



AGENDA

SHEPPEY AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday, 15 March 2022

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: The Criterion, Blue Town, 69 High Street, Sheerness, Kent ME12 1RW

Membership:

Councillors Cameron Beart (Vice-Chairman), Richard Darby, Oliver Eakin, Simon Fowle, Angela Harrison, Ken Ingleton (Chairman), Elliott Jayes, Peter Macdonald, Peter Marchington, Lee McCall, Pete Neal, Padmini Nissanga, Ken Pugh and Bill Tatton.

Quorum = 5.

	Pages
1. Emergency Evacuation Procedure	
<p>The Chair will advise the meeting of the evacuation procedures to follow in the event of an emergency. This is particularly important for visitors and members of the public who will be unfamiliar with the building and procedures. The Chair will inform the meeting that: there is no scheduled test of the fire alarm during this meeting. If the alarm does sound, please leave the building quickly without collecting any of your possessions, using the doors signed as fire escapes, and assemble as directed. Await instructions from the Fire Marshal before entering the building. Should anyone require assistance in evacuating the building, please make the Swale Borough Council Democratic Services Officers aware of any special needs so that suitable arrangements may be made in the event of an emergency.</p>	
2. Apologies for absence	
3. Declarations of interest	
<p>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:</p>	
<p>(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) under the Localism Act 2011. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be</p>	

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.

4. Minutes

To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 November 2021 (Minute Nos. 450 – 458) and the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 8 February 2022 (Minute Nos. 575 – 578) as correct records.

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|---|---------|
| 5. Matters arising from previous meetings | 5 - 18 |
| 6. Levelling-Up Fund | |
| 7. Public Forum | |
| 8. Local issues to be raised | |
| 9. Update on work plan - to include funding allocations for 2021-22 | 19 - 24 |
| 10. Matters referred to Committee by Cabinet | |
| 11. Matters referred to Cabinet by Committee | |

Issued on Monday, 7 March 2022

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

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

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Sheppey Area Committee meeting: 15 March 2022 – Matters arising

No.	Item	Background	Comments on updates
1.	Coach Parking	A member of the public raised the matter of coach parking on the Isle of Sheppey.	The Head of Environment & Leisure has been in discussions with the Cabinet Member and ward members in relation to coach parking provision. The viability of the Ship on Shore car park is under consideration, however any changes proposed will require public consultation as part of the off-street traffic regulation order variation process. The Head of Environment & Leisure is working on a Cabinet Member decision to give authority for the Parking Services Manager to start the consultation process off.
2.	Connectivity across Sheppey	<p>The Council is currently undertaking a review of its Local Plan. One of the documents that is being developed alongside this review is a Transport Strategy.</p> <p>At the June 2021 meeting a briefing by the Public Transport Unit at Kent County Council provided an update on Sheppey bus service provision.</p> <p>The Kent County Council forum that looked at connectivity across Sheppey, originally set up by Mike Whiting when he was the KCC Cabinet Member for Transport, is no longer in existence.</p>	<p>Kent County Councillor Cameron Beart advised there has been a lot of discussion about bus services at the recent KCC budget meeting but no update on the April 2022 roll out.</p> <p>Appendix 1 is a copy of an email from the Kent County Council Public Transport Team regarding the public consultation on proposed savings for the Supported Bus Services. If anyone wishes to respond to the consultation, it closes on 20 April 2022.</p>

No.	Item	Background	Comments on updates
		<p>Additionally, the Quality Bus Partnership has been suspended while KCC look at how to set up an Enhanced Partnership which will replace the QBP. The Chair suggested at the September meeting postponing this discussion until more is be known about the focus of the new group</p> <p>At the November 2021 meeting, Kent County Councillor Cameron Beart advised the new Enhanced Partnership is due to be launched in April 2022 alongside a new Bus Feedback Portal.</p>	
3.	Sheerness town centre regeneration	Updates have been given at previous meetings on the restoration of the Grade II listed Sheerness clock tower, refurbishment of Master's House, Sheerness and the Sheerness High Street project.	Please see Appendix 2 for the latest update.
4.	Restoration of war memorial, Sheerness	Updates have been given at previous meetings on the restoration of Sheerness war memorial.	<p>Peter MacDonald has provided the update below:</p> <p>The first two layers of Portland Stone have been laid by the Stone Masons on our re-enforced concrete foundation, The Stone Masons are staying at The Royal in Sheerness during the week and hope to be complete by the end of the month. I have to say their work is first class, they have a special fork-lift to place the stone blocks, all are tied in by stainless</p>

