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# **AGENDA**

# WESTERN AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday, 1 September 2022

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Bredgar Village Hall, Bexon Lane, Bredgar, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8HB\*

#### Membership:

Councillors Mike Baldock, Monique Bonney, Roger Clark, Nicholas Hampshire, Alan Horton, James Hunt, Richard Palmer, Paul Stephen, Sarah Stephen (Vice-Chair) and Corrie Woodford (Chair).

Quorum = 3

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Link to meeting: To be added.

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#### 2. Apologies for absence

#### 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 <u>Minutes</u> of the Meeting held on 9 June 2022 (Minute Nos. 66 - 77) as a correct record.

- 5. Pond Management
- 6. Reversal of allocation WAC004 Report 5 8
- 7. Update on Work Plan 9 16
- 8. Matters arising from previous meetings 17 22
- 9. Public Forum
- 10. Local issues to be raised
- 11. Matters referred to Area Committee by Service Committees
- 12. Matters to be referred to Service Committee Chairs for consideration

# **Issued on Tuesday, 23 August 2022**

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



Western Area Committee Meeting		
Meeting Date	1 September 2022	
Report Title	Return and reallocation of previous funding - reference WAC004	
EMT Lead	David Clifford, Head of Policy, Governance & Customer Service	
Lead Officer	Janet Dart, Policy & Engagement Officer	
Classification	Open	
Recommendations	To agree to reverse the allocation for bid reference WAC004 allocated in 2020/21 and add the amount to this year's allocation.	

# 1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

This report outlines the reasons why allocation reference WAC004 cannot be spent and asks members to agree to reverse the allocation and add the amount to this year's allocation.

# 2 Background

- 2.1 In the financial year 2020/21, Western Area Committee allocated £1,200.00 in funding to pay for three brown tourism signs to be installed in the Parish of Bobbing in the following locations:
  - Bobbing Church a Grade 1 Listed Building;
  - The Henge, Sonora Fields; and
  - The Grove Rose Hill House area.
- 2.2 This proposal, put forward by Bobbing Parish Council, was in line with the Visitor Economy Framework Action Plan which included a medium-term action to undertake a wayfinding audit of signage and identify any gaps.
- 2.3 The Destination & Place Manager was tasked to submit the three applications to Kent County Council. The strongest of the three applications was submitted initially and Visit Kent undertook the criteria checks for compliance with the national signing criteria and consulted Kent Highways the statutory body. They advised it fell well short of the criteria and further not to pursue the remaining applications as although the locations were strong community assets, they were not destination assets for visitors.

#### 3 Proposals

- 3.1 Officers propose that the Western Area Committee accept the advice from Kent County Council and reverse the allocation of £1,200.00 (WAC004).
- 3.2 Officers propose that the returned funding be added to the funding allocation for Western Area Committee for 2022/23 increasing the amount of funding available to allocate from £34,000.00 to a total of £35,200.00. The Director of Resources has agreed this approach and as the Constitution is silent on this point, the Head of Policy, Governance & Customer Service has confirmed this course of action is procedurally permissible.

### 4 Alternative Options

4.1 Western Area Committee Members could agree to pursue the applications to install the three brown tourism signs, however, if Kent County Council do not approve the applications by May 2023, the funding will be forfeited in line with the Constitution: "Any funding allocation agreed by the committee but unspent by the end of each electoral cycle (i.e. by May 2023) will be forfeited".

# 5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 No consultation has been undertaken. However, Western Area Committee Members will be consulted at the September 2022 meeting when a final proposal will be considered and voted on.

# 6 Implications

Issue	Implications	
Corporate Plan	No specific implications identified at this stage.	
Financial, Resource and Property	The financial implications are as outlined in the report.	
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.



