

Cabinet Meeting		Agenda Item: 7
Meeting Date	15 July 2015	
Report Title	Local Engagement Forums June 2015	
Cabinet Member	Cllr Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Localism, Sport, Culture and Heritage	
SMT Lead	Pete Raine	
Head of Service	Emma Wiggins	
Lead Officer	Brooke Buttfeld	
Key Decision	No	
Classification	Open	
Forward Plan	Yes	
Recommendations	1. To note and consider the discussion and outcomes of the three Local Engagement Forums held during March 2015.	

1. Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 The report draws together notes of the discussion, outcomes and recommendations for Cabinet to consider following the recent Swale Local Engagement Forums (LEFs) of Faversham (4 March 2015), Sheppey (10 March 2015), and Sittingbourne (17 March 2015).
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to formalise the reporting relationship and encourage greater connectivity between the LEFs and Swale Borough Council's (SBC) Cabinet.
- 1.3 The report demonstrates to residents the potential of their forums to advise and influence local public services.
- 1.4 The next Swale Local Engagement Forums are being held during June/July 2015; Faversham (9 June 2015), Sheppey (2 June 2015), and Sittingbourne (23 June 2015). Cabinet is also asked to consider and suggest agenda items for future LEFs.

2 Background

- 2.1 The LEFs are one of the key consultation methods for the Council, providing a route for residents as a group to advise on the shape and future of public services in the borough. This report summarises the You Said We Did reports that are compiled after each LEF, including discussion and outcomes from the LEF for

noting and discussion by the SBC Cabinet. It is hoped that this report will foster a two way dialogue. This report summaries the You Said We Did reports which are available online: <http://www.swale.gov.uk/LEF/>.

3 Proposal

- 3.1 To note the outcomes from each meeting (shown in Table 1) and feedback to the LEF chairmen as appropriate.

Table 1

<p>Faversham LEF 4 March 2015 – Chairman Cllr Anita Walker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Platform for Faversham Swimming Pool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Able to showcase the improvements being made following potential capital investment awarded from Swale Borough Council, as well as encouraging residents to provide suggestions and influence the development. • Transparency of Faversham Creek Neighbourhood Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents raised concern and questioned conditions in the report. • Action for Kent County Council to raise the suggestion of 20mph zones with Highways Engineers and the relevant Cabinet Member <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evidence of residents directly proposing suggestions to shape Council Services to target specific issues. • Increased awareness of the WW1 Centenary Grant Scheme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Criteria and opportunity explained which could encourage further groups to apply for funding.
<p>Sheppey LEF 10 March 2015 – Chairman Cllr Patricia Sandle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Platform for local residents to discuss the Queenborough Creek Development Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Able to showcase their group and encourage new participants to join and expand proposal plans. • Action for Kent County Council to explore the availability of markers in the road alongside ditches in rural parts of the area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The You Said We Did ensured the action was forwarded to relevant service area and an update was agreed to be provided at future LEFs. • Action for Swale Borough Council’s Planning Department to liaise with residents with regards to various questions raised <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity for residents to begin contact directly with specific officers, as well as answers formally being reported through the You Said We Did reports. • Knowledge of the transfer of allotments in Swale <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In relation to the transfer between Swale Borough Council and Town Councils, the aspects for the transfer were clarified and recorded at the meeting through the You

Said We Did report.

Sittingbourne LEF 17 March 2015 – Chairman Cllr Mike Whiting

- **Increased awareness of the progress of the Sittingbourne Skate Park Project**
 - A further update reporting back and answering questions on the legal and financial aspects of the project. Continues to enhance local knowledge of the process and potentially provides successful examples to encourage other groups to pursue similar projects.
- **Knowledge of crime levels and action taken in Sittingbourne**
 - Residents learnt about the action taken by Kent Police and were able to raise their own concerns to shape how the service is locally delivered.
- **Increased awareness of the Fixed Penalty Notice Pilot Scheme and action to have an update provided at future LEFs**
 - Demonstrates that residents and councillors are confident to request quarterly updates from local projects of interest.
- **Action completed for KCC, to input double yellow lines in Shortlands Road to enable Emergency Service Vehicles to access the area**
 - Evidence of the You Said We Did directly facilitating the enablement of the community to target and resolve issues locally.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 Not applicable as this is an update report for noting and consideration.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 The public were given the opportunity at each LEF to question and challenge public sector representatives about the issues discussed at the meeting.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The LEFs contribute towards the SBC corporate priority of Embracing Localism as they are one of the key projects for empowering local residents. In particular they contribute to the aims of enabling members to champion communities and improving local consultation and engagement.
Financial, Resource and Property	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Legal and Statutory	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Crime and	Residents can engage directly with senior police officers at the

Disorder	meetings.
Sustainability	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Health and Wellbeing	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Risk Management and Health and Safety	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Equality and Diversity	One of the aims of the You Said We Did is to report the issues raised and questions asked at the meeting as accurately as possible, so as not to discriminate against anyone who raises an issue at the meeting. The reports remain live and residents can challenge it they are incorrect. If the amendment is approved, they are then updated on the online version of the report.

7 Appendices

7.1 There are no additional documents to be published with this report.

8 Background Papers

8.1 LEF Terms of Reference