

# Agenda

## Eastern Area Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, 15 June 2023

Time 7.00 pm

Venue: Teynham Community Hall, 89 Station Road, Teynham ME9 9DU\*

Membership:

Councillors Lloyd Bowen, Kieran Golding, Alastair Gould, Mike Henderson, Carole Jackson, Rich Lehmann, Claire Martin, Ben J Martin, Hannah Perkin (Chair), Julien Speed, Terry Thompson and Chris Williams (Vice-Chair).

Quorum = 4

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Pages

### Information about this meeting

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## 2. Apologies for Absence

## 3. Declarations of Interest

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The Chair will ask Members if they have any disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) or disclosable non-pecuniary interests (DNPIs) to declare in respect of items on the agenda. Members with a DPI in an item must leave the room for that item and may not participate in the debate or vote.

Aside from disclosable interests, where a fair-minded and informed observer would think there was a real possibility that a Member might be biased or predetermined on an item, the Member should declare this and leave the room while that item is considered.

Members who are in any doubt about interests, bias or predetermination should contact the monitoring officer for advice prior to the meeting.

## 4. Minutes

To approve the [Minutes](#) of the Meeting held on 28 February 2023 (Minute Nos.732– 743) and the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 May 2023 (to follow) as correct records.

## 5. New Councillor introductions

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| 6. Matters arising from previous meetings | 5 - 26  |
| 7. Achievements Report                    | 27 - 46 |
| 8. Eastern Area Committee priorities      | 47 - 48 |
| 9. Public Forum                           |         |

10. Local issues to be raised
11. Matters referred to Area Committee by Service Committees
12. Matters referred to Service Committee Chairs for consideration

**Issued on Monday, 5 June 2023**

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

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## Eastern Area Committee Meeting June 2023 – Matters arising

No.	Item	Background	Progress on actions
1.	Bus consultation project	<p>At the December 2021 meeting, Eastern Area Committee Members agreed to award £10,000.00 to undertake a public consultation on local bus services. The Project Centre Ltd were commissioned in February 2023 to carry out the consultation, following a delay due to a lack of resource within the department.</p>	<p>The consultation was launched on the 24 March 2023 and closed on the 27 April 2023. There were a range of different methods used to collect responses including a 22-question online survey, meetings with members of the community and a youth engagement workshop held at the Abbey School.</p> <p>There was a good response to the consultation and Project Centre Ltd are currently finalising a summary report of the findings. The final report will be brought to the Eastern Area Committee at the next meeting in September 2023.</p>
2.	Flooding in the Whitstable Road area and other parts of Faversham	<p>At the December 2022 meeting, Cllr Julian Saunders provided a written update which included a response from Sue Cobb, Southern Water (SW), about concerns raised by the Area Committee about CSO discharges and the local sewage network.</p> <p>Kent County Council (KCC) have advised investigations were successfully completed, with deeper soils 3 to 4 metres below the ground offering some permeability. They have subsequently drafted a catchment assessment and</p>	<p>The Greenspaces Manager advised that KCC Highways advised in April 2023 that planned works on Whitstable Road in May 2023 will help alleviate some of the matters raised by residents. They have further assessed the use of soakaways in the Recreation Ground, but advised doing so</p>

		<p>are working on designs and costs which would be capable of absorbing at least part, but not all of the run-off.</p> <p>At the February 2023 meeting the Chair gave further updates from KCC and SW. Residents referred to flooding in Whitstable Road, Faversham, in particular commenting on the hydraulic overloading of the combined and foul sewers owned by SW, roads being blocked by flooding which stopped emergency vehicles getting through and concerns about a crack in the fresh-water supply pipe which could cause a contamination of drinking water risk when flooding occurred.</p> <p>The Chair of the Environment Committee wrote to Central Government about the issue of flooding in rural areas. Due to changing weather patterns, drains were not able to cope and this was now a problem for residents across the Borough of Swale.</p>	<p>would require multiple soakaways, pushing up cost and the level of disturbance, versus the benefits it would bring. Therefore, delivering the work in Whitstable Road and monitoring the effectiveness seemed more appropriate at this time.</p> <p>Given the above information, Swale has started to once again consider how to slow and reduce water run-off from the Rec, to try to reduce the impacts.</p> <p>The letter to Central Government about flooding issues and the response received (Appendix I &amp; II) are attached to this report.</p>
3.	Active Travel update	At the February 2023 meeting, the Active Travel Co-ordinator gave an update on the Faversham Active Travel Fund Tranche 4 proposals.	Please see Appendix III for an update.
4.	Town to Parishes project	In March 2021, the Eastern Area Committee allocated Faversham Town Council £12,500.00 to undertake a Faversham Parishes to Town Project. Mr Adrian Berendt, from Berendt Consulting Ltd attended the Eastern Area Committee meeting in December 2022 to provide an update on the progress of the project.	Adrian Berendt advised the report is now complete and due to be signed off by Faversham Town Council on Monday 15th May. It will then become an appendix to the Faversham LCWIP. The Town Council is sharing it with neighbouring parishes and

			intends to submit it to the Swale JTB for formal endorsement and recognition by KCC and SBC as they develop their plans for active travel. The report is available to read under Appendix IV of this Matters Arising update.
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Rebecca Pow MP  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary DEFRA

**Please ask for:**

**Direct Line:** 01795 417444 (Maria Clarke)  
**E-mail:** JulianSaunders@swale.gov.uk  
**Our Ref:** Cllr Julian Saunders  
**Date:** 19/4/23

Dear Rebecca Pow

**Flooding in Rural areas**

I write to you requesting information on the Government's plans for tackling flooding created by increased housing, ageing drainage systems and the impacts of extreme weather events through climate change.

Councillors at local area committees across Swale Borough have been discussing and are concerned by the increasing amount of flooding created by these issues and the impact it is having on local residents. During extreme events which are becoming more and more frequent, the drainage systems are not able to cope.

We are aware of the responsibilities of the various agencies (public and private sector) but feel this needs a much more joined up approach and national funding package as it is beyond the means of any one organisation.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Julian Saunders  
Chair of the Swale Environment Committee

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Councillor Julian Saunders  
Chair of the Swale Environment Committee  
Swale Borough Council  
Swale House, East Street  
Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT  
[MariaClarke@Swale.gov.uk](mailto:MariaClarke@Swale.gov.uk)

Your ref: Cllr Julian Saunders  
Our ref: PO2023/07633/EBT

15 May 2023

Dear Councillor Saunders,

Thank you for your letter of 19 April about flood risk management.

The Government is acting to drive down flood risk from every angle. In March 2020, the Government announced that the amount invested in flood and coastal erosion schemes would be doubled in England to £5.2 billion between 2021 and 2027, providing schemes to better protect communities across England from flooding and coastal erosion.