No.	Item	Background	Comments on updates
			steel stretchers & stainless steel rods. For the top lift I have arranged scaffolding so they can reach! It should be a great credit to Swale, the Island, & the other donors. We hope there is enough funds to properly treat the existing grade 2 listed Memorial including the lady on top who looks a little poorly!! The Stone Masons indicate the job would take about a week, it is hoped all in time for the Dedication due on 24th April this year within days of the 100th anniversary of the Dedication of the existing War Memorial.
5.	Neptune Terrace steps	At the November 2021 meeting, following a request by a member of the public an update was provided by the Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods who advised that this was a Sheerness Town Council project and SBC understood they had submitted plans to the Environment Agency on 14th October 2021.	The Environment Agency have confirmed they are happy with designs but Sheerness Town Council need to find funding.
6.	Flood gates at Beachfields & the Catholic Church	At the December 2021 meeting a member of the public asked if the flood gates at Beachfields & the Catholic Church could be kept open all year round and only shut when there were storms and high spring tides which would allow access for disabled people, bikes and buggies? The Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods responded that SBC only had limited funds to cover the contractor costs for opening and closing of flood gates over the year	There are 4 floodgates along Sheerness seafront. One at Isle of Sheppey sailing club is left open all year round to allow pedestrian access and boat launching. This is only closed when we receive flood alerts. The gates are difficult and time consuming to close and require a contractor to do this. With the often short notice on warnings, it is not practical to keep all open. The impact of a flood must outweigh the benefits of access.

No.	Item	Background	Comments on updates
		<p>so it was unlikely that regular responsive situations could be facilitated. However, SBC would take this away to look at and report back at the next Area Committee Meeting.</p>	
7.	Flooding issues at Warden	<p>Parish Councillor Pat Sandle raised the issue of the outflows at Warden Beach and said that flooding issues had not been resolved. The Chair confirmed that SBC had addressed this with the EA. Officers would ensure that the outcome of discussions were communicated to Councillor Sandle.</p>	<p>A site meeting took place on 9 February with Swale Borough Council, the Environment Agency and Warden Parish Council.</p> <p>The Parish Council have recently installed flood boards at the village hall. The Environment Agency confirmed that there was nothing that could be done regarding the flooding which only occurs when the outlet becomes tide locked but did advise the Parish Council to look at flood doors as well as the boards. Swale Borough Council have picked up an action to speak to the Internal Drainage Board and agree who will clear the channel next to the village hall of overgrowth.</p>
8.	Queenborough and Rushenden regeneration	<p>The Committee to prioritise which local issues should be added to future agendas for substantive consideration and discussion.</p> <p>It is suggested to request updates twice a year from Homes England.</p>	<p>Please see Appendix 3 for an update provided by Petra Clarke from Homes England on Queenborough and Rushenden regeneration.</p>

Email from bussavings@kent.gov.uk

Consultation opens on proposed savings for the Supported Bus Services

We want to make you aware that residents are being asked to share their views on a proposed reduction of Kent County Council's (KCC) Supported Bus Services.

KCC's budget for the 2022/23 financial year was agreed on Thursday 10th February and included a reduction to the Supported Bus budget to £4.3m representing a decrease of £2.2 million.

KCC currently spends about £6 million a year to contract services which are not profitable for bus companies but which the council thinks are important to the communities they serve.

The proposed changes mean 48 contracts have been selected for possible withdrawal from the budget.

We want to make you aware of this so that you can consider the impact on yourself or your organisation and are also asking for your help to promote the consultation through your own network so that everyone that needs to be aware is and has an opportunity to respond.

The consultation formally opens today [24th February] and will close on 20th April.

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/bussavings to view the full list of the services proposed to be withdrawn and take part in the consultation.

For queries or requests for hard copies, email bussavings@kent.gov.uk or call 03000 421437 referencing KCC Bus Funding Reduction.

For any alternative formats, email alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or call 03000 42 15 53 (text relay service number 18001 03000 42 15 53).

Yours faithfully

KCC Public Transport Team

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Sheerness Area Committee

Capital Projects Team Update

Bench Refurbishment

The High Street bench refurbishment programme was completed on 28th May. The ends of the benches have been painted Marine blue and the timber slats rubbed down and re-treated and/or replaced as required.



Further benches have been identified around the town centre, which required refurbishment. The contractor has started work on these.

New Planters

The new timber planters were installed throughout the High Street on 4th June and the existing planters relocated to Beachfields and planted out by Sheppey matters community gardeners.

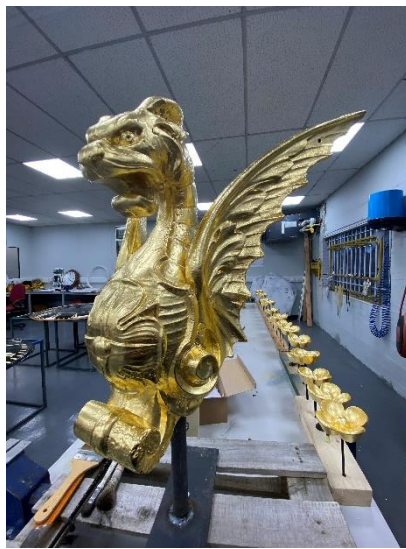


Clock Tower

The Clock Tower was dismantled and removed w/c 27th September, with it leaving Sheerness on Thursday 30th September and being taken to the Smith of Derby workshop.

