

Eastern Area Committee Meeting December 2023 – Matters arising

No.	Item	Background	Progress on actions
1.	Flooding in the Eastern Area	<p>At the September 2023 meeting the Chair said that flooding in the Eastern area had often been discussed and actions agreed to find solutions to the problem. Going forward she said it would be helpful for the Area Committee to agree a way forward on the wider issue of flooding in the area. It was agreed that the Vice-Chair, Cllr Chris Williams, will lead on this matter and liaise with the Member of Parliament, KCC, Southern Water (SW) and the Environment Agency. It was agreed that Area Committee Members, town and parish councillors and members of the public would feed their comments and specific issues to Councillor Williams and he would collate all the information and prepare a document to bring to the December 2023 Eastern Area Committee meeting so that further actions could be considered.</p> <p>Faversham Recreation Ground/Whitstable Road - KCC have carried out some additional works (installation of drain gulleys) in August 2023, they will be monitoring the effectiveness of the works over the next few months.</p>	<p>Following the resignation of Councillor Williams, a new lead on flooding issues will need to be agreed at the December 2023 meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Area Committee Chair, on behalf of the Eastern Area Committee, would lobby the Parliamentary Members for Sittingbourne & Sheppey and Faversham & Mid Kent, on the impact national planning policy had on flooding issues.</p> <p>The list of specific flooding issues has been collated and will be discussed under a separate agenda item.</p> <p>Swale Borough Council have installed some measures under the gates of Faversham Recreation Ground to try to reduce the amount of leaves and debris getting out onto Whitstable Road and blocking drainage gullies. In addition, SBC have starting to undertake their normal seasonal leaf clearance operations within the Recreation Ground.</p>

2.	Active Travel update	<p>At the June 2023 meeting, the Active Travel Co-ordinator gave an update on the Faversham Active Travel Fund Tranche 4 project. The project was being funded by the £995k secured from Active Travel England, it was hoped that work would begin by March 2024.</p>	<p>The Active Travel Coordinator proved the following updates:</p> <p>Faversham East-West Cross Town Path Exhibition held at Faversham Town Hall from 18 November to 8 December. Lots of comments from the public captured on forms and online. These have been collated and are being reviewed.</p> <p>Work on the scheme will start in February and should finish in August.</p> <p>Faversham North-South Cross Town Path A Feasibility Study of the next stage of the Faversham LCWIP Walking Network, funded by KCC and Faversham Town Council, has been briefed and should be starting before the end of the year.</p> <p>Sustrans Faversham-Teynham Quietway Design Feasibility Study Report completed containing a series of recommendations to make walking, wheeling & cycling safer, more comfortable and attractive.</p> <p>Additional funding is being sought to continue this work.</p> <p>Solar Cycle Way Discussions with the developer are ongoing.</p>
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3.	Whiting Crescent, Faversham	<p>Cllr Carole Jackson spoke about the piece of land at the end of Whiting Crescent, Faversham and asked if a reconditioned slide or swing could be installed.</p> <p>Cllr Jackson asked if the request could be re-submitted to officers as she was not happy with the response.</p>	<p>Officers confirmed the position is unchanged and as there are two other playgrounds within 10-15 minutes' walk from Whiting Crescent, the Council cannot provide any more playgrounds in that location.</p>
4.	Conservation Area Reviews	<p>The Conservation & Design Team report progress on Conservation Area Reviews to the Area Committees.</p>	<p>Faversham Town & Faversham - Preston Next Conservation Area Review</p> <p>The appraisal documents have been prepared by Urban Vision with input from the Faversham Society. Six-week public consultations for both the documents commenced on 23 October 2023 and was due to be concluded on 4 December 2023, however, on request of Historic England it has now been extended to conclude on Friday 15 December 2023.</p> <p>So far, as of 5 December, the officers have received 19 responses to Faversham Town conservation Area and 6 responses for Faversham- Preston Next Conservation Area.</p>

			<p>Consultation responses and any further amendments to the appraisal documents is estimated to be presented to the Policy and Resources Committee in February 2024. It is envisaged that the adopted versions of both the Conservation Areas will be published on Swale Borough Council website by summer 2024.</p> <p>Cellar Hill & Greenstreet Conservation Area Review</p> <p>The appraisal document has been prepared by Peter Bell Heritage Consultancy. The six--week consultation period commenced on Friday 10 November 2023 and is scheduled to conclude on 22nd December 2023. So far, as of 5 December, the officers have received only one response to the ongoing consultation.</p> <p>Consultation responses and any further amendments to the appraisal documents is estimated to be presented to the Policy and Resources Committee in February 2024. It is envisaged that the adopted version of the Conservation Areas will be published on Swale Borough Council website by summer 2024.</p>
5.	Consultation on the Closure of Faversham Household Recycling Centre	Since the September 2023 meeting, KCC have advised the launch date has been further delayed. A new date will be advised in due course.	The Area Committee will be updated once a launch date is announced.

6.	Graffiti	A question was asked about the SBC policy to only remove graffiti if it was offensive. He asked for clarification of the definition of offensive.	<p>The Environmental Services team advised there was no policy on graffiti but all cases are assessed as they come in. If a piece of graffiti is 'offensive' and clearly visible on public land then it will either be covered up or removed asap. The SBC in-house Environment Wardens may deliver this, or they may use their contractor to do so.</p> <p>If the graffiti is on private land, then this becomes a task for the property owner. Officers will assess all other graffiti and respond accordingly depending upon location, size, type etc. SBC do not have the resources to remove all graffiti but will assess and prioritise graffiti for removal if appropriate to do so. There is not a Swale specific definition for offensive graffiti but generally it includes swear words, racist comments, lewd pictures etc.</p>
7.	Permanency of the Town Centre Pedestrian Scheme	A Member asked what the current position was on the consultation for the Permanency of the Town Centre Pedestrian Scheme and if an update could be provided at the December 2023 Eastern Area Committee meeting.	<p>The Head of Regeneration, Economic Development and Property and Interim Head of Planning advised that KCC's county-wide tender process for Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to enforce traffic regulations is due to conclude this month.</p> <p>We are also awaiting the KCC launch of public engagement on the potential use of cameras for the pedestrianisation scheme.</p>

			<p>This is the precursor to the Traffic Regulation Order process (TRO), which would follow once engagement responses have been reviewed.</p> <p>This likely means the recommendation will be taken to a Joint Transport Board (JTB) meeting in spring 2024 at the earliest.</p>
8.	Empty property	Councillor Carole Jackson raised the issue of an empty property on South Road, Faversham.	An update has been obtained and passed to Councillor Jackson.
9.	Homelessness	Due to an increase in case work that councillors are experiencing regarding people who were about to be made homeless, the Chair asked if it was possible for the SBC Communications Team to liaise with Housing to put out some signposting messages on social media.	This request has been passed to the Housing Options and Communications Teams.