In addition, our long-term Policy Statement, published in 2020, sets out our ambition to create a nation more resilient to future flood and coastal erosion risk. It includes five ambitious policies and a number of actions which will accelerate progress to better protect and prepare the country against flooding and coastal erosion in the face of more frequent extreme weather as a result of climate change.

We will ensure our country is better protected to reduce the likelihood of flooding and coastal erosion. Boosting our resilience will mean that more properties will be protected, and communities will be better prepared to reduce the impacts when flooding does happen.

The Environment Agency National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England describes what needs to be done by all risk management authorities involved in flood and coastal erosion risk management. This includes the Environment Agency, lead local flood authorities, district councils, internal drainage boards, highways authorities and water and sewerage companies, who must exercise their flood and coastal erosion risk management activities, including plans and strategies, consistently with the Strategy. The Strategy provides a framework for guiding the operational activities and decision making of practitioners, supporting the direction set by Government policy.

National planning policy requires new development to be resistant and resilient to all sources of flooding and safe for its lifetime, taking account of climate change.

In August 2022, the Government published significantly updated planning guidance on flood risk and coastal change to help councils take climate change into consideration and make more informed decisions on whether a new development should go ahead. Under the changes to the Planning Practice Guidance, councils will be better placed to apply Government policy, where new homes in areas at risk of flooding should be appropriately flood resilient. The guidance will also help councils apply strict criteria to new development in locations at risk of flooding before they are approved, to make sure local communities are not negatively impacted as a result. This applies to all sources of flood risk, including areas at risk of surface water flooding, and covers flood risk now and in the future.

We are tackling surface water flooding through our £5.2 billion flood defence programme. This is currently expected to deliver around 500 surface water schemes, including sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).

The Government has reviewed making SuDS mandatory in new developments and will do this through implementation of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. SuDS mimic natural water flow and are designed to reduce the impact of rainfall on new developments by using features such as soakaways, grassed areas, permeable surfaces and wetlands.

Schedule 3 provides: a framework for the approval and adoption of drainage systems; an approving body and national standards on the design, construction, operation and maintenance of SuDS for the lifetime of the development. It also makes the right to connect surface water to public sewers conditional on the drainage system being approved as meeting the mandatory sustainable drainage standards. This will help limit volumes entering drainage networks which will help ease the pressure on the sewerage system and mitigate flood risk.

The Government is now looking at how best to implement, considering scope, threshold, and process. There will be a public consultation later this year with implementation expected during 2024.

Thank you once again for taking the time to contact me about this important issue.



**REBECCA POW MP**

**EASTERN AREA COMMITTEE**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Active Travel Update</b>
<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Adrian Oliver, Active Travel Co-ordinator</b>

**Active Travel Fund 4** - Kent County Council’s Active Travel Fund 4 bid secured £995k from Active Travel England to build the Faversham Cross Town Path. This is a range of construction schemes to create a legible, distinct and safe walking route from Lower Road through the town, over the Rec and railway, to Love Lane. Interventions include junction radii tightening, buildouts, raised pedestrian crossings, drop kerbs, tactile paving, improved pavements, benches, planting, wayfinding and enhanced footpath lighting. Designs are being finalised now and will be followed by consultations and technical approvals, with the aim that the works will begin by March 2024.

**Capability & Ambition Fund** - Consultants are being appointed to carry out a feasibility study and develop plans for the next stage of the Faversham LCWIP Walking Network.

**Sustrans Projects** - There are three Sustrans projects on the go at the moment:

- **Solar Cycleway Feasibility Study** – funded by the solar farm developer at Graveney and managed by Kent PROW. The study is looking at the route, design and costs of creating a traffic free walking, wheeling & cycling path between Sandbanks and Seasalter, through the solar farm. The study report is due imminently.
- **Route 1 Quietways Feasibility Study** – Funded by Sustrans and managed by KCC, the study is looking at traffic calming and reduction interventions for the on-road sections of Route 1 between Faversham, Conyer, Deerton Street and Teynham. The study report is due imminently.
- **Route 1 Barrier Re-design** – Funded by Sustrans and managed by Swale Borough council, this project has assessed all 12 barriers on Route 1 through Swale and any that are not Equality Act compliant will be redesigned. Sustrans will work with landowners to ensure the new barriers meet their needs as well as making the cycle route accessible for all users.

**Parishes to Town** – the final report has been completed and after the Area Committee it will go to the JTB. It is already proving valuable, helping discussions on footpath improvements.

**Cycling UK** - KCC has focused Cycling UK’s Big Bike Revival and Community Cycle Club work on five districts, including Swale. The Age UK (Faversham & Sittingbourne) Community Cycle Club is up and running with four volunteers trained to deliver sessions for Age UK clients at Faversham Rec. Participants can graduate to two informal groups, The Faversham Easy Riders and George House Cycle Group, when confident. We are working with Cycling UK to deliver more activities over the course of the next few months.

**Swale Cycle-re-Cycle** – the programme is now live with HMP Swaleside delivering the first 20 refurbished bikes. We have over 100 bikes already at the prison workshop waiting to be refurbished. Faversham station will be donating abandoned bikes to the programme. Planning Permission is being sought for a Bike Donation Point in Faversham. Additional distribution partners are needed to ensure the refurbished bikes can be provided to residents who really need a bike for transport. Bikes can also be supplied to any organisation wishing to establish a Bike Library (capital grants for bike library secure storage may also be available soon).

**Explore Sittingbourne & Faversham Map** – the map has been completed and is now available for distribution. Additionally, an online version is available on the Explore Kent website.

**Coast to Downs** – this project is now complete with a range of works and interpretation boards delivered on three routes through Swale:

- Poplars, Pines and Pebbles – Perry Wood-Faversham Creek
- A Tapestry of history & Wildlife – Warren Street-Conyer
- Ancient Woodlands & Waters – Huckling Estate-Milton Creek

The routes are still to appear on Explore Kent and Kent Connected and we await delivery of the map leaflets.

**Schools KCC Capital Grant** – school traffic is jamming up our roads and having a detrimental economic impact on our borough. Applications for the KCC capital grant for all Kent schools is open again. Schools can apply for funds of up to £5000 for a measure to encourage sustainable school travel and supported in their *up-to-date travel plan*. Previous improvements have included bike/skateboard/scooter parking, footpath improvements and EV charge points. No match funding needed. Closing date is 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023.

Adrian Oliver  
Active Travel Co-ordinator  
adrianoliver@swale.gov.uk

## Project introduction

The Eastern Area Committee of Swale Borough Council commissioned a “Parishes to Town” project in Dec-21. The project has four stages:

- 1) Develop an outline network
- 2) Consult on the network with Parish Councils and others
- 3) Audit the network to identify barriers and suggest possible improvements
- 4) Write a summary report for inclusion in the Faversham Town, Swale Borough councils’ LCWIPs and Kent County Council’s KCWIP.