# Agenda Item 7

## Western Area Committee Funding Scheme – Member proposal form 2022-23

Title of project	Youth Project	
Proposer (Area Committee Member)	Councillor Richard Palmer	
Relevant Heads of Service/Lead officer	Charlotte Hudson	
Project Proposal	Two Vibe youth workers will visit Hartlip, Newington, Lower Halstow, Upchurch and Iwade one evening a week and then go to Bobbing, Borden, Bapchild, Bredgar, Milstead, Rodmersham and Tunstall one evening and then go to Bobbing, Borden, Bapchild, Bredgar, Milstead, Rodmersham and Tunstall 2 evenings (6 hours) a week. (Note – awaiting confirmation to see if The Meads can be included)  They will look to engage with young people out and about and seek to meet them at agreed venues such as village halls and community centres at a pre advertised time. They will use a QR code survey to gather the views and opinions of young people regarding youth provision in the area.	
Anticipated officer resource required	None	
Cost £	Anticipated cost Staffing: 2 x staff 6hrs a week £15 x 2 x 6hrs = £1080 Van £100 per session x 6 = £600 Cost of hall hire – £30 x 6 = 180 Management - £250 Overheads/Resources - £200 Total cost - £2,310.00 approx	
Planned Start Date	12 September 2022	
Due Date for Completion (Please note the funding will need to be spent by May 2023)	28 October 2022	
Please note there is a requirement to consult with the relevant Head of Service to ensure this proposal doe not conflict with strategic priorities and will not put undue pressure on officer resource.		
Agreed by relevant Head of Service (Name, date and signature)	Chres	
	Charlotte Hudson 23/08/22	



Title of project	Bredgar and Hartlip Conservation Area Reviews	
Proposer (Area Committee Member)	Councillor Mike Baldock	
Relevant Heads of Service/Lead officer	Flo Churchill and Simon Algar	
Project Proposal	Western Area Committee would like to bring forward the Conservation Area Reviews for Bredgar and Hartlip.	
	The proposal is to appoint an external consultant to carry out these reviews. Three quotes were sought and received, and are as follows:	
	Peter Bell - £8,400 (excluding expenses, VAT will not be applicable) Arup - £15,500 (not including any VAT which will be applicable) Purcell - £27,780 (not including any VAT which will be applicable)	
	Peter Bell clearly offers the most cost-effective option, but due to the software he uses (MS Word), this places an extra burden on officers around editing the picture and map-heavy documents into professional looking and fully accessible documents using professional editing software.	
	The fees quoted are based on the work commencing in October. Fees all three consultants invited to submit a fee proposal for this review work could increase if we were to significantly push back the work commencement date, e.g., to the next financial year, any increase would not be significant.	
Anticipated officer resource required	Although the reviews will be carried out by a consultant, the work needs to be managed by the Conservation & Design Team (of Simon Algar and Jhilmil Kishore) who currently do have an extremely high workload and the capacity to take on any further work over and above that set out in the Heritage Strategy Initial 3-year Action Plan does not exist, also taking into account the service provided to the development management teams, and the extra unprogrammed work already taken on and which is in the process of being finished off. Starting this autumn, the team will still have the following programmed work to begin and manage: Faversham and Preston-next-Faversham CA Review, Newington Parish CA's Review, Milton Regis CA, Cellar Hill & Green St CA Review, Swale Local List, Curtilage Listed Buildings List, Sheerness Port Heritage at Risk Project, completion of Archaeological Heritage Topic paper, start and completion of Industrial Heritage and Aviation & Defence heritage topic papers, production of at least one update to the Swale 2020 baseline Heritage at Risk Register (it was anticipated that this would be update annually). It is advised in the circumstances that consideration be given to prioritising the review of Bredgar and Hartlip CAs in the next 3-year action plan starting in autumn 2023, although this will need to be considered in parallel with other work some of which may feasibly be considered a higher priority, including review of the at-risk Upchurch CA.	
£8,400 minimum  (It is appreciated that WAC funding to cover or towards the cost carrying out this work will or may not be available from the start new financial year, but it may be possible to cover the cost of a work from existing service budgets. Alternatively, consideration be given to carrying out the review work in house depending of extent of the team resource come autumn 2023.		

