

Sittingbourne Area Committee: Progress on matters arising - June 2023

No.	Item	Background	Update on actions
1.	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.</p> <p>The Leisure & Technical Services Manager advised that a recent meeting with Tennis club has taken place. LTA meetings have resulted in confirmation of financial requirements from SBC, this has been escalated top senior officers for consideration and will then go to the Community Committee for discussion. Milton Recreation Ground is currently deemed as 'multi usage' this would need to be changed for LTA funding to proceed.</p>	<p>A report on the Tennis Court Improvement Project was taken to the Community Committee on 1 March 2023. The designated usage of courts from multi-use to tennis only at Milton Recreation Ground was agreed. It was also agreed that there would be a sinking fund commitment and ongoing maintenance responsibility as part of the bid for funding from the LTA and that the Council applied for improvement funding from the LTA. We are awaiting timescales for delivery of the projects.</p>
2.	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>The Head of Environment & Leisure advised that the Built Facilities strategy (BFS) work is well underway. Consultants are finalising a draft report which is targeted to be with Swale Borough Council by the end of January 2023.</p>	<p>The Built Facilities strategy will go to the September 2023 Community Committee for adoption. Following that any Sittingbourne specific actions can be reported to the Area Committee.</p>
3.	Great Easthall Pond	<p>Councillor Ann Hampshire spoke about the sad news of children losing their lives after playing on ice on a lake in Solihull and asked about the depth of the water in Great Easthall Pond. The Green Spaces Manager said he would</p>	<p>The Policy & Engagement Officer has contacted the KFRS Education/Safety Team to see what education programmes</p>

		<p>need to find out but it was deep enough to be dangerous. A discussion took place on what could be done about the safety of ponds in Swale. A letter was sent by the Chair to the Swale Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) to see what sessions they could hold to educate children and parents about safety around ponds.</p> <p>This has been acknowledged and the request passed to the KFRS Education/Safety Team to see what they can do.</p>	<p>they have planned for schools in Swale. No response has been received to date.</p>
4.	Coombe Drive	<p>A resident raised the issue of vandalism taking place in the alleyway at the back of houses on Coombe Drive, Sittingbourne. Residents had requested that the alleyway be shut and had raised this with SBC.</p> <p>The Community Safety Manager reported that Swale Borough Council are continuing to work towards a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to seek to gate this alleyway. Having consulted with the Police on this proposal, a formal consultation with the public will shortly commence. Once this is completed, the Council will be able to make a decision on whether to implement this PSPO.</p>	<p>It has been agreed to progress with a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to gate this alleyway, following the completion of the public consultation. An order has been placed for the fabrication of the gates and it is hoped they will be installed by the end of June 2023.</p>
5.	Heritage issues	<p>The Conservation & Design Team have been providing regular updates on the following: Sittingbourne High Street Conservation Area Review; and Milton Regis Conservation Area Review.</p>	<p>The Sittingbourne Conservation Area Review - the adopted version of the Conservation Area appraisal document is now published on the Swale Borough Council website, along with a link to the latest map of the Conservation Area. All formal legislative requirements regarding notifications to local residents, the parish council,</p>

			<p>local newspaper, and the London Gazette are complete.</p> <p>Milton Regis Conservation Area Review - some base mapping for survey work produced and an initial walkover carried out to consider possible boundary revisions. It is clear that existing KCC document, although dated, can be used as basis for the provision of the required up-to-date appraisal and management plan document. Due to the limited capacity on the in-house Conservation & Design Team, it is anticipated that this work will need to be undertaken by an external heritage consultant. A consultant's brief has as such been prepared, and a ballpark estimate has already been received from one consultant.</p>
6.	Periwinkle Water Mill Site	At the February 2023 meeting an update was given on the current situation.	The Conservation & Design Team is in the process of exploring an alternative procurement option given the volatility of tendering market and the need to keep the project within budget. In liaison with project advisors East Kent Engineering Partnership and the

			<p>Council's Health, Safety & Risk Officer, the team is looking to eliminate structural interventions to limit project costs by combination of site management and warning signage/info, in order to help ensure that the project can be delivered within budget. Officers are currently waiting for an estimate for the landscaping works from the Council's term landscape contractors for green spaces, having already received a favourable estimate from a separate contractor for the general building and metalwork fabrication/installation needed.</p>
7.	Active Travel Fund update	At the February 2023 meeting, the Active Travel Co-ordinator gave an update on the Sittingbourne Active Travel Fund Tranche 4 proposals.	The Sittingbourne proposals did not make the Kent County Council submission to Active Travel England/DfT. Due to a last-minute change in the funding dynamics, only "shovel ready" schemes went forward.
8.	Swale Local Heritage List	Updates have been given at previous meetings on the Swale Local Heritage List.	The listing criteria has been adopted; Procedure document and listing criteria published on SBC website; Invitation for nominations were sent out to all the local parishes and local and national amenity societies on

			<p>15th May 2023. The invitation for nominations is live for 6 weeks until 26th June 2023. The submission form can be completed electronically via the Portal: https://swale-consult.objective.co.uk/kse/. There will be a Selection Panel set up in Autumn 2023 to assess those considered worthy of including on the Local Heritage List.</p>
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