***Approval of the final (Stage 4) report is now requested.***

## Summary and conclusions

Increasing active travel between Faversham and the surrounding communities needs interventions that are either location-specific – such as safe crossings or segregated cycling infrastructure – or generic throughout the area – lower speeds and reduced traffic flow on rural roads.

## Issues and potential solutions

Active travel options between Faversham and local communities are currently seen as dangerous and/or unpleasant. A tour of the local lanes and meetings with Parish and District Councillors and local residents identified multiple, specific concerns, summarised as:

***“Too many, too large vehicles travelling too fast, make local residents fear using the lanes for cycling, walking or horse-riding”***

Solutions for achieving a significant modal shift to walking or cycling into Faversham come under three broad categories:

- 1) Building dedicated infrastructure for cycling: possible in some places but requires political commitment and likely to be costly.
- 2) Upgrading existing footpaths and bridleways for year-round use for walking and, in some cases, cycling. While lower cost, it requires community support and is unlikely to generate significant numbers of people walking or cycling.
- 3) Reducing volumes and speeds of vehicles on existing roads. As well as making lanes more pleasant and less eroded, this brings them closer to their original purpose: routes for local people to use safely on foot, on horseback, by bike or in a motor vehicle. Relatively low cost, but the design needs to be carefully considered in order to achieve community support.

## Prioritisation

At Stage 1 a set of criteria for assessing route priorities was agreed (details in Appendix):

- a. Proximity to Faversham – up to 40 minutes (walking or cycling);
- b. Places with larger populations given greater priority;
- c. Demonstration of Parish Council support for active travel;
- d. Route deliverability, assuming funding available (mainly cycling); and
- e. Strategic nature of route (mainly cycling) – whether the link forms part of wider route network.

Based on these criteria the following places were prioritised at stage 2:

Walking: **Oare, Goodnestone and Painters Forstal** – all within 40 minutes, paths mostly exist and/or upgradable at modest cost

Cycling: As above plus **Graveney, Boughton & Teynham**. All within 30 minutes cycling distance of Faversham station, have Parish Council support, are largely deliverable, cover the larger centres of population and are on a network of strategic routes.

## Stage 2 recommendations

The stage 2 report recommended the following actions:

- 1) Produce more detailed plans for walking and cycling routes for the six priority communities;
- 2) Suggest a list of possible actions for individual Parish Councils;
- 3) Leverage other project opportunities as they occur;
- 4) Lower speed limits across all rural roads, as Surrey CC has recently done and West Sussex is considering; and
- 5) Designate some lanes as ‘access only’, potentially as part of a ‘Quiet Lanes’ project – recent examples in Suffolk<sup>1</sup> and Cornwall<sup>2</sup>. Where using physical barriers prove to be impossible, using signed-only “Access only” TRO could be investigated as a first step. This would reduce, but not eliminate through traffic by removing certain lanes from SatNavs.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.quietlanessuffolk.co.uk/about-us>

<sup>2</sup> <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/truro-quiet-lanes>



## Summary conclusions

- 1) Output from the project is included the overall SWALE LCWIP and in the countywide KCWIP
- 2) General (all or some parishes):
  - a. Develop Quiet Lanes or Quiet Ways project by Kent County Council and Swale Borough Council with individual Parish Councils to reduce traffic speed and volumes on rural lanes.
  - b. Lower speed limits of 30mph / 40mph on rural roads with 20mph in villages and on the narrowest lanes.
  - c. Write Highways Improvement Plans with specific interventions.
- 3) Specific:
  - a. Oare: given the close proximity of the community to Faversham, **include interventions to promote walking and cycling within the Faversham LCWIP.**
  - b. Teynham: Improving the cycle route along Lower Road is possible and could generate significant amounts of people cycling over time. Of particular importance is that Teynham lies on the strategic cycling route to Sittingbourne. **Sustrans is producing a feasibility report and further recommendations will depend on that output.**
  - c. Painter's Forstal: a **detailed report is appended**, which focuses on improving both walking and cycling
  - d. Boughton has existing demand for cycling and considerable longer-term potential, not least because it lies on the strategic route to Canterbury. The **attached report** describes the multiple alternative routes and the next step for Swale, Faversham and Boughton councils should be to agree which of those routes to develop further. Some recommendations do not depend on the chosen route, particularly interventions east of Brenley Corner.
  - e. Graveney and Goodnestone are considered together. For cycling, Sustrans is conducting a feasibility study on a proposed upgrade to NCN1 from Seasalter Beach to Sandbanks Lane. While the **attached report** includes recommendations for walking between the two villages and into Faversham, the **output from the Sustrans study is needed** to confirm much of the detail, particularly around the creek area.
  - f. Specific interventions in other locations have been given a lower priority at this stage, due to lack of proximity to Faversham, lower populations, or less community support.

## Detailed recommendations for each location

### Graveney and Goodnestone

Speed and volume of motor vehicles through the villages make walking or cycling unpleasant and potentially dangerous. While the Parish Council's top priority is a safe walking route between Graveney and Goodnestone, a safe walking / cycling route into Faversham is also needed. For cycling (and to an extent walking), the proposed Solar Way provides the best current opportunity for developing / enhancing the strategically important National Cycle Route 1 to provide a safe, direct, comfortable cycle route from Seasalter beach to Graveney.

From Graveney to Faversham improving the surface on the existing cycle route by the Creek and implementing a more direct route through Iron Wharf Boat Yard is highly desirable. A series of recommendations is included in the detailed report attached.

While it is also possible to cycle from Goodnestone into Faversham using Sandbanks Lane, consideration should also be given to developing a route along Graveney Road, which is more direct. This would potentially bring benefits to those cycling in from Boughton (see next section)

A lower short-term priority and outside the scope of this project is a route from Graveney to Whitstable along Monkshill Road and Seasalter Lane and CW2 (or Dargate Road). This would provide a safe route into Faversham for those that currently cycle along the Thanet Way! It brings the additional benefit creating of a circular leisure route Faversham / Solar Way / Monkshill Road with a possible link into the new 'Cantii Way' – see below. Issues include the need for traffic calming on Monkshill Road and upgrading CW2 to a bridleway, or similar.

Better cycling links from Graveney and Goodnestone could benefit Hernhill, Staplestreet, Yorkletts and Dargate.

There is also demand for improving the walking route from Graveney and Goodnestone into Faversham. Alternatives include using ZR492 and then ZR495, a route 'promoted' by KCC, route or along ZR494 and the Graveney Road. Consideration to be given about whether either PROW could be upgraded to a cycle route and how to ensure safety at the railway crossing(s). Other issues to be investigated with the Parish Council.