Western Area Committee Funding Scheme – Member proposal form 2022-23

Western Area Committee Funding Scheme – Member proposal form 2022-23		
Title of project	Bredgar and Hartlip Conservation Area Reviews	
Planned Start Date	October 2023	
Due Date for Completion (Please note the funding will need to be spent by May 2023)	January/February 2024	
Please note there is a requirement to consult with the relevant Head of Service to ensure this proposal does not conflict with strategic priorities and will not put undue pressure on officer resource.		
Agreed by relevant Head of Service (Name, date and signature)	Flo Churchil	
	Flo Churchill 18.08.22	

Western Area Committee Funding Scheme – Member proposal form 2022-23				
Title of project	King George V Toilet Refurbishment			
Proposer (Area Committee Member)	Councillor Sarah Stephen			
Relevant Heads of Service/Lead officer	Joanne Johnson, Martyn Cassell and Deborah Hardy			
Project Proposal	King George V Playing Field is a popular area with local residents with many activities taking place there.			
	At the moment there is a single public toilet at the playing field which is in need of renovation. The proposal is to undertake the following works:			
	Non slip vinyl to floor			
	Hack off existing tiles and renew with 150 x 150mm wall tiles			
	Decorate ceiling, door & window			
	New LED light			
	Not allowed for new sanitary ware as it appears to be in good condition.			
	You may wish to consider white roc to the walls instead of tiling – this would be extra £1200.00			
Anticipated officer resource required	required Officer resource to place order and check works.			
Cost £	£5,054 (including £1200 for white roc)			
Planned Start Date	As soon as feasible. However, toilet would need to be closed so suggest autumn / winter			
Due Date for Completion (Please note the funding will need to be spent by May 2023)	he May 2023			
	sult with the relevant Head of Service to ensure this proposal does rill not put undue pressure on officer resource.			
Agreed by relevant Head of Service				
(Name, date and signature)				
	Martyn Cassell			
Martyn Cassell Head of Environment and Leisure				
	15 August 2022			



Title of project	Donation to Foodbank	
Proposer (Area Committee Member)	Councillor Corrie Woodford	
Relevant Heads of Service/Lead officer	Sarah-Jane Radley and Charlotte Hudson	
Project Proposal	Due to the cost-of-living crisis and some residents in the Western Area having difficulties paying for essentials such as food, household bills and fuel, Members would like to consider making a donation to a Foodbank which would benefit residents.	
	Swale Foodbank, part of The Trussell Trust network, would be the most appropriate for the Western Area, more can be found out about their work via this link <a href="Swale Foodbank">Swale Foodbank</a>   Helping Local People in Crisis	
	They run a multi-centre foodbank based at 4 different locations throughout the week:	
	<b>Mondays</b> : Net Church, East Street, Sittingbourne. Open 12.30pm-2.30pm	
	<b>Tuesdays</b> : Holy Trinity Parish Hall, Church Street, Sittingbourne. Open 12pm-2pm	
	<b>Thursdays</b> : Richmond Academy, Unity Street, Sheerness. Open 4pm-6pm	
	Fridays: Sittingbourne Baptist Church, High Street, Sittingbourne. Open 10.30am-12.30pm	
	Their centres run a voucher model – foodbank vouchers are required in advance of receiving a food parcel. Each food parcel contains three days of nutritionally balanced, non-perishable food. A typical food parcel includes: breakfast cereal, soup, pasta, rice, pasta sauce, baked beans, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, instant mash, UHT milk, tea, coffee, sugar, tinned dessert and biscuits. Some foodbanks also provide fresh produce if they are able to. Dietary needs can be catered for.	
	In certain circumstances the Swale Foodbank may be able to deliver food parcels to resident's homes, especially if there are mobility or health issues.	
	Swale Foodbank is running a More Than Food programme which provides additional support alongside emergency food, to help people address underlying issues behind their crisis. They have specifically trained volunteers who can offer additional help in the following areas:	
	Eat Well Spend Less – a six-week basic cookery, nutrition and budget management course.	
	Holiday Club – supporting families at times when free school meals are not available by offering food and fun activities.	
	Money Life – providing tools and courses to tackle debt and budgeting.	
	Fuel Bank – supports households most in need of help by giving them funds to pay for gas and electricity alongside emergency food.	

