



## AGENDA

### EASTERN AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday, 22 June 2021

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Virtual Meeting Via Skype\*

#### Membership:

Councillors Lloyd Bowen, Alastair Gould, Carole Jackson, Denise Knights, Benjamin Martin, Ben J Martin, Hannah Perkin, Julian Saunders, David Simmons, Eddie Thomas, Tim Valentine and Mike Whiting.

Quorum = 4

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#### Information for the Public

\*Members of the press and public can listen to this meeting live. Details of how to join the meeting will be added to the website on Monday 21 June 2021.

#### Privacy Statement

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1. Election of Chairman
2. Election of Vice-Chairman
3. Apologies for Absence

#### 4. Declarations of Interest

Councillors should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves or their spouse, civil partner or person with whom they are living with as a spouse or civil partner. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships. The Chairman will ask Members if they have any interests to declare in respect of items on this agenda, under the following headings:

(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) under the Localism Act 2011. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared. After declaring a DPI, the Member must leave the meeting and not take part in the discussion or vote. This applies even if there is provision for public speaking.

(b) Disclosable Non Pecuniary Interests (DNPI) under the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council in May 2012. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared. After declaring a DNPI interest, the Member may stay, speak and vote on the matter.

(c) Where it is possible that a fair-minded and informed observer, having considered the facts would conclude that there was a real possibility that the Member might be predetermined or biased the Member should declare their predetermination or bias and then leave the meeting while that item is considered.

**Advice to Members:** If any Councillor has any doubt about the existence or nature of any DPI or DNPI which he/she may have in any item on this agenda, he/she should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer, the Head of Legal or from other Solicitors in Legal Services as early as possible, and in advance of the meeting.

#### 5. Minutes

To approve the [Minutes](#) of the Meeting held on 18 March 2021 (Minutes Nos. 572 - 581) as a correct record.

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|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 6.  | Matters arising from previous meetings                               | 5 - 6  |
| 7.  | Public Forum                                                         |        |
| 8.  | Local issues                                                         |        |
| 9.  | Siting of plaques at places of interest                              | 7 - 8  |
| 10. | Bus services between Faversham villages and rural areas - next steps | 9 - 10 |
| 11. | Update on Area Committee Review                                      |        |
| 12. | Future funding                                                       |        |
| 13. | Matters referred to Committee by Cabinet                             |        |

14. Matters referred to Cabinet by Committee

**Issued on Monday 14 June 2021**

The reports included in Part I of this agenda can be made available in **alternative formats**. For further information about this service, or to arrange for special facilities to be provided at the meeting, **please contact DEMOCRATIC SERVICES on 01795 417330**. To find out more about the work of the Area Committees, please visit [www.swale.gov.uk](http://www.swale.gov.uk)

**Chief Executive, Swale Borough Council,  
Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT**

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**Eastern Area Committee meeting: June 2021 – Matters arising**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Who initiated?</b>	<b>Background</b>	<b>Progress on actions</b>
Heritage issues	Cabinet Member for Planning	<p>Cabinet adopted a Heritage Strategy and Action Plan on 18 March 2020. The Action Plan contains a programme of Conservation Area reviews. It has been suggested by the Cabinet Member that the Area Committee may want to fund CA reviews for areas which are outside of the planned programme of reviews in the Action Plan.</p> <p>As it was noted in the minutes of the last meeting that there were no suggestions regarding additional conservation area reviews, the Chair proposes bringing this item forward at a later meeting to see if any proposals have been come forward.</p>	The Chair reminds members to let her know if they have any suggestions.
<b>Brown tourism signs</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Planning</b>	<p>To commence an audit of existing local brown signs in concert with parish councils.</p> <p>Cabinet adopted a Visitor Economy Framework Action Plan on 28 October 2020. This includes a medium-term action to undertake a wayfinding audit of signage and identify any gaps. The delivery partners identified for this action are: SBC; town and parish</p>	Currently no Parish Councils have requested additional brown signs. Should any potential locations be identified please contact the Chair and the Area Committees Coordinator.

Item	Who initiated?	Background	Progress on actions
		councils; Visit Swale; Kent Highways; and local businesses.	
Siting of plaques at places of interest	Committee Chair	The Chairman proposed that the Eastern Area Committee took a proposal to Cabinet for the funding of plaques to be sited at places of interest to promote tourism and for historical information. The Chairman suggested the proposal could boost the economy by drawing interest to certain attractions. It was agreed to refer this proposal to Cabinet.	<p>The Chair attended Informal Cabinet on 26 April and presented her proposal for a plaque scheme.</p> <p>Cabinet Members were supportive of this proposal. Any plaques to be funded by the Area Committee.</p> <p>The Chair wishes to discuss this further with Area Committee members under item 9 of the Agenda.</p>
Bus services between Faversham, villages and rural areas	Member of public	An allocation of funding was made at the March meeting to Faversham Town council for the Parishes to Town Project.	<p>An update will be provided as part of the Monitoring process at the September meeting.</p> <p>Next steps will be discussed under item 10 of the Agenda.</p>

## AGENDA ITEM 9

### Modern day commemorative plaques to encourage tourism via social media platforms

It was voted on and agreed on 18 March 2021 at the Eastern Area committee, that a proposal to site plaques at places of interest be taken to Cabinet for consideration.

The Chair attended Informal Cabinet on 26 April and presented the proposal for a plaque scheme. Cabinet Members were supportive and advised that any plaques should be funded by the Area Committee.

The proposal is to ask all members of the Eastern Area committee and their communities to identify key people/buildings to site modern day event plaques. The focus is linking people and events of the past with buildings of the present.

Suggestions:

Jubilee Centre in Faversham with the words:

“Olympic Torch relay visited here 19th July 2012. Welcomed by Sir Hugh Robertson Minister for the Olympics & Centre Founder Alison Reynolds BEM”

The Abbey Physic Community Garden. (awaiting founder's details)

The Eastern Area committee could pilot this in Faversham, then if successful, it could be rolled out as a suggestion to other Area committees.

These are a few that the Faversham Society/FTC have achieved but they are not present century.



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## **Bus services between Faversham villages and rural areas – next steps**

At our September meeting we passed a motion which included the following proposal: That an investigation/report be made into reviewing existing community transport models to see what might be suitable for the Eastern area.

Nothing has been done since to move this proposal forward. In the meantime the government has announced a new national bus strategy, there have been reductions in local services along the A2 and the borough's draft local plan has proposed that there should be significant development along the length of the A2 which should increase demand for public transport. As a result it is probably helpful to bring the issue back to the committee to see what members want to do next.

Possible options could include:

- Making improved bus and other community transport a priority for the committee during 2021/22 and funding the production of a report on improving transport links within the area.
- Identifying to the cabinet that improving bus and related community transport services is a priority for the area and that we would like to see the Borough work with partners to improve bus services along the A2 and to find ways of networking local villages in with those services.
- Writing to Kent County Council requesting more information on how they can support the development of better bus services in Eastern Swale.

But members may have other suggestions.

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