*Action required:*

*Assess outcome of Solar Way discussions and implications*

*Parish Council to consider which recommendations to include in its Highways Improvement Plan, particularly:*

- *Developing detail proposals for walking route (on or off road) between Graveney and Goodnestone*
  - *A 20mph speed limit*
- *Decide on need for Graveney Road cycle route and how to provide a cycleway link to Goodnestone*
  - *Replace existing stiles with kissing gates on ZR492 at the railway crossing*

- *Improve ZR492 footpath near railway (waterlogged in wet weather)*
- *Improve surfaces on ZR494, ZR495 and ZF29 to make them accessible all year round*

## **Boughton & Dunkirk**

With a population of 2,000 in Boughton and 1,400 in Dunkirk, the two communities lie about halfway along the strategically important cycle route between Faversham and Canterbury. There is demand for a safe cycle route for the 4 mile, mainly flat journey to central Faversham. Extending the cycle route to Dunkirk would be a later development and would need buy-in from the Parish Council.

Building a cycling connection between Faversham and Boughton is an important first step of a plan for a network of commuter routes between Faversham, Canterbury and Whitstable and a wider inter-urban network. It would also open up a pleasant circular leisure route of around 25 miles, using the existing successful Crab and Winkle route and would be a useful adjunct to the newly opened Cantii Way, a 145 mile circular route in East Kent.

*Note: Although important from a network development perspective, the route from Boughton to Canterbury is outside the scope of this project.*

There are numerous possible routes from Boughton to Faversham.

- Most routes use Brenley Corner. Until Chalkley Road, the section from Boughton needs little intervention beyond better signing. Improved infrastructure on Canterbury Road between Brenley Corner and Stockers Hill is desirable but not a necessity. Although The Street is not ideal for cycling, it is acceptable, although it would benefit from a 20mph speed limit in the village.
- Making the crossing of the A2/A299 fully LTN 1/20 compliance needs a complete redevelopment of Brenley Corner. An interim solution is to re-phase the lights to shorten the wait time for pedestrians and cyclists. Depending on the route(s) chosen to the west of Brenley Corner, a possible enhancement could be to route westbound cyclists to north and east of the roundabout (contraflow) instead of south and west
- From Brenley Corner, the route along London Road into Faversham is not adequate. The various off-road alternatives to the north and to the south of London Road are described in the attached detailed report. In summary, these are:
  - Parallel with London Road to the north or south (Duchy of Cornwall land).
  - Along London Road (north) and then connecting with an upgraded ZR496. Provides direct link to Love Lane new developments.
  - Homestall lane and then upgraded ZR496. Would require resolution of landownership issues and traffic calming in Homestall Lane
  - Homestall Lane and Graveney Road – current preferred route by some cyclists. Would require traffic calming of Homestall Lane and segregated infrastructure on Graveney Road (which could benefit Graveney and Goodnestone)
  - Note: routes ending at the south end of Love Lane would need to consider how to traverse the railway lines. While redeveloping the Long Bridge would be costly and complex, it should not be dismissed, as it could be an iconic landmark and bring significant benefits for both pedestrians and cyclists in both existing houses and new developments.

*Action required:*

*Swale Borough and Boughton Parish Council to discuss preferred routes, based on identified barriers and solutions*

*Boughton Parish Council to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan includes adequate provision for developing cycling*

*Request re-phasing of lights at Brenley Corner from KCC / National Highways to benefit pedestrians & cyclists*

*Plan to deliver minor improvements east of Brenley Corner: Canterbury Road, Stockers Hill, including 20mph in The Street*

*Discuss possible off-road routes from Brenley Corner to Faversham with landowners north and south of Watling St*

*Ensure that the Love Lane / Watling St junction includes provision for cycling*

*Assess alternatives for cycle routes from Love Lane into the centre of Faversham*

*Cost benefit appraisal of new 'iconic' Long Bridge*

Other routes into Faversham from Boughton and the surrounding area considered not deliverable in the short to medium term:

1. Via Staple Street and Graveney Road. Slightly further with greater elevation and little natural surveillance in many places, the route is narrow and not on the desire line for much of Boughton. It has the advantages of avoiding the A2 and Brenley Corner and could link up to a dedicated cycle route along the Graveney Road. Would require Staple Street to be a quiet lane and/or access only.
2. Chalkley Road and upgraded footpath ZR496. Direct and off-road, but would need conversion to bridleway and, crucially, safe crossing of the A299 – dependent on National Highways plans.
3. In the absence of safe infrastructure along Watling Street, some leisure cyclists use bridleway ZR 633 and ZF38 and Salters Lane. Relatively and pleasant, the route is indirect and the surface on the bridleway is poor in places. Could be considered as an alternative if other routes cannot be progressed.

A link to Selling station, which might be useful for commuters and others could be considered as part of a Quiet Lanes project in the longer term, but is probably a lower short-term priority.

## **Selling**

With a population of 1,000 and 4.5 miles from Faversham, all routes have significant barriers for cycling: hilly and fast, narrow lanes. Potential for a route depends partly on the Duchy of Cornwall development scheme. Potentially reconsider with a route from Sheldwich – see below

*Action required:*

*No further action proposed at this stage*

## Sheldwich

Although there is some Parish Council support for a cycling route into Faversham, particularly given the number of children being driven from Faversham to the local primary school, the low population and complications of delivering a route make it a lower priority. Options considered:

- Selling Road or Plumford Lane. Both are slightly indirect and would require significant traffic calming – maybe as part of Quiet Lanes project
- The existing bridleway / track roughly parallel with the A251 or a new track behind the hedge on one side or other of the A251. More direct, but complex in terms of land ownership and would be more costly – a possible route was drawn up in 2005.

Sheldwich has many footpaths and bridleways which make walking, cycling and riding for leisure important. A cycling safe route to Faversham would open up the potential for a safe route to Badlesmere. The Parish is considering drawing up a Highways Improvement Plan.

*Action required:*

*No further action proposed at this stage.*

## Painter's Forstal

Despite having a relatively small population (c 400), the village's close proximity to Faversham – 2 miles to the station / less to Abbey School would enable residents to benefit from better cycling and walking provision. A cycling route to Painter's Forstal could, in the longer term, be extended to Eastling. Although outside the scope of this project, leisure routes to the surrounding countryside are also important for walking, cycling and horse-riding for both residents and visitors. Painter's Forstal is considering installing new bike stands, to make it a more attractive centre for leisure cyclists.

