

Western Area Committee meeting: Progress on Matters Arising – 30 November 2023

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. At the request of the Area Committee a project proposal was taken to the September 2022 meeting for VIBE youth workers to engage with young people. The proposal was agreed by Members and the project was run twice at a cost of £6,930 in total.</p> <p>Regarding what should happen next, as Kent County Council (KCC) were reviewing their youth services provision and carrying out a consultation, there was likely to be a reduction in commissioning of the sort of services Brogdale CIC provided. Without KCC funding it would not be possible for Brogdale CIC to provide any add-on services.</p> <p>It was agreed to invite Rebecca O'Neill, the CEO (Chief Executive Officer), Brogdale CIC, to the next KALC (Kent Association of Local Councils) meeting with a view to encouraging parish councils to contribute funding to youth provision.</p> <p>It was also agreed to invite Rebecca O'Neill to the November 2023 Western Area Committee meeting to talk to parish councils about the provision of services for young people which Brogdale CIC could potentially provide in their areas.</p>	<p>This will be discussed under item 5.</p> <p>The Vibe report is included in the agenda pack.</p>

2.	Land assets in the Western area.	<p>It was requested at the Area Committee meeting on 8 June 2023 that a list of land in the Western Area be obtained so that Members could consider transferring land assets to Parish Councils.</p> <p>Maps have been circulated in advance of a discussion at the November 2023 meeting.</p>	This will be discussed under item 10.
3.	Bredgar and Hartlip Conservation Area Reviews.	<p>The Area Committee requested that quotes be obtained for Conservation Area Reviews for Bredgar and Hartlip.</p> <p>These were considered at the September 2022 meeting and it was agreed to allocate £8,400 for Peter Bell to carry out the CA reviews and that the Graphics Officer would be producing the documents.</p> <p>The Senior Conservation and Design Officer gave an update at the September 2023 meeting on the Bredgar and Hartlip Conservation Area Reviews. The consultant Peter Bell carried out the reviews and the consultations concluded on Monday 14 August 2023.</p> <p>Responses were being reviewed in advance of taking a report to the Planning and Transportation Policy Working Group meeting on 19 September 2023 and then onto the Policy and Resources Committee on 18 October 2023.</p> <p>It was agreed that a discussion about Article 4, Conservation Area Reviews, should be scheduled for the November 2023 meeting.</p>	<p>The Conservation & Design Team advised that the Planning and Resources Committee agreed to re-designate and adopt both the Conservation Areas at their meeting on 18 October 2023. The adopted versions of both the Conservation Areas are in the process of being published on Swale Borough Council website by end of 2023.</p> <p>Article 4, Conservation Area Reviews will be discussed under item 11.</p>

<p>4.</p>	<p>Supporting residents to reduce their energy costs</p>	<p>Area Committee members considered a proposal to help households in the Western area with reducing their energy costs. SBC provided a Fuel and Water Home Advisor Service, managed by the Swale charity Children and Families. One of the services provided by the advisor was to give households advice on ways to reduce their use of energy and thereby reducing costs. As part of the service, energy efficient packs were given out which contained items like radiator reflectors, draft excluders, LED light bulbs and timers. The content of the packs were tailored to the needs of the household. Each pack costed approximately £50. The proposal was to allocate funds to the Fuel & Water Home Advisor Service via the charity Children and Families so the advisor could provide energy efficient packs to households in the Western area.</p> <p>Western Area Committee agreed to allocate £4,523.13 to the Fuel and Water Home Advisor Service, via Children and Families, to provide homeowners with energy efficient packs to be given out after advice was given.</p> <p>A leaflet was produced for Area Committee Members and Parish Councils to distribute to residents.</p> <p>At the June 2023 meeting it was reported that £2,235 of funding had been spent on energy saving products to households across the Western area.</p>	<p>The remaining funds have been spent of energy efficient packs, which were delivered at the end of October 2023.</p> <p>The Fuel and Water Home Advisor suggested that Western Area Committee Members may wish to do a further push of the service in their wards. There are paper copies of the leaflets available to take away after this meeting and a PDF version can be provided if preferred.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Heritage issues</p>	<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>The Conservation & Design Team provided the following update for:</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 <p>Regular updates are given at Area Committee meetings.</p>	<p>Rodmersham Church Street Rodmersham Green Milstead Tunstall</p> <p>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 formalities regarding notifications to local residents, the parish council, local newspaper, and the London Gazette are complete.</p> <p>Local Heritage List - A selection panel is set up and invited to attend a full day at Swale House on Wednesday 29 November to finalise the received nominations to be registered on Swale Borough Council (SBC) Local Heritage List register. In the event that it is not possible for the panel to reach a decision on the day for all the nominations, the Chair will discuss and agree a further date to reconvene and complete the decision-making process. If all the nominations are finalised on the day, then the next steps will be to organise map plots of all the finalised assets</p>
--	--	---	---

			on the SBC GIS system and publish a detailed schedule of the final Local Heritage List on the SBC website.
6.	Fulston Manor School - students parking	A Member raised the issue of Fulston Manor School students parking at a dangerous junction at the Eden Village estate, Sittingbourne. Although there was provision for them to park at the school, they preferred not to as the gate was locked during the day. The issue was causing some anti-social behaviour problems. It was agreed that the Chair of Western Area Committee would write to Fulston Manor School regarding this matter asking that they were firm with pupils throughout the next academic year.	The Headteacher at Fulston Manor School responded as follows: “I am pleased to be able to assure you that this is the case, that we had already been doing this as much as possible and that some of the identification of cars being our students had already been mis-identified and were in fact other members of the public. You will also be pleased to know I have already, this week, written to parents too regarding their parking and road safety. You are of course most welcome to send enforcement officers to the roads to assist us with this matter.”
7.	Access to library of photographs	During the update on the Walking and Cycling Project, the Active Travel coordinator mentioned the photographer commissioned had a bank of about 300 photographs of the Western Area. A Parish Councillor asked if these could be made available for community groups to use in their own promotions. Swale Borough Council is working on establishing a library of images accessible to organisations in Swale. The tender is now live and the work started in August	Regarding the question about copyright of images in the SBC library, the Project Officer advised that SBC don't copyright images as standard as it can make it harder for partners to use them. As they are pictures of scenery/places there was no benefit in copyrighting the images, the purpose of the contract is the creation of a library for people to see.

		<p>2023. The photographs of the Western area will be included in the library of images.</p> <p>A member of the public suggested that the photographs in the proposed SBC library of photographs be made available to outside organisations under license so that SBC be credited when photographs were used. The Policy & Engagement Officer agreed to feed this suggestion back to the officer leading on the tender.</p>	
--	--	--	--