

Sittingbourne Area Committee: Progress on matters arising – February 2025

| No. | Item | Background | Actions/updates |
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| 1. | Heritage issues | <p>Area of Special Control of Advertisements (ASCA) Swale Borough Council currently does not have an ASCA. Since the adoption of the Heritage Strategy in 2020 and subsequent Action Plans wherein a number of Conservation Areas have been reviewed, it has been proposed that in order to better manage and maintain Swale’s historic environment and heritage, a borough wide ASCA can prove beneficial.</p> <p>Any designation needs to be based on public consultation and must follow specific legal steps, including consideration of the order by the Secretary of State.</p> <p>Following an all members briefing in May 2024, it was agreed that a draft consultation document be prepared for approval by the Planning Committee, before undertaking public consultation.</p> | <p>The draft consultation document is estimated to be ready by spring/early summer 2025.</p> |
| 2. | Periwinkle Mill | <p>Updates have been given at previous meetings on Periwinkle Mill.</p> | <p>Works have commenced with site clearance, initial tidying up around the wheel and laying some of basic hard landscaping. Safety features including grates and rails have been manufactured with installation taking place imminently. Additional works above those planned are required on the flooring.</p> |

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| | | | It is currently anticipated that works will be completed towards the end of March, with some soft landscaping potentially extending beyond this. |
| 3. | Swale Local Heritage List | Updates have been given at previous meetings on the Swale Local Heritage List. | <p>The Selection Panel met on 17 October 2024; 278 nominations were presented out of which 150 were shortlisted to be designated as Swale's Local Heritage.</p> <p>The proposed designation list was presented to the Policy & Resources Committee on 27 November 2024, wherein it was unanimously agreed to designate the shortlisted assets with addition of one more asset - taking the total to 151 designated assets on Local Heritage List. The mapping work on SBC GIS system and associated data organisation that will include photo and brief description of each asset is ongoing.</p> <p>At the Selection Panel meeting there were several deferrals. Also, a few geographical gaps have been identified in terms of current nominations and there is a desire to include recommendations emerging from Conservation Area appraisal work. As such, an additional call for Local Heritage assets will be run early summer 2025, with the Selection Panel meeting again in the autumn of 2025. Following that, it is anticipated the list would be updated every three years following a call for nominations and Selection Panel. The next one being scheduled for 2028.</p> |
| 4. | Sittingbourne Tennis Club – toilets at | The Chair of Sittingbourne Tennis Club asked for help to push forward a project to | The Greenspaces Manager advised that officers have quotes for the work and are seeking final |

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| | Milton Recreation Ground | get some basic facilities to support the development of the Tennis Club. | agreement to additional budget to enable completion of the planned works. An order will be placed imminently. |
| 5. | UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) | Members requested that some communications go out on how the UKSPF had been spent in Swale. Members requested an update be brought to a future Sittingbourne Area Committee meeting. | Please see Appendix 1 of this report. |
| 6. | Railway usage | <p>Mr Jackie Davidson said he would like to carry out a survey locally on why the use of railways in the south-east has declined.</p> <p>Before committing to carrying out a survey, the Head of Housing & Community Services agreed to speak to the Active Travel Co-ordinator to find out what data they had</p> | <p>The Chief Executive has met with Mr Davidson and they are undertaking some joint thought as to how to reach the people who are not using the railways to understand why this is the case.</p> <p>There is a source of railway data via the following link: RailwayData Stations and Stops</p> |
| 7. | Transport issues | <p>Members discussed the difficulties residents were experiencing with bus services in Swale and agreed the following actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Invite the bus companies and a representative from Southeastern Trains to come along to a future Sittingbourne Area Committee meeting; 2) The Chair would write to Kent County Council (KCC) to find out when the Government Funding allocated to improve bus services would be activated in Swale; and | Members will provide a verbal update at the meeting. |

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| | | <p>3) Councillor Karen Watson would report back to the Sittingbourne Area Committee after she had attended the next Bus Forum meeting on 30 January 2025. Members would then consider if transport issues should be added as a standing item on the Area Committee agenda with an Area Committee Member taking the lead.</p> | |
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