



AGENDA

SHEPPEY AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday, 7 June 2022

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Eastchurch Village Hall, Warden Road, Eastchurch, Sheerness, Kent ME12 4EH

Membership:

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

Quorum = 5

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2. Apologies for absence

3. 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.

4. Minutes

To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 March 2022 (Minute Nos. 677 - 686) and the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2022 (to follow) as a correct records.

5. Levelling-Up Fund update

6. Swale Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

7. Barton's Point covered walkway 5 - 6

8. Matters arising from previous meetings 7 - 14

9. Public forum

10. Local issues to be raised

11. Update on work plan 15 - 20

12. Matters referred to Area Committee by Service Committees

13. Matters referred to Service Committees by Area Committee

Issued on Thursday, 26 May 2022

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

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Barton's Point Covered Walkway – Sheppey Area Committee

Background

The former rifle range at Barton's Point, Sheerness is now a multi-use coastal park facility, with the earliest part dating from the turn of the 20th century. An unusual and, now unused, feature of the former facility, is a protected walkway between the two ranges, road and seashore to the north. The long stretch of protective and dog-legged brick walling, in parts was added to by reinforced concrete roof slabs supported on one side by the wall, and the other by metal posts to provide an open-sided covered walkway.

Whilst the brick walling is largely intact and appears in the main to be structurally sound, many of the concrete roof panels and supporting metal posts are now missing and a number of those still surviving are in poor and potentially dangerous condition.

Swale Borough Council have secured the structure with security fencing and is now considering options.

Any potential intervention will be limited to the protected walkway itself and would not include the surrounding structures that have been historically associated with it, e.g. gun battery bases, surviving bases of the target walls and ammunition stores etc.

It should be noted that whilst the structure is not listed, it is of local heritage interest and as such, the primary aim would be to retain it in some form and bring it back into a safe condition and good standard of appearance, where it can be enjoyed and its historical function properly understood by users of the coastal park.



SBC has identified the following 3 Options:

Option	Specification
One	Demolition with floor slab retained
Two	Removal of roof slab and metal stations only
Three	Full restoration works to structure

Estimated prices have been provided by contractors as follows:

Options	Cost
One	£30,000
Two	£10,000
Three	£200,000 – £250,000

Initial considerations indicate option 2 would seem the most sensible/pragmatic way forward taking into account both heritage preservation and financial constrictions. Existing budgets could cover the cost of implementing this option. It should be noted that option 2 does have the risk of the wall coming down in parts during the roof removal.

Minster Parish Council considered the options at their August 2021 meeting. The clerk confirmed the discussion was centred around retaining as much of the whole structure as possible to benefit a future bigger scheme that could regenerate the area.

Further options that have been suggested, are to retain or replicate just a small section of the roof structure to the walkway and/or to add in history interpretation boards to inform visitors of the previous but given financial constraints this would only be feasible if we can attract some additional funding.

The area committee is asked;

- Which of the options would be your preference?
- Would the Committee be prepared to allocate funding (on top the £10k SBC contribution) to support the further options in the last paragraph?
- Would the Committee consider seeking third party contributions?

Sheppey Area Committee meeting: 7 June 2022 – Matters arising

No.	Item	Background	Updates
1.	Coach Parking	<p>Jenny Hurkett from the Criterion at Blue Town raised the matter of coach parking on the Isle of Sheppey.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The Cabinet Member decision was not progressed in time for the change of Constitution.</p> <p>A paper will be taken to the first Community Committee.</p>
2.	Connectivity across Sheppey	<p>A question was asked at the June 2021 meeting about transport issues on the Island. The Quality Bus Partnership has been suspended while (Kent County Council) KCC look at how to set up an Enhanced Partnership which will replace the QBP. The Chair suggests postponing this discussion until more is known about the focus of the new group.</p> <p>The Chairman to consider how to take this forward when more is known about the new group.</p>	<p>Divisional Member for Sheppey, County Council Cameron Beart, reported that KCC were awarded £35.1M from the Government for bus services. An update on the new Enhanced Partnership will be given at the KCC Environment and Transport Committee on 7 July 2022. A fuller update will be provided at the September 2022 Sheppey Area Committee Meeting.</p>