Three main options, with some variants exist for walking or cycling between Painter's Forstal and Faversham:

**Option 1:** The most direct route for cycling to Faversham station, Abbey School or the new facilities at Perry Court is via Eastling Road / Brogdale Road. Currently unsuitable for less confident cyclists, this option would need significant intervention to make it usable: traffic-calming to lower the speed and volume of motor vehicles on Eastling Road. Similar interventions would be needed for walking: there is no pavement between Painter's Forstal until shortly before Brogdale Farm. North of the M2, the direct route through ZF18 through Perry Court could also be used for cycling if permitted. The alternative route along Brogdale Road is slightly longer and the junction at London Road is not ideal for vulnerable road users.

*Possible interventions:*

*Reduce the speed limit along Eastling Road to 30mph and on Brogdale Road to 20mph*

*Improve the footpath in Lorenden Park nature reserve as a walking (not cycling) route to Eastling Road*

*Add pavements or footpaths parallel with Eastling Road from ZF357 @ Lorenden Park to Brogdale Farm*

*Make the junction with London Road safe for pedestrians and cyclists – already included in Faversham’s LCWIP as a “Critical Junction”*

*Add pedestrian crossings of London Road where ZF18 emerges on London Road and/or the Abbey School and/or Brogdale Road*

*Upgrade ZF18 for use by bicycles*

**Option 2:** A variant after Eastling Road is Vicarage Lane, Mutton Lane and either Water Lane (walking and cycling) or ZF11 (walking). Depending on the final destination, this is slightly longer and still requires a solution for Eastling Road and uses the polluted London Road to reach the Abbey School. Ospringe Road is a suitable alternative for the town centre and the station, either from Water Lane or via ZF11 and King George V recreation ground. Vicarage Lane is already suitable for walking and cycling. Making it a Quiet Lane with no access to through traffic and a lower speed limit would make it even better.

***Possible interventions:***

*Reduce the speed limit along Eastling Road to 30mph*

*Formalise the footpath in Lorenden Park nature reserve as a walking route to Brook Farm on Eastling Road*

*Add pavements or footpaths parallel with Eastling Road from ZF357 @ Lorenden Park to Vicarage Lane*

*Make Vicarage and Mutton lanes “Quiet Lanes” – 20mph speed limit and marked no entry for motor vehicles (except access)*

*Reduce speed limit on Water Lane in Ospringe to 20mph.*

*Consider making Water Lane a “School Street”*

*Add pedestrian crossing at exit of ZF11 onto London Road*

**Option 3:** This alternative uses Painter’s Forstal Road and either Water Lane (cycling) or ZR365 / ZF13 (walking). Traffic speeds are too high along the route, particularly on parts of Water Lane, to feel completely comfortable for all those who are walking or cycling. A footpath for walkers already exists along Painter’s Forstal Road and for all but 600m of Water Lane between ZR361 and St Peter’s and St Paul’s Church. ZF13 is a suitable off-road alternative for walking to avoid that part of the route. A lower speed limit and possible motor vehicle access restrictions on Water Lane would make it suitable for all, whether walking or riding.

**Possible interventions:**

*Reduce speed limit on Painter's Forstal Road and Water Lane to 20mph / 30mph*

*Add London Road crossing points to LCWIP (done)*

*Replace stile on ZF14 at Water Lane with kissing gate*

**Eastling**

Pop. 350, 5m to Faversham station. Eastling Parish Council has a nascent Highways Improvement Plan would benefit from further detail about traffic calming measures in and around the village, including 20mph in the village. A safe cycling route to Eastling depends on the link between Faversham and Painters Forstal. Lower priority for now.

*No further action required*

**Newnham & Doddington**

With a combined population of just under a 1,000, Newnham is 5 ½ miles from both Faversham and Lenham and Doddington is 1 ½ miles near to Lenham. The road is fairly heavily used for journeys between Lenham and Faversham. Parish Council has concerns about the speed and volume of through traffic. Outside of the villages, the road is fast and the surface poor for cycling. Given all of the considerations, the villages are currently a lower priority for this project, although e-bikes could change that. Both villages could consider applying for 20mph – Doddington already has some physical traffic calming and streets in Newnham are mostly narrow. An inter-urban route between Faversham and Lenham is possible, but outside the scope of this study.

*Action required:*

*Parish Councils to consider promoting e-bikes and applying for 20mph*

**Teynham**

With a population of 3,000 and located about 4m from both Faversham and Sittingbourne and near to Lynsted, Teynham is strategically important for cycling. It should be on NCN 1, although the current alignment takes a detour to the north. A route could be relatively easy to deliver along Lower Road if the number and speed of vehicles were reduced. Traffic calming in Lower Road has community support and is a priority for the Parish Council, albeit this is more about community wellbeing than to support cycling and walking directly. Sustrans are developing a feasibility study for this route.

A survey of school students at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School shows that there is some demand for cycling from Teynham.

Earlier work identified the need to decide the best route between Faversham and the junction of Lower Road / Four Oaks Road:

- 1) Current NCN1 routing of Bysing Wood Road and Tin Shop Hill (a 0.5m detour which avoids the steep section of Bysing Wood Road)
- 2) Bysing Wood Road in its entirety (more direct, but rather steep – 6.6% per Strava)
- 3) Colegate Road via Oare – longer, but takes in Oare. Oare Road would need traffic calming or segregated infrastructure
- 4) Bridleway ZR327, which connects to the Western Link – most direct, least elevation gain, but would need significant work, Land ownership is also a barrier.

*Action required:*

*Await the Sustrans feasibility study*

### **Lynsted & Kingsdown**

The parish has a population of 1,150 and there is demand for commuting by bike into both Faversham (6m from Lynsted) and Sittingbourne (4.5m). Similar issues as other villages regarding speed and volume of traffic. Would benefit from safe cycle route from Teynham to Faversham. A link from Teynham to Sittingbourne would probably also benefit Lynsted, although the direct route is shorter @ 4 miles and, in any case, outside the scope of this project.

*Action required:*

*Await the Sustrans feasibility study on the Teynham route (above)*

### **Oare**

Close to Faversham town centre (1.5m to Faversham station), Oare is a prime candidate for both walking and cycling into town. Two main alternatives are along Oare Road, or along the Western Link to Bysing Wood Road. Neither Oare Road or the Western Link are currently suitable routes for walking or cycling, with fast traffic and would need traffic calming features. The cycle path along Bysing Wood Road needs upgrading, but the walking route into Faversham town centre is relatively pleasant. Oare Parish Council is interested in extending 20mph to cover the village.