Time lapse photography of the removal was captured and features on the Visit Swale clock tower restoration project page. This photography will be used alongside interviews with council members, members of the public and representatives from Smith of Derby, to document this project.

Regular updates and pictures of the restoration process to feature on regular Visit Swale blog. Most recent images from the workshop can be seen below.



Timber hoarding around the site was erected, which includes interpretation panels and imagery detailing the restoration project, alongside historical information on the clock tower.



UKPN have been to site and are briefed and ready to reconnect the power feed to the tower, following its installation next year.

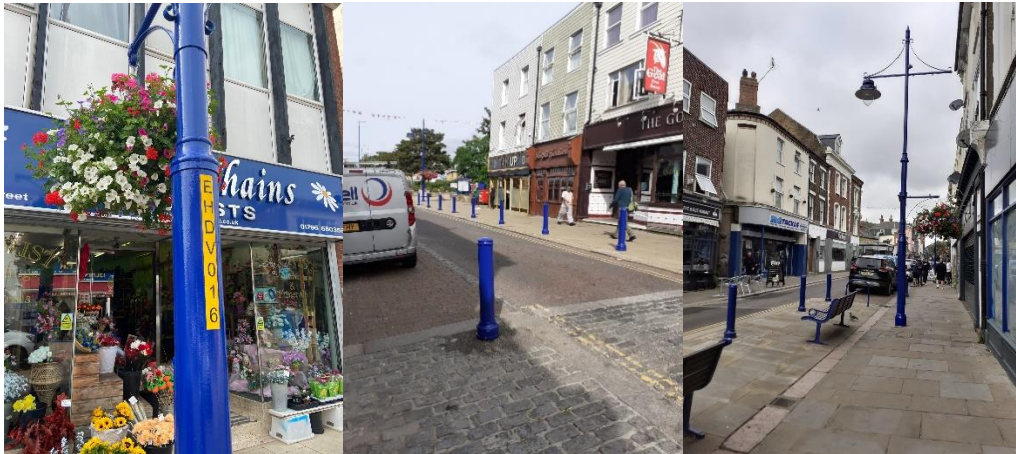
Concrete Balls and uprighters around the clock tower

KCC have advised that the ball bollards should remain around the site of the clocktower. This decision was supported by SBC's conservation officer. These will be jet washed and repaired where required, ahead of the clocktower's return.

The team are also in discussions with electrical contractor Prowired regarding the installation of the new uprighters prior to the tower being re-erected.

Highway Asset Painting

The painting of Highway assets along the High Street and Broadway were completed on 17th September. The assets were painted Marine Blue.



Sheerness Permanent Town Centre Informal Consultation

Following the informal consultation, in which a total of 810 responses were received, a report was presented to the Joint Transportation Board on 6th September. The report detailed the results of the consultation and the next steps. There are clear themes and key responses captured within the informal consultation analysis for Sheerness that Swale Borough Council will now focus upon, as part of the capital projects programme, to introduce improvements to the town centres.

Removal of large yellow back sign at entrance to High Street

At SBC's request and in consultation with KCC and Sheerness Town Council, the large yellow backed sign at the entrance to the High Street has now been removed.





Queenborough and Rushenden Regeneration

Update for Sheppey Area Committee – March 2022

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide an update about the Queenborough and Rushenden project, and apologies I am not able to be there in person.

Progress on the Queenborough and Rushenden project has been going well and it is hoped that two of the three remaining sites will be ready for development within the next two years. Homes England is exploring options for disposal and development of these sites with a view to bringing forward the first new housing by 2024-25.

Klondyke Site

This is the former Sheppey Industries site which is bordered by the Swale estuary to the west and the Queenborough Creek to the north. Works by Cognition Land and Water which are funded by Housing Infrastructure Funding (HIF) are close to completion. The site has been completely cleared and remediation and land raising works have taken place to create a flood-safe development platform.



Klondyke site- works almost complete (Twyfords site to the south of the road)



Twyfords site

This is the site of the former Twyfords factory. Works to raise the land to development platform level are expected to complete in the next month and will be followed by a settlement period of up to one year. This site is earmarked for the delivery of a new primary school and new homes. Homes England is in discussion with Kent County Council about this.

Pumping Station

Works to build a new water pumping station will commence shortly. The pumping station will be built in the south-west corner of the Twyfords site. UKDN Waterflow has been appointed to undertake the works which are also funded by HIF.