3.	The state of Blue Town	Jenny Hurkett the founder of the Criterion, Blue Town commented on the appalling state of the historic area of Blue Town and asked what could be done to improve the area.	<p>A Community Safety walkabout took place for the wider Sheerness area in early January.</p> <p>Issues identified include a large amount of environmental based concerns which have been flagged with Environmental Response and the Contracts team to deal with. An issue with the security of the water tower site was also identified and flagged to appropriate teams. Officers will be reviewing wider community safety work in the Sheerness area at a separate meeting soon.</p> <p>The ACT prison scheme has gone out to do some clearing of the spaces.</p>
4.	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 1.
5.	Restoration of war memorial, Sheerness	<p>Updates have been given at previous meetings on the restoration of Sheerness war memorial.</p> <p>The dedication of the Sheerness War memorial took place on Sunday 24 April 2022.</p>	Peter MacDonald advised that subject to the cost & funding, there is a plan to replace the missing letters on the existing Grade 2 listed War Memorial, it would appear that when the War

			<p>Memorial was cleaned some years ago by the Swale Contractor some of the 100 year old lead lettering was cleaned off, these days the work is very specialized & there are few in UK who have the necessary skill to undertake the work, an ex. Chatham Royal Naval Dockyard skilled tradesman has been identified who will start with making one lead letter by first tracing the matching size & font. With regard to the land at the rear, the Heras Fencing will be left until the COVID testing station leaves, the area needs to be secure to prevent vandals desecrating the back of the wall.</p>
6.	Queenborough and Rushenden regeneration	It was agreed that Homes England would be asked to give an update every six months.	Petra Clarke provided an update at the March 2022 meeting.

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Sheerness Area Committee

Capital Projects Update

Clock Tower removal and refurbishment journey

Following the removal of the Clock Tower on Thursday 30th September 2021 the refurbishment has taken place in Smith of Derby's workshop.



Regular updates and pictures of the restoration journey have been shared by Smith of Derby and featured on Visit Swale. Two visits to Derby have also taken place with the filming team to capture the progress and carry out interviews with Smith of Derby employees.

Clock Tower return notification

On 22nd March 2022 Smith of Derby confirmed that the clock tower would be ready for return on 16th May and that a road closure for Broadway should be requested from KCC for 16th & 17th May.

Preparatory Works

The timber hoarding with imagery detailing the restoration project around the clock tower site was fully removed on 3rd May in preparation for the return of the clock tower. Temporary Heras fencing was installed around the site to enable preparatory works to take place (cleaning of the granite sett surface along with concrete ball / directional arrow monolith cleaning and new uplighter installation).



Clock Tower return

As planned, on 16th May at midday the two specialist HIAB loader crane vehicles arrived into the High Street from Smith of Derby's workshop carrying the four main sections of the clock tower. Work soon began within Smith of Derby's site to install the time capsule which was filled with information by the children of Rose Street Primary School, this was followed by the installation of the new metal grid floor and then the base and second section of the clock tower were lifted into position. The upper two sections were also offloaded to enable one of the two lorries to leave site.



On 17th May Smith of Derby arranged for a subcontractor to erect scaffolding around the bottom two sections to enable to clock face section and capping section with the bell to be installed safely. The clock face section followed by the capping section were then lifted into place while being witnessed by the Mayor, Cllr Bonney and Ward members.



On 18th May with the tower fully in position Smith of Derby started to install the four bracket arms and new lanterns before the scaffolding was then removed. Smith of Derby also started to install the electrical cables within the tower. UK Power Networks (UKPN) were also on site to reconnect the power supply to the tower.



