

Sittingbourne Area Committee: Progress on matters arising - December 2023

No.	Item	Background	Update on actions
1.	Sittingbourne Tennis Club	<p>A report concerning the proposed improvements to Milton Rec & King George's PF tennis courts was considered by the Area Committee at the December 2022 meeting and the Lawn Tennis Associations proposals were supported by Members.</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.</p>	All resurfacing works are now complete. All fencing works are completed. Access control has been fitted to Milton and will be fitted end of November 2023 to King George's. There has been a delay in lining works due to the weather. Temporary lining is being considered in the short term. The website and payment process is being finalised
2.	Sports facilities in the area	The Built Facilities Strategy (BFS) went to the October 2023 Community Committee. Following that any Sittingbourne specific actions can be reported to the Area Committee.	The final draft has been reviewed and feedback is with the consultants.
3.	Heritage issues	The Conservation & Design Team have been providing regular updates on the following:	The Sittingbourne Conservation Area is now adopted.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sittingbourne High Street Conservation Area Review; and • Milton Regis Conservation Area Review. 	Milton Regis Conservation Area Appraisal review is out for public consultation due to conclude by 22 December 2023.
4.	Periwinkle Water Mill Site	Regular updates have been given on this project.	In view of the sole tender quote which came in at the end of last year significantly over the anticipated budget, the Conservation & Design Team has been in the process of exploring an alternative procurement option given the need to keep the project within budget. In liaison with project advisors East Kent Engineering Partnership and the Council's Health, Safety & Risk Officer, the team has concluded it is feasible 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 were previously 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. However, the term landscape contractor has advised it is not in a position to be able to carry out the proposed landscaping works, so we now have an updated quote from the Council's term building contractor for the landscaping works (in addition to the building related work), which is reasonable, this being based on the landscaping works being carried out by a subcontractor. Landscaping works being carried out by the Council's term

			<p>building contractor (albeit in the form of it managing a specialist subcontractor) is outside the scope of the Council's contract arrangement with the company. Due to very significant work pressures and the higher priority needing to be attached to development management related work, officers are still in the process of applying for the waiver which would need to be agreed to allow officers to effectively work around this issue. If the waiver is agreed, as anticipated, then subject to the funding from the Heritage Strategy Reserve fund and Sittingbourne Society still being available, taking into account other heritage related work priorities, it is expected that works should be able to commence in March or April 2024, with the landscaping works being the last element of work to be carried out, to coincide with the spring planting season.</p>
5.	Swale Local Heritage List	Updates have been given at previous meetings on the Swale Local Heritage List.	The Selection Panel for finalising the received Nominations is scheduled for Wednesday 29 November 2023. Invitations have been sent out.