Western Area Committee Funding Scheme – Member proposal form 2022-23

Western Area Committee Funding Scheme – Member proposal form 2022-23		
Title of project	Donation to Foodbank	
Anticipated officer resource required	Minimal, the Policy and Engagement Officer will work with the Foodbank and Swale Finance Team to arrange the payment.	
Cost £	Figure to be agreed by Western Area Committee	
Planned Start Date	September 2022	
Due Date for Completion (Please note the funding will need to be spent by May 2023)	September 2022	
Please note there is a requirement to consult with the relevant Head of Service to ensure this proposal does not conflict with strategic priorities and will not put undue pressure on officer resource.		
Agreed by relevant Head of Service (Name, date and signature)	Chris	
	Charlotte Hudson 23/08/22	

# Agenda Item 8

# Western Area Committee meeting: Progress on Matters arising – 1 September 2022

No.	Item	Background	Progress on actions
1.	Youth provision in villages	At the June 2021 meeting the lack of youth provision was raised as an issue.	The Western Area Committee (AC) requested a proposal be brought to the September 2022 meeting to allocate funds to a project to find
		Amanda Turner the Kent County Council (KCC) Youth Hub Delivery Manager and Rebecca O'Neill the Commissioned Provider of Youth Provision for KCC, attended the June 2022 meeting to talk	out where young people were based who would like to engage with the Brogdale CIC VIBE services with a view to providing them with transport.
		about youth provision in the Western Area.	A proposal is included under item 10 for Area Committee's consideration.
		The KCC Divisional Member for Swale West will look into the issue of Section 106 money being absorbed into KCC.	An update on the Section 106 issue will be given at the meeting
		Ways of working together should be looked at.	
2.	Bredgar and Hartlip Conservation Area Reviews.	The Area Committee requested that quotes be obtained for Conservation Area Reviews for Bredgar and Hartlip for consideration at the June 2022 meeting.	A proposal is included under item 10 for Area Committee's consideration.
3.	Heritage issues	Cabinet adopted a Heritage Strategy and Action Plan on 18 March 2020. The Action Plan contains a programme of Conservation Area (CA) reviews.	Please see Appendix 1 for an update on progress.
		The Area Committee agreed to fund CA reviews for the areas below which are	

		outside of the planned programme of reviews in the Action Plan.  Rodmersham Church Street Rodmersham Green Milstead Tunstall	
4.	Changing Places Toilets	A Parish Councillor for Bobbing brought the Committee's attention to the Government Fund Changing Places Toilets. Local Authorities were invited to submit expressions of interest to install larger accessible toilets. This was also raised at the Sittingbourne Area Committee meeting.  At the June 2022 meeting, the Head of Environment and Leisure advised that Swale Borough Council has been provisionally awarded funding of £133,750 for three Changing places facilities. details.	The funding has been confirmed and three locations identified. Swallows will be undertaken first in 2022/23 followed by Sheerness Swimming Pool and the Healthy Living Centre in 2023/24.  SBC officers have undertaken the pre-requisite training. A meeting is to be confirmed with SERCO/SCL to confirm details and requirements of project design.
5.	Charging of electric cars at home where there is no driveway.	A Parish Councillor for Bobbing raised the issue of residents in the future needing to charge electric cars at home when they had no driveway. There needed to be a policy change to allow for a wire to be run either under or over the pavement <a href="https://chargearm.com/">https://chargearm.com/</a>	Larissa Reed, Chief Executive, advised that she had spoken with Paul Nichols at Brighton and Hove City Council where they had installed 600 charging points to lamp-posts. KCC were adamant they were not considering this option. SBC were looking at other pilots using gullies and gathering evidence to present