Clock Tower works still to take place

On 20th May the remainder of the uplighter installation is taking place and an electrician from Kirkman & Jourdain will be connecting the tails from the UKPN supply, installing the fuse board and connecting up some of the sub circuits.

During week commencing 23rd May the granite seating plinth will be installed, the granite setts around the new uplighters will be put back, the meter will be installed by Npower and the electrical circuits within the tower will be commissioned to enable the clock to become operational.

Finally the Heras fencing surrounding the clock tower will be fully removed allowing the public to have access to the tower prior to the start of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Footage capture, interviews and photography

The whole of the clock tower's refurbishment journey has been captured with time lapse recordings of the removal and reinstallation processes along with interviews, clips and photographs. These will be available as soon as the editing has been completed.

Sheppey Area Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	7 June 2022
Report Title	Sheppey Area Committee Work Plan proposal for 2022/23
EMT Lead	David Clifford, Head of Policy, Governance & Customer Service
Chair of Area Committee	Councillor Ken Ingleton
Lead Officer	Janet Dart, Interim Area Committees Coordinator
Classification	Open
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Sheppey Area Committee to discuss and agree their priorities and ambitions for 2022/23. 2. The Sheppey Area Committee to discuss and agree the criteria which any bids for funding will need to meet. 3. The Sheppey Area Committee to discuss and agree what publicity should take place to promote the funding scheme.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Sheppey Area Committee (AC) have worked with officers to put a proposal together for the Sheppey AC to consider which will set the work plan and criteria for funding bids for the year 2022/23. Once a final list of priorities and criteria have been agreed, the funding application form and guidance notes will be updated ready to launch the bid application process on Friday 1 July 2022. The deadline for bids will be Monday 1 August 2022 after which a thorough assessment process will take place by officers before being taken to the September 2022 round of AC meetings for consideration.

2 Background

- 2.1 In June 2021 the AC Review Working Group and Committee Chairs agreed a process for operating ACs and part of that was for each AC to agree a Work Plan at the June meeting each year. This would set out each Committee's priorities and ambitions for that year and would link in with how the funding should be allocated. Once the priorities/ambitions have been agreed, the Committee will need to set criteria which any bids for funding would need to meet.
- 2.2 The Committee can decide to use the funding exclusively for a proactive theme/ambition or open the scheme up for external organisations to make bids or a combination of the two.

3 Proposals

3.1 **Priorities/ambitions for 2022/23** - the AC Review Working Group met in April 2022 to reflect on how the AC's processes worked during the year 2021/22 and to consider what changes would be beneficial going forward.

3.2 One of their recommendations was that Heads of Service be consulted to see if there are any existing projects that each Area Committee could use part of their funding to accelerate without requiring much more than minimal officer involvement. This would help to achieve completion of projects earlier as well as benefit the area. Below is a list briefly outlining some potential projects that Committee Members may wish to consider prioritising for 2022/23.

- Funding for 'Beach Cams' to help promote the beaches (estimate of £10k);
- contribution to Barton's point drainage project;
- Barton's Point covered walkway (discussed under item 7);
- Active Travel – consultation events (necessary to support the development and adoption of the borough-wide and area-based Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans);
- Active Travel – infrastructure improvements. This could be for example new or improved cycle storage on SBC land, or following engagement with partners such as Network Rail;
- bicycle recycling initiative – a project that we understand Swale Borough Council and Swale Rail are instigating, and which would support the Active Travel agenda and LUF bid;
- actions which may arise from the High Streets Task Force workshop in June;
- public toilet refurbishments;
- tree planting above the current plans;
- Business Crime Reduction Partnership – Radio Scheme; and
- support for interventions around the Cost of Living Crisis – Food banks and VCS support such as debt advice etc.

3.3 **Criteria for funding applications** - The Chair and Vice-Chair propose that the criteria set by Sheppey Area Committee for the year 2021/22 should be carried forward to 2022/23 as they are still relevant for the area. Therefore, bids for funding submitted to the September 2022 meeting should demonstrate they will

have a positive impact on the appearance, environment and facilities in the Sheppey Area.