*Action required:*

*Enhance Faversham LCWIP with routes from Oare*



Appendix: prioritisation schedule

Location	Population (4)		F'sham distance			Times		Elevation gain (ft)			PC support	Delivery? (5)	Cycling		Walking		Dependencies	Other notes
	no	rank	Station	Edge (1)	Rank	Cycle station (2)	Walk edge (3)	Out	Back	Avg			Priority	Notes	Priority	Notes		
Graveney	1,000	5	3.5	2.5	5	20	1 hr+	-	-	0.00%	Y	Y	1	Proximity, NCN 1			Solar Way	(less via Graveney Rd)
Goodnestone			2.5	1.5	2	15	36	-	-	0.00%	Y	Y	1	Proximity	1	Proximity		
Hernhill	1,000	5	3.5	2.5	5	20	1 hr+	150	200	1.52%	Y							
Dargate			5	4	11	30	1 hr+	240	230	1.14%	Unknown							
Boughton	2,000	2	3.5	2.5	5	20	1 hr+	100	200	1.52%	Y	Y	1	Strategic, Selling link, PC support			Brenley X; Duchy of C	5.5m to C'bury West
Dunkirk	1,400	3	4.5	3.5	9	25	1 hr+	200	400	2.16%	Limited	Y	2	Strategic			Boughton	4.5m to C'bury West
Selling	1,000	5	4.5	3.5	9	25	1 hr+	-	200	1.08%	Unknown		2	Coast to Downs			Duchy of Cornwall	
Selling Station			4	3	8	25	1 hr+	-	150	0.95%	Unknown		2	Coast to Downs				
Sheldwich	400	11	3	2.5	4	20	1 hr+	-	200	1.52%	Y		2	Demand, proximity			Identify off-road route	+ 1 mile via Selling or Plumford Ln
Painters Forstal (Ospringle PC)	750	8	2.5	1.5	2	15	36	-	150	1.89%	Y		1	Proximity	1	Proximity		
Eastling	350	12	5	4	11	30	1 hr+	-	300	1.42%	Possibly							
Newnham	350	12	5.5	4.5	14	35	1 hr+	170	240	1.01%	Y						e-bikes	?Strategic
Doddington	500	9	7	6	16	40	1 hr+	160	300	0.95%	Y						e-bikes	) route to Lenham
Stalisfield	200	14	7	6	16	40	1 hr+	110	500	1.58%	Unknown						E-bikes, Eastling	
Lynsted & Kingsdown	1,150	4	6	5	15	35	1 hr+	150	240	0.91%	Unknown		2	Teynham link			Teynham route	
Teynham	3,000	1	5	4	11	30	1 hr+	120	120	0.57%	Possibly	Y	1	Strategic, NCN1			PC support?	4m to Sittingbourne
Oare	500	9	1.5	0.5	1	10	12	-	-	0.00%	Possibly	Y	1	Proximity	1	Proximity		Oare road calming?
13,600																		

(1) currently Western Link, Watling St, Love Lane

(2) Speed 10 mph

(3) Speed 2.5 mph

(4) Current population per <https://www.citypopulation.de/en/uk/> - exclude current/project developments

(5) Subject to funding and detailed design

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<b>Eastern Area Committee Meeting</b>	
<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>15 June 2023</b>
<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Area Committees Achievements Report</b>
<b>EMT Lead</b>	<b>Larissa Reed, Chief Executive</b>
<b>Head of Service</b>	<b>Philip Sutcliffe, Communications &amp; Policy Manager</b>
<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Janet Dart, Policy &amp; Engagement Officer</b>
<b>Classification</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>To note the report</b>

## **1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary**

- 1.1 To provide Councillors with a summary of the achievements of the four Area Committees since they were implemented in September 2020.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 One of the objectives of the administration, which was formed at Swale Borough Council (SBC) following the 2019 local elections, was to diffuse power among Members and improve public engagement in decision-making. The administration put in place arrangements to establish Area Committees in Swale in order to help meet this objective.
- 2.2 Membership includes all ward Members in the area and the Committees' boundaries are aligned with those of the wards it covers. Substitute Members are not permitted on Area Committees and only those councillors who are Members of SBC are able to take decisions.
- 2.3 However, public attendance and participation in the Area Committees is an important feature of them. The Council have incorporated provisions in the Constitution for there to be a session for members of the public or local organisations, including Parish and Town Councils, to propose items for future agendas for consideration by the Committees to ask relevant questions and make relevant comments to the Committee.
- 2.4 The purpose of the Area Committees is to enhance the quality of life and of Council services in the relevant area and to bring local insight to bear in Council decision-making. Their terms of reference are to:
- develop a work programme to enhance core services within the area and take a report to Council on an annual basis to provide an update on progress;
  - agree spending decisions in relation to specific funding allocated to Members of the Area Committee;

- provide area intelligence to the Policy and Resources Committee and Heads of Service, and assist with policy development on relevant matters; and
  - make recommendations to Full Council, Policy and Resources Committee or any Service Committee on issues in the Committee's area and respond to any other specific matter referred to it by Full Council, a Committee or a senior Council officer.
- 2.5 The first round of Area Committees took place in September 2020 and due to the Coronavirus pandemic legislation, the meetings took place remotely via Skype. This continued until restrictions were relaxed and the September 2021 round of meetings were the first to take place face-to-face in community/village halls. As remote attendance had proved to be popular with members of the public and Parish/Town Councils, a remote conference call device was purchased so that hybrid meetings could take place in external venues. This has been very effective and allows for wider engagement with people across the Borough, regardless of their accessibility needs, giving them the choice to participate either in person or remotely.
- 2.6 As mentioned in paragraph 2.4, each Area Committee was allocated funding which equated to each member receiving an identical amount. This was established in each Annual Council budget and to be allocated to projects in consultation and agreement with the Area Committee at large. When allocations were made during the first year 2020/21, there were some occasions where some Area Committee Members were not able to vote on funding decisions as they had declared an interest in one or more applications. Following this, an Area Committee Review Working Group was established which put together a recommended process to avoid the need for members to recuse themselves from voting. This process is set out in Appendix I. Eastern, Sittingbourne and Sheppey Area Committees decided to adopt this process, but Western Area Committee found it was not necessary for their approach to allocating funding.
- 2.7 Before each funding scheme was launched, the Area Committees set work programmes where priorities were agreed on how funding should be allocated each year. The majority focussed on schemes that improved the appearance, environment and facilities of the areas along with contributing to Swale's strategic priorities. As local needs became apparent these priorities were refined to take into account the 'cost-of-living crisis' and how residents could be supported. Each Area Committee could support interventions that were most appropriate to the residents in their area. They were also able to bring forward planned projects within their areas by funding them so that residents could benefit from them sooner. Some examples are improvements to closed church yards, conservation area reviews and replacing street lighting.
- 2.8 A total of £534,000.00 was allocated by the four Area Committees over the period September 2020 to May 2023 to a wide variety of projects overseen by both external organisations and internally led projects managed by SBC. Appendix II lists all allocations made over the three years.

- 2.9 As part of the budget setting process for 2023/24, Members agreed at the Full Council Meeting in February 2023 measures to address the budget gap. This has resulted in funds no longer being available to allocate to the four Area Committees. Officers will work with Chairs and the new administration to develop a new approach to achieving Area Committee priorities without funding and where necessary amend the Terms of Reference in the SBC Constitution.

### **3 Achievements**

- 3.1 The Area Committees quickly established themselves as a mechanism for residents, Parish/Town Councils and community groups to bring matters to the attention of their Borough Councillors. Regular updates have been given about ongoing projects and residents, Parish/Town Councils have been consulted on proposals within their area. Partner organisations such as Kent County Council (KCC), the Police and Southern Water, have attended meetings to discuss ongoing issues in the areas and also to consult on proposals they are considering.
- 3.2 Many of the Area Committee's achievements so far have been as a result of Members, Parish/Town Councils and members of the public identifying issues within the area which needed escalating, with a view to resolving, either with SBC or partner organisations. Some examples of these are listed below:

#### ***Eastern Area Committee***

- 3.3 Highlighting the importance of defibrillators in public places being maintained and registered on relevant databases.
- 3.4 Specific anti-social behaviour problems were brought to the attention of the Police and the SBC Community Safety Unit to be monitored with a view to determining what wider action could be taken.
- 3.5 Tackling the increasing incidence of flooding in the Faversham area by involving the local MP Helen Whately who set up meetings with relevant agencies to identify an action plan. The Area Committee also liaised with KCC, Southern Water and officers at SBC to ensure that plans were put in place to resolve this issue.
- 3.6 The problems resulting from a change in the KCC travel provider for pupils with special educational needs were raised with the KCC Cabinet Member.
- 3.7 The lengthy waiting lists for families and children awaiting diagnosis for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism was raised with the KCC Cabinet Member.

#### ***Sheppey Area Committee***

- 3.8 The issue of lack of coach parking on the Isle of Sheppey was raised and taken to the Community Committee where a three-year trial for chargeable coach parking in Minster was agreed.
- 3.9 The condition of the Queenborough Guildhall was brought to the attention of the Extraordinary Regeneration & Property Committee. A condition survey was recommended and carried out.
- 3.10 A group of horse owners requested the horse-riding ring at Scrapsgate Field, Minster be brought back into use. This matter was considered by the Environment Committee and it was agreed that regular grass cutting for an informal horse-riding area on Scrapsgate Field, along with reducing maintenance elsewhere on the site would take place. The success will be reviewed after a year.
- 3.11 Problems residents were having with parking in Trinity Road were resolved after they were raised at an Area Committee meeting.
- 3.12 The state of Blue Town was raised and the issues were addressed by the relevant SBC teams.
- 3.13 A site meeting with SBC, the Parish Council and the Environment Committee was arranged to look into flooding issues at Warden. Actions were agreed to clear the channel next to the village hall of overgrowth.

#### ***Sittingbourne Area Committee***

- 3.14 Improvements to lighting in the Milton Regis town are being investigated.
- 3.15 Actions were put in place to brighten up the Roman Square and square opposite Swale House.
- 3.16 Safety concerns about ponds in Swale were raised with the Kent Fire and Rescue Service which have been escalated to their Education/Safety team to see what education programmes can be put in place in schools.
- 3.17 Residents raised an ongoing issue of vandalism taking place in the alleyway to the rear of their houses. SBC are continuing to work towards a Public Space protection Order to gate the alleyway.
- 3.18 Potential improvements to bus services in Sittingbourne are regularly discussed and local bus companies have been invited to a future meeting.
- 3.19 Difficulties connected to engagement with the Police were raised due to the Sittingbourne area being unparished. The Community Committee appointed two Members to sit on the Swale Community Safety Partnership, both are members of Sittingbourne Area Committee and can raise strategic issues through that mechanism.

3.20 Problems with e-scooters were highlighted and reported to the Police.

#### ***Western Area Committee***

3.21 The increased incidence of flooding in rural areas due to changing weather patterns was raised and subsequently discussed by the Environment Committee. It was agreed that the Chair of the Environment Committee would write to the Government to ask that a funding package was needed to deal with the issue.

3.22 The impact on surrounding roads/villages due to the improvement works at the Stockbury roundabout (M2 Junction 5) was raised. The Chair is gathering details about the impact with a view to write to KCC, the Police and Highways England.

3.23 A resident raised an issue about reduced funding for bus services and how this impacted residents living in villages. The Chair of the Western Area Committee wrote to the KCC Cabinet member for Highways and Transport who replied to explain the financial situation following budget cuts and to advise that funding has been made available to support Parish Councils and other Community groups if they want to find local solutions to transport needs in their area.

3.24 Following a matter raised by a Member, the Chair of the Western Area Committee wrote letters to Medway Council and KCC highlighting the implications of implementing the proposal to prohibit HGV's on the A2. Medway Council responded to say they would take the Committee's comments into account and KCC responded clarifying their position.

3.25 A Member raised concerns about the run-down state of the Western Area, highlighting footpaths, litter in hedgerows and road signs as particular issues. The issues were escalated to the partner organisations and SBC teams responsible who took action to resolve the issues.

## **4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected**

4.1 As this report is for noting there are no alternative options to be considered.

## **5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed**

5.1 The four Area Committee Chairs were consulted when preparing this report.

## **6 Implications**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Implications</b>
Corporate Plan	The achievements of the Area Committees support the Corporate Plan priority “ <i>Renewing local democracy and making the Council fit for the future</i> ”.
Financial, Resource and Property	This report is for noting but the funding awarded to the Area Committees since 2020 has been allocated and spent in line with the Terms of Reference as set out in paragraph 2.5.5 of the Constitution.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	None identified at this stage.
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	None identified at this stage.
Health and Wellbeing	None identified at this stage.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	None identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	The implementation of hybrid meetings held in community venues ensures that people with varying needs are able to attend and participate in a way that is most suitable for them.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage.

## **7 Appendices**

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: Area Committees funding process
- Appendix II: Area Committees funding allocations 2020-2023

## **8 Background Papers**

There are no background papers.



## Recommended processes for the operation of Area Committees

### Introduction:

After the first year of the Area Committee meetings taking place, the Area Committee Review Working Group were tasked with considering how the meetings went, looking at what went well and what improvements were required. This paper sets out their recommendations on the operation of Area Committees funding.

### Funding:

Area Committees are among the few committees in the Council which are quasi-executive which means they have the power to make decisions that could involve allocating funds. The decisions must be taken openly, impartially, with sound judgement and for justifiable reasons.