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Cover Report for Sheppey Area Committee Funding Scheme

Introduction

The Sheppey Area Committee has been allocated a total of £56,000.00 for the financial year 2021/22. At the Sheppey Area Committee Meeting on Tuesday 30 November 2021, £47,951.26 of funding was allocated. Committee Members agreed that for the unallocated funding of £8,048.74, a second funding round should take place to allocate the remaining funding.

The process proposed by the Area Committee Review Working Group, and agreed by Area Committee Chairs, was to carry out a scoring process on applications received for Area Committee Funding. The deadline for applications was Thursday 17 February 2022 and a single bid of £8,048.74 was received for consideration by the Committee. Since, then the application has been assessed for eligibility by officers and a scoring process carried out.

Three impartial officers have independently considered the application and given it a score against the criteria set out in the Applicant Guidance Notes. Each criteria was scored as follows High – 3, Adequate – 2, Limited – 1, None – 0. All three officers scores were added together and presented to Committee Members in Appendix 1. Also attached to this paper is the summary report on the application received which contains the full text provided by applicant describing the project (Appendix 2).

One challenge was received for SHEP017 from a Committee Member and reviewed by officers. The outcome is that the category “*Contributes to achieving Swale's Strategic Priority 3*” has been increased from 1 to 3, giving a new total score of 34. This is reflected in Appendix 1.

Proposal

Having considered the summary report and supporting papers, along with the scoring and background information, officers would like to submit 2 options for allocating funds for the Committee to vote on.

Option 1

Applicant	Funding request	Proposed allocation
Member bid Cllrs Eakin and Harrison (SHEP017)	£8,048.74	£8,048.74
Total		£8,048.74

Option 2

So that all possible options are presented for Committee Members to vote on, the final option is to award no funding to any bid. As the funding cannot be rolled forward to the year 2022/23, the unallocated funding of £8,048.74 would be recorded as a saving for 2021/22.

Sheppey Area Committee Members are invited to vote on the above proposal.

Janet Dart
Interim Area Committees Coordinator
February 2022

Applicant	Funds request	Improve the appearance of the area	Improve the environment of the area	Improve the facilities of the area	Area of geographical impact	Contributes to achieving Swale's Strategic Priority 2	Contributes to achieving Swale's Strategic Priority 3	Comments	Score
		<i>Three officers independently scored the bids against the categories set out in the applicants' guidance notes. They were added together and a single total score shown on this sheet. The highest score available for individual categories is 9. The highest overall achievable score is 54.</i>							
Member bid - Cllrs Eakin and Harrison SHEP017	£ 8,048.74	8	6	7	5	5	3		34
TOTAL BIDS	£ 8,048.74								
Allocation	£ 8,048.74								
Remaining funding available	£ -								

In line with the recommended processes agreed by the Area Committee Review Working Group, two officers who were not involved in the scoring process considered the specific criteria indicated by the challenger, in this case contributing to Swale's Strategic Priority 3. The reviewers considered each objective within Priority 3 against the bid submitted to determine how reasonable the scores were. In this case the reviewers agreed that the bid directly contributed to objective 3.4. However, there was no direct link to the other objectives and the indirect links to objectives 3.2 and 3.5 were minimal. Therefore, it was agreed that the area of challenge should receive three 'limited' scores as opposed to a single 'limited' score and therefore the score for that category be increased to 3 and the total score be increased to 34.

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Sheppey Area Committee Funding Scheme
Summary of applications received for the March 2022 meeting

Area Committee's allocation for 2021-22 - £56,000.00

At the December 2021 Sheppey Area Committee meeting, £47,951.26 of funding was allocated.

Available to allocate at the March 2022 meeting - £8,048.74

(Applications arranged in the order they were received)

Reference:	SHEP017
Organisation:	Member Bid
Applicant Name:	Councillors Oliver Eakin and Angela Harrison
Status of organisation:	Swale Borough Council
Details of project/activity:	<p>Replace the lighting along Sheerness Promenade. The current cost for the Borough of replacing lights with LEDs is around £150,000. There is currently £70,000 in the budget. We propose putting the £8,048.74 towards the cost of replacing the missing lighting along Sheerness Promenade.</p> <p>It will improve the facilities and appearance along the promenade where the lights were removed but never replaced. It will also make the promenade a much safer environment at night.</p> <p>This project is already being looked at however with these funds the Head of Environment and Leisure has said that Sheerness can be prioritised at the early stages of the project.</p>
Supporting papers	No
Quote provided?	N/A
Total project expenditure:	To replace all of the Borough's lighting is approximately £150,000.00
Total project income (addition sources of income including cash/in kind):	There is £70,000.00 in the Swale Borough Council budget for this expenditure.
Funding request:	£8,048.74

Compiled by Janet Dart, Interim Area Committees Coordinator

Date: February 2022

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