

## Sheppey Area Committee meeting: 6 June 2023 – Matters arising

No.	Item	Background	Progress on actions
1.	Coach Parking	Jenny Hurkett from the Criterion at Blue Town raised the matter of coach parking on the Isle of Sheppey.	This matter went to Community Committee on 1 March 2023 and it was agreed that a three-year trial be undertaken for providing chargeable coach parking in Minster. It was confirmed that the £35,000 required for preparation of the site for the coach park was available from the Kent Pool Economic Development Business Rates Reserve. However, the project does not yet have the staff resource allocated for delivery.
2.	Connectivity across Sheppey	A question was asked at the June 2021 meeting about transport issues on the Island. The Quality Bus Partnership has been suspended while Kent County Council (KCC) look at how to set up an Enhanced Partnership which will replace the QBP.	The Chairman to consider how to take this forward when more is known about the new group.

		The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods advised that the KCC Enhanced Partnership was still being formed. It would oversee the Countywide bus improvement plan. KCC have still not received notification from the DFT that the indicative funding amount awarded will be confirmed. As such they are unable to start work on any initiatives that require funding.	
3.	Dumping of spoil on the Eastchurch shoreline	KCC Councillor Andy Booth asked if a report could be brought back to a future Sheppey Area Committee meeting providing details about the spoil that has been dumped on the Eastchurch shoreline. He said that it was important that the public were aware of what was happening. The Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods reported that a multi-agency group continue to explore possible options for action led by the Environment Agency.	The multi-agency group continue to collect evidence for action led by the Environment Agency.
4.	Coastal Policies Group	Councillor Peter MacDonald asked what progress had been made by the Coastal Policies Group regarding the change from no intervention on erosion to one of protection.  The Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods advised a meeting between stakeholders and officers to progress this matter had taken place. A formal working group of the South-East Coastal group will be formed. Following initial fact finding, a report will be taken to Environment Committee detailing the options available to the Council and residents.	No further progress on this due to resource and capacity issues.
5.	Queenborough Guildhall	The condition of Queenborough Guildhall was discussed at the Regeneration & Property Committee and it was resolved that the inclusion of Queenborough Guildhall in the recommended programme of Condition Surveys be supported by the Committee.  The minutes of the Extraordinary Regeneration & Property Committee meeting can be found on the website or via this <a href="#">Link</a> .	The Buildings Manager advised the condition survey carried out was for the 'joint' building of Guildhall and 44 High Street.

		<p>The condition survey was commented on as it referred to central heating when the Guildhall does not have it.</p>	<p>Although there is no heating in the Guildhall part, there is heating in the offices part of 44 High Street &amp; the museum.</p> <p>A new &amp; updated condition survey will be carried out and will include a defining split of the building.</p>
6.	Scrapsgate Field, Minster	<p>A group of horse owners requested the horse-riding ring at Scrapsgate Field, Minster be brought back into use and they were willing to contribute to the cost. The Head of Leisure and Environment advised that the support of the Sheppey Area Committee should be sought in the first instance, before taking the matter to the Environment Committee.</p> <p>The Director of Regeneration &amp; Neighbourhoods advised that officers will be discussing the matter with the Chair of the Environment Committee as to if and when this is put on the agenda to consider.</p>	<p>The matter was taken to the Environment Committee on 2 March 2023 and regular grass cutting for an informal horse-riding area on Scrapsgate Field, along with reducing maintenance elsewhere on the site was agreed. The Head of Environment and Leisure, in consultation with the Environment Committee Chair, will review the</p>

			arrangements after a year to ensure the operational success and health and safety of the changes.
<b>7.</b>	New Road Play Park, Minster-on-Sea	<p>At the September 2022 meeting members agreed a bid of £20,000.00 submitted by Councillor Elliott Jayes for improvements to New Road Play Park, Minster-on-Sea.</p> <p>It has been agreed to leave all the existing play facilities in situ and look to integrate smaller pieces of equipment into the same area to provide different 'play values' than those already on site. An 'aerial runway' at the opposite end of the open space will be included as an additional 'option' when going out to design and tender.</p> <p>The Head of Environment and Leisure advised that he was confident the allocated funding for this project would be spent by May 2023.</p>	<p>A pre-start meeting with appointed contractors took place on 25 April 2023.</p> <p>Delivery of the equipment and site set-up is expected week commencing 29 May with installation taking place week commencing 5 June 2023.</p>
<b>8.</b>	Beach Hut proposal	<p>Further to the presentation of the beach huts proposal setting out SBC's intention to install a further 24 beach huts on the Isle of Sheppey. Concerns were raised about parking at Minster, the Head of Environment and Leisure said that officers would look into this further and report back.</p> <p>A meeting has since taken place with Leysdown Parish Council to try and alleviate concerns. Officers are working on amended proposals.</p> <p>As stated on the night, the problems of parking at Minster Leas are not solely as a result of beach huts and this first phase of 12 huts would not impact the situation.</p>	<p>A report is going to the next Regeneration and Property Committee with a new policy and summary of the consultation responses.</p>

<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p>Trinity Road, Sheerness parking</p>	<p>Members of the public spoke about the problems residents were having with parking in Trinity Road, Sheerness, where they had to pay for parking permits. They also asked about Marine Parade Car Park which was free to park in but due to some of the vehicles permanently parked there, residents did not feel safe to use that car park. Currently there was no clarity about the rules and some residents had received penalty notices. The Head of Environment and Leisure confirmed that the local Ward Member had raised the issue with him and the residents could park in the Trinity Road Car Park whilst an investigation was carried out into the historic agreement. The penalty notices would be put on hold until the matter was resolved.</p>	<p>This matter went to the Community Committee on 1 March 2023 when it was resolved that those residents who lived in the affected properties at the time of the highway works in the year 2000, should be eligible for a parking permit in the Trinity Road Car Park at all times and on all days of the week. It was also confirmed that all the incorrect fines issued would be cancelled. Residents in receipt of a parking permit have been written to and a deadline set for applications by 1 June 2023.</p>
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p>CCTV camera Queenborough Causeway</p>	<p>A Member spoke about the CCTV camera that had been installed to deal with the anti-social behaviour and jet skis off Queenborough Causeway. He said that the camera had been taken down and as a result the jet skis had returned. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods said she would look into the matter.</p>	<p>The camera in Queenborough was a mobile one and due to very few incidents in recent months, and as there was such a</p>

			low stock of them, it has been redeployed elsewhere. Should incidents of ASB/crime in the area increase after its removal, or as weather improves another deployment or possibly a permanent camera could be considered.
11.	Beachfields lights	A member of the public spoke about the lights at Beachfields Gardens, Sheerness, which were not coming on at night. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods agreed to look into this as it was a safety issue.	The Head of Environment & Leisure advised that the lights need repair works. They are in the next tranche of LED replacements in the project.
12.	Sheerness town centre	Regular updates have been given on the works to Masters' House, Old Library at 44 Trinity Road and the Levelling-Up Fund bid.	The Interim Head of Planning Services advised SBC have been awarded Levelling-Up Funding for the restoration of the studios to the rear of Master's House. Two LUF Programme delivery officers joined SBC in April, and contracting these

			works is a priority. Heads of Terms have been agreed for the operator for the main house and the studios, and the leaseholder should be moving in shortly.
<b>13.</b>	Active Travel update	At the February 2023 meeting, the Active Travel Co-ordinator gave an update on the Sheppey Active Travel Fund Tranche 4 proposals.	The Sheppey bid made it to the KCC shortlist but did not go through to the final submission to Active Travel England. The Active Travel Co-ordinator will give a verbal update on the next steps.