded over the summer a limited officer resource is available, through the Economic Development Support Officer.</p> <p>A specification for the work will need to be drawn-up with input from Councillors Gould, Saunders and Whiting and the work commissioned, potentially through an add-on to the existing contract with Project Centre, which is working on the pedestrianisation project and therefore already have experience of the locality. This would expedite the speed with which it can be progressed.</p> |

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| | | Officers assessed the resource implications and made contact with the University of Kent Careers and Employability Service to determine what particular scheme this might best sit within, and when a student might be available. | |
| 2. | Flooding in the Whitstable Road area. | <p>Councillor Julian Saunders went through the chronology of progress including email exchanges with Southern Water (SW) following a recent flooding event. He identified that some significant progress had been made with KCC as a result of the efforts of the Committee Chair. Members commented on the response by SW which stated the network “had sufficient capacity for up to a one-in 50-year storm event” as events of this level had occurred twice in the previous year, the modelling did not equate with events.</p> <p>It was agreed that Councillor Julian Saunders in his capacity of Vice-Chair of the Eastern Area Committee write to SW to ask that they continued to take action and provide further updates on flooding in Whitstable Road and the wider Faversham area. Also, to challenge the statement that SW would not be expanding the sewage capacity to deal with new housing developments.</p> <p>Also, Councillor Saunders in his capacity of Vice-Chair of the Eastern Area Committee write to Helen Whately MP to ask for a further meeting with SW and other agencies to be arranged.</p> | See Appendix 1 for an update. |
| 3. | Removal of White lines on roads | Chris Oswald-Jones referred to the aspiration to promote Active Travel, part of which was the | Councillor Thomas contacted the KCC Highways Active Travel Team to ask if |

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| | | <p>removal of white lines in the middle of the road where possible. He said it was only necessary at junctions and a lot of the time it was not possible to stay to the left of the lines due to parked vehicles.</p> <p>Councillor Eddie Thomas in his capacity of Chair of Faversham Town Council's Active Travel Committee advised that he was in discussions with the Active Travel Team at KCC about this matter and would feedback after his next meeting with them.</p> | <p>they could advise if the resurfacing team at KCC had formally been told not to repair centre white lines within Faversham's 20mph zone.</p> <p>They responded to confirm that all centre lines on refreshing other lines or when resurfacing should not be replaced within the 20mph limit.</p> |
| 4. | Lack of bins and removal of bins | <p>Councillor Carole Jackson said there were not enough bins at Wildish Road, Bysing Wood. Other Wards were in a similar position. Litter pickers had to carry rubbish out of the area for disposal. Councillor Lloyd Bowen and Councillor Mike Henderson said that bins had been removed and not been replaced in Teynham, at the entrance to Love Lane, to the back of Morrisons and by the takeaway at Upper Brents.</p> <p>It was agreed that these matters should be referred to the Environment Committee and that Ward Members should be consulted before bins were removed</p> | <p>The Head of Environment & Leisure confirmed that he has escalated this with officers and will ensure that Members are advised in future if any bins are to be removed. However, we have had a few occasions recently where litter bins have been taken without our consent. It is proposed to debate a report on litter bins policy at Environment Committee next year.</p> |
| 5. | Lack of play equipment at the green on Whiting Crescent, Faversham | <p>Councillor Carole Jackson spoke about the lack of play equipment at the green on Whiting Crescent, Faversham. It was a deprived area with young families who could not travel to play areas further away. She requested that a small amount of play equipment be installed there.</p> | <p>The Head of Environment & Leisure advised that there are two other playgrounds within 10-15 minutes' walk from Whiting Crescent and the Council cannot provide any more playgrounds in that location.</p> |