3.4 Bids will also be considered that can demonstrate how the initiative or project will contribute to Swale's strategic priorities 2 and 3 as set out in the Corporate Plan as listed below:

3.5 **Priority 2: Investing in our environment and responding positively to global challenges;**

2.1 Develop a coherent strategy to address the climate and ecological emergencies, aiming for carbon neutrality in the council's own operations by 2025 and in the whole borough by 2030, and pursue all opportunities to enhance biodiversity across the borough.

2.2 Encourage active travel and reduced car use, including through the permeability of new developments, and work with partners to address air quality issues.

2.3 Establish a special projects fund to provide much-needed investment in the borough's public realm and open spaces.

2.4 Recognise and support our local heritage to give people pride in the place they live and boost the local tourism industry.

2.5 Work towards a cleaner borough where recycling remains a focus, and ensure that the council acts as an exemplar environmental steward, making space for nature wherever possible.

Priority 3: Tackling deprivation and creating equal opportunities for everyone:

3.1 Undertake targeted interventions to identify our most disadvantaged families and communities, improve our understanding of the issues they face, and develop new ways of working to reduce social exclusion and enhance opportunities and quality of life.

3.2 Reduce health inequality by developing more productive relationships with local health partners and making health and wellbeing a central consideration in all relevant council decision-making, recognising especially the link between housing and health.

3.3 Develop a communitarian approach to partnership working based on shared objectives with like-minded agencies in the voluntary and community sectors.

3.4 Ensure that the council plays a proactive role in reducing crime and antisocial behaviour, including through the modernisation of CCTV provision.

3.5 Promote wellbeing and enjoyment of life by signposting and encouraging a wide range of sporting, cultural and other leisure activities appropriate and accessible to each age group.

3.6 **Publicity of funding scheme** – The AC Review Working Group recommended that each AC agree how widely their funding scheme should be publicised. This decision will directly relate to the Work Plan and priorities that are agreed at the June 2022 meeting. The options for the AC to consider are:

- Publicise widely, putting out press releases, social media posts and email local organisations including parish/town councils;
- Limited publicity, email the parish/town councils within the area and any local organisations that may have schemes which Members believe would assist with achieving the AC's ambitions; or
- No publicity, AC Members to advise organisations/parish/town councils themselves if they feel they may have a scheme that would assist with achieving the AC's ambitions.

4 Alternative Options

4.1 Sheppey Area Committee Members could agree not to have a Work Plan with set priorities and criteria for funding. However, officers would advise against this as it will be difficult to adhere to the three-step process recommended by the AC Review Working Group and the AC may find themselves in a position where members will need to vote on individual bids, and any member with an interest which could give them an apparent bias, would have to recuse themselves from all such votes. In addition to unnecessarily disenfranchising members, this also runs the risk that meetings becoming inquorate for these agenda items.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 The Chair and Vice-Chair have been consulted to gain a steer on what they recommend the Work Plan and criteria should be for 2022/23. Officers have also been consulted to seek advice on potential projects the AC may wish to prioritise in their Work Plan and to ensure there are no resource implications. No external consultation has been undertaken or is proposed. However, Sheppey AC will be consulted at the June 2022 meeting when a final proposal will be agreed and voted on.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The proposals report provides senior officers the opportunity to check the Work Plan does not conflict with the Corporate Plan priorities.
Financial, Resource and Property	The proposals report provides senior officers the opportunity to check the Work Plan has no Swale Borough Council financial /officer resource implications.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	No specific implications identified at this stage.
Crime and Disorder	No specific implications identified at this stage.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	No specific implications identified at this stage.
Health and Wellbeing	No specific implications identified at this stage.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	No specific implications identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	No specific implications identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	No specific implications identified at this stage.
Privacy and Data Protection	No specific implications identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

7.1 There are no appendices.

8 Background Papers

8.1 There are no background papers.

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