		The Area Committee were advised the EV policy was being drafted and it will pay reference to this type of issue and point to Kent County Council guidance as it is their responsibility.  Parish Councillor Graham Addicott	to KCC. The LR would be talking to the relevant Director at KCC. Kent District Leaders all agreed something needed to be done. She would provide further updates at future Area Committee meetings.  The Chief Executive will advise if there has been any progress at the meeting.
		provided the contact details of Paul Nichols an expert at Brighton and Hove CC.	
6.	Conservation issues including ponds.	David Carey the Pond Warden will be attending the Western Area Committee meeting in September 2022.	A funding proposal may come out of the discussion on pond maintenance in September 2022.
7.	Rose Hill & Meads Woodland Management & Work Plans.	In March 2021 the Area Committee allocated funding to develop management plans. These had now been completed by an external consultant and there were £2,158.00 of funds remaining.	Cllr Mike Baldock reported that a Friends of Rose Hill Woods Group has formally been founded with requisite officers and a bank account has been opened. The group are looking forward to commencing work.
		The plans indicated if the tasks should be carried out by a contractor or a volunteer group.  Members agreed that SBC seek	Cllr James Hunt advised that an initial meeting has taken place and a further meeting is scheduled to take place mid-September 2022 where a constitution and committee positions will be agreed.
		volunteers to set up Friends Groups and to assist them in that process as well as helping them to report progress back to the Western Area Committee.	Once both Friends Groups are set up with bank accounts, the Policy and Engagement Officer will arrange for the transfer of £1,079.00 into each account as agreed at the

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		The Area Committee agreed that known	March 2022 meeting. This is the remaining
		potential volunteers be contacted by Members to see if they were interested in forming Friends Groups and report back to the June 2022 meeting.	funds from the allocation made in March 2021.
		It was also agreed to adopt the Management and Work Plans for Rose Hill Woods and The Meads Community Woodland and the remaining funding to be split 50/50 between the two Friends Groups once established.	
8.	Walking and Cycling Project	In March 2021 funding was allocated to a walking and cycling project in the Western area. The Active Travel Coordinator attended the June 2022 meeting and there was a discussion on potential routes.	It was agreed that a Walking and Cycling project workshop be set up in Swale House with Western Area Committee Members and Parish Councillors to consider routes.  A workshop will take place on 15 September at 2 pm in the Second Floor Conference Room at Swale House.

#### **Matters Arising update**

# Written update for Western Area Committee – Thursday 1 September 2022

By Conservation & Design Team of Swale Borough Council.

#### Rodmersham Church Street CA review

The Conservation Area appraisal document has now been finalised that includes changes made as a result of the public consultation and agreement for adoption by the cabinet.

The document is now being published on the Swale Borough Council website and is subject to 21 day notification period.

#### Rodmersham Green CA review

The Conservation Area appraisal document has now been finalised to incorporate the proposed additional boundary changes post public consultation, agreed with the cabinet. At the cabinet, it was also agreed that another public consultation of 3 weeks should be held for the finalised document. This is proposed to commence around mid-September 2022.

#### Milstead CA review

The Conservation Area appraisal document has now been finalised that includes changes made as a result of the public consultation and agreement for adoption by the cabinet.

The document is in the process of being published on the Swale Borough Council website and is subject to 21 day notification period.

#### Tunstall CA review

The Conservation Area appraisal document has now been finalised that includes changes made as a result of the public consultation and agreement for adoption by the cabinet.

The document is in the process of being published on the Swale Borough Council website and is subject to 21 day notification period.

