
SITTINGBOURNE AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Meeting held at Diversity House, ISP House, Church Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3EG on Tuesday, 8 March 2022 from 7.00 pm - 7.50 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Derek Carnell (Vice-Chairman), Simon Clark, Steve Davey (Chairman), Mike Dendor, Tim Gibson, James Hall, Ann Hampshire, Roger Truelove, Ghlin Whelan and Tony Winckless.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Janet Dart, Charlotte Hudson and Jhilmil Kishore.

APOLOGY: Councillor Ken Rowles.

656 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chairman read out the emergency evacuation procedure.

657 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Steve Davey disclosed a non-pecuniary interest as a Trustee of Diversity House.

Councillor Mike Dendor disclosed a non-pecuniary interest as a Trustee of Kemsley Hall.

Councillors Derek Carnell, Mike Dendor, Steve Davey and Tony Winckless all disclosed a non-pecuniary interest as Trustees of Milton Creek Country Park.

658 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 7 December 2021 (Minute Nos. 473 – 484) and 1 February 2022 (Minute Nos. 559 – 562) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as correct records.

659 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members noted the progress on actions.

Sittingbourne town centre regeneration scheme:

- The Chairman advised that there were some issues with the Swale Safe System that needed to be resolved;
- discussions were ongoing regarding the shared entrance of the High Street, Sittingbourne;
- the Kent County Council (KCC) Town Centre Greening review had been discussed and funding was an issue; and
- High Street repairs - KCC had suggested putting 20 roundels on the High Street. This was rejected by Swale Borough Council (SBC). Also, where the raised speed bump areas needed repairing, KCC suggested replacing the granite sets with tarmac as a cost cutting exercise. This was also rejected. An SBC officer was pursuing KCC at officer level to get the repairs carried out.

Entrance to the Skatepark and Dolphin Barge Museum – the Head of Housing and Community Services advised that conversations had taken place between SBC and the organisations regarding widening the access so everyone could have appropriate access. A meeting was scheduled to discuss further.

Conservation Area Review updates – the Senior Conservation & Design Officer advised the Sittingbourne Conservation Area (CA) Review had been recommended for adoption by Cabinet and once the document was finished it would be published. There had been delays with the Milton Regis CA Review due to other CA reviews taking priority. However, once completed it would be taken to public consultation.

Bomb shelter at Trotts Hall Gardens – the Chairman was still chasing regarding the ground resistivity examination.

Improvements to lighting in Milton Regis – the Chairman and the Milton Regis Society were looking to resolve this with KCC as soon as possible.

Periwinkle Water Mill Site – the Senior Conservation & Design Officer advised that a mid-range cost option was being considered for the remedial works for the structural concerns. There were still issues with the clearing of greenery due to land ownership issues.

Bus services – the Chairman made those in attendance aware of the KCC Supported Bus Services consultation and reminded everyone the deadline for responding was 20 April 2022.

Anti-social behaviour in Sittingbourne Town Centre, Eden Village and Kemsley – the Chairman advised that he had a very productive meeting with the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) who advised that if issues with e-scooters were reported via 101, schemes could be arranged to deal with the problems, but evidence was needed. A Committee Member challenged the wording in the report on education by the Police on the 'correct use of e-scooters' as legally e-scooters should not be used. The Head of Housing & Community Services agreed to raise this with the Police.

Kemsley Arms – a Committee Member referred to the excessive planning delays in getting the site developed. The Head of Housing & Community Services agreed to raise this with officers.

Staplehurst Road left turn – the Chairman advised that the Community Warden would look into the matter of motorists turning right when it was left turn only.

Creekside plan - the Head of Housing & Community Services advised there had been a few operational issues but once these were resolved, the wider plan for the site could be considered.

Signage around the town centre – the Chairman advised the minimum cost to replace a brown tourism sign was £800.00.

660 LOCAL HERITAGE LIST

The Senior Conservation & Design Officer explained that a process and timeline for making nominations to the Local Heritage List was being finalised. It was hoped to publish the nomination process on the website by early May 2022.

661 PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public, Jackie Davidson, brought two petitions on bus services to the attention of the Committee.

Following a question from a Committee Member, the KCC Divisional Member for Sittingbourne North advised on the process for the KCC Bus Consultation.

662 LOCAL ISSUES TO BE RAISED

Committee Members noted the written update provided by Councillor James Hall on the provision of a memorial bench and the work of the charity Ellie's Angels.

Councillor Roger Truelove advised that half of the Sittingbourne High Street makeover was complete. However, the project could not be completed at present due to delays in obtaining the correct paint.

Councillor Tony Winckless commented that the Conservation & Design Manager had advised he was reluctant to install bollards in Milton High Street as it would spoil the appearance of the area. The Chairman agreed to follow up on this.

663 UPDATE ON WORK PLAN - TO INCLUDE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FOR 2021-22

The Sittingbourne Area Committee was allocated a total of £44,000.00 for the financial year 2021/22. At the Extraordinary Sittingbourne Area Committee Meeting on Tuesday 1 February 2022, £34,361.33 of funding was awarded to external applicants whose bids met the criteria set-out by the Committee. At that meeting, Committee Members agreed that the unallocated funding of £9,638.67 should be made available for external organisations via a second funding round.

The deadline for the second round of applications was Thursday 17 February 2022 and £29,351.29 of bids were received for consideration by the Committee. This meant that there was £19,712.62 worth of bids in excess of the remaining allocation. All applications were assessed for eligibility by officers and a scoring process carried out. Officers submitted 4 options for allocating funds for the Committee to vote on, as set out on pages 15 to 17 of the report.

On being put to the vote the proposal for Option 3 was agreed.

Resolved:

(1) That the £9,638.67 funding be awarded to projects in the following proportions:

- (a) Diversity House - £2,697.82;**
- (b) Milton Creek Country Park Trust - £2,955.15;**
- (c) SATEDA - £2,994.55; and**
- (d) New Leaf Support - £989.97.**

664 MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE BY CABINET

No issues were raised.

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No issues were raised.

Chairman

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All Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel