

Report to Western Area Committee September 2025

New actions/issues and progress with ongoing actions

| No. | Item | Background | Actions/updates |
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| 1. | Swale Local Bus Forum | An SBC Councillor said that Section 106 funds were provided for bus services and Kent County Council (KCC) held the funds. She requested that Members were kept informed about the allocation of the Section 106 funding via the Swale Local Bus Forum. | The Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods raised this request at the Swale Local Bus Forum meeting held on 29 July 2025. It was agreed that officers will look into ways to feed Section 106 allocations for buses to the Forum. |
| 2. | Bexon (Bredgar) Conservation Area Review. | A new Conservation Area for Bexon (Bredgar) is proposed to be designated. | Following a tender process, Place Services were appointed as consultants to undertake the conservation area review. We expect to receive the draft consultation document by mid-September 2025, to be followed by 6 weeks public consultation soon after. |
| 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> |

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| | | | <p>At the Selection Panel meeting there were several deferrals. Also, the team have identified a few geographical gaps in terms of current nominations and wish to include some recommendations emerging from Conservation Area appraisal work. As such, an additional call for 'invitation to nominate' Local Heritage assets is scheduled to start from 8th September 2025 for 6 weeks, 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> <p>In addition to the above, a protocol for urgent designation of assets on Local Heritage was adopted at the June 2025 Policy & Resources Committee.</p> |
| 4. | 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. 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>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 Autumn of 2025.</p> |