It is therefore very important that a robust process is established and adhered to ensure transparency, as well as to obviate issues of apparent bias which can arise when committee members are also involved in organisations bidding for funding.

To enable this there needs to be an element of impartial officer assessment. However, it is important to ensure that outcomes of decisions on what are and are not funded sit squarely with members.

This can be achieved using a three-stage process in which members decide on outcomes but not on individual applications. The table below sets out a proposed process:

Stage 1	<p>At the March meeting, members agree a short list of priorities they want to support in the forthcoming funding year, as a means of inviting bids.</p> <p>The Committee may 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.</p> <p>Priorities need to be detailed enough to enable officers to evaluate bids against priorities without officers needing to exercise much or any decision-making authority beyond a technical assessment of the contribution each bid would</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application forms and guidance notes should make it clear what the required priorities are.</li> <li>• The full details of the funding priorities, to be publicised in the form of direct emails to organisations known by Swale Borough Council (SBC), press releases and internal member updates.</li> <li>• A deadline will be set for getting applications in for each round of meetings and this must be adhered to so that the checking process can take place. Bids presented on the night will not be accepted as they will not have gone through the three-stage process.</li> </ul>
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	make to the priority relative to other bids.	
Stage 2	<p>Officers to carry out an assessment of bids against the criteria established by members and using a methodology previously agreed by members.</p> <p>Committee members will have the opportunity to challenge the scoring before the options report is finalised.</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Policy &amp; Engagement Officer (PEO) to check that the form has been correctly completed and supporting quotes attached.</li> <li>• PEO to pass to the relevant officer/head of service to check that there is no cross over with other work being carried out by SBC or other organisations. Also, to check that there are no SBC financial/officer resource implications. Comments to be fed back to the PEO by an agreed deadline.</li> <li>• On the close of the application period, PEO to compile a report and pass to 3 impartial officers to carry out scoring process against the priorities.</li> <li>• The outcome of the scoring will be passed to Committee members to give them the opportunity to challenge the scores. Any challenges will go through a review process carried out by the PEO and one officer not involved in the scoring process.</li> </ul>
Stage 3	<p>Once any review has been completed the final report will be presented to members at the December meeting and voted on en-bloc.</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A report prepared by the PEO setting out the results of the assessment of the bids to be published with the agenda 5 clear working days before the meeting.</li> <li>• Officers will recommend options to vote on, these will depend on numbers of applications received but an example is set out below:</li> </ul>

		<p><i>Option 1 – the four top scoring applications receiving 100% of their bid.</i></p> <p><i>Option 2 – the six top scoring applications receiving 80% of their bid.</i></p>
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In addition to a clearly articulated and transparent process for determining individual bids in any given year, there is also a need for a general set of pass/fail criteria to be applied to all bids in any year, in order to ensure that only bids which meet the general intentions of the funding go forward for assessment. These criteria need to be agreed by members but should include both general restrictions on the type of activities which can be funded and any more specific exclusions such as ensuring organisations or activities are not double funded from council budgets.

Ideally there should be one set of guidance notes and one application form which will cover the general criteria and also include separate sections for the individual Area Committees priorities.

The principle aim is to prioritise external agencies for funding that deliver something in the area boundary, however each Area Committee during stage 1 of the process will decide if it will accept internal bids from members for funding.

The only realistic alternative to a system such as this, should members want to be able to vote on individual bids, is that any member with an interest which could give them an apparent bias, will 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.

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### Area Committee funding allocations summary report - September 2020 to May 2023

Below is a summary of the funding allocated by each Area Committee covering the period from their inaugural meeting in September 2020 up until the end of the electoral cycle in May 2023.

#### Western Area Committee – funding allocation over three years - £114,000.00

Applicant:	Project description:	Date approved by Area Committee:	Funding awarded:
Upchurch Parish Council	Replace fencing around Upchurch Recreation Ground	01/12/2020	£4,655.00
Newington Parish Council	Refurbish the car park and track at Newington Recreation Ground	01/12/2020	£4,000.00
Wyvern Heritage & Landscape	Conservation Area Reviews for Milstead, Rodmersham Green and Tunstall	01/12/2020	£6,270.00
Hartlip Parish Council	Installation of Kissing Gate on the Parkland, Lower Road, Hartlip to allow resident access	02/03/2021	£1,030.80
Sittingbourne in Bloom	Sensory garden refurb at King George V Playing Field	02/03/2021	£7,085.41
Member bid - Cllr Sarah Stephen	Walking & Cycling Routes project to commission a local cycling and walking infrastructure plan (LCWIP) for South-West Swale and its surrounding area	02/03/2021	£13,000.00
Member bid - Cllr James Hunt	Drafting of Woodland Management Plans and Work Plans for Rose Hill Woods and The Meads Community Woodland. To provide funding to Friends Groups set up to carry out some of the recommendations in the Work Plans for Rose Hill Woods and the Meads Community Woodland	02/03/2021	£2,758.79
Iwade at the Barn	Timber storage shed to be erected adjacent to Iwade Barn. This will allow the hire space to be clear of unused equipment and allow different types of equipment to be	01/03/2022	£5,000.00

	stored away from other items thus allowing for greater flexibility to types of hiring.		
Newington History Group	Design, print & install 3 lecturn frame interpretation boards on footpaths at key points south of the A2 to attract walkers and visitors to the unique historic remains of military defences built to protect London had the Axis powers invaded in World War I	01/03/2022	£4,041.00
Borden Parish Council	Install fencing to boundary of Nature Reserve	01/03/2022	£9,546.75
Newington Parish Council	To improve and add to the adult gym equipment at the recreation ground	01/03/2022	£9,546.75
Upchurch Parish Council	Installation of nature trail equipment in The Paddock at the Children's play area	01/03/2022	£2,349.50
Member bid – Cllr Mike Baldock	Bringing forward lower priority improvement works in closed churchyards sites within the Western Area Committee Area	01/03/2022	£9,516.00
Brogdale CIC	A youth provision activity carried out by VIBE project workers	01/09/2022	£6,930.00
Member bid – Cllr Mike Baldock	Hartlip and Bredgar Conservation Area Reviews	01/09/2022	£8,400.00
Member bid – Cllr Sarah Stephen	Refurbishment of the public toilet at the King George V Playing Field in Sittingbourne	01/09/2022	£5,054.00
Swale Foodbank	Donation to the foodbank to benefit the residents in the Western area	01/09/2022	£5,000.00
Swale Bus Shelter Foodbank	Donation to the foodbank to benefit the residents in the Western area	01/09/2022	£5,000.00
Kent Tree and Pond Wardens	Donation to provide equipment to assist the pond wardens with their work	01/12/2022	£292.87
Children & Families, Swale	Donation to the Fuel and Water Home Advisor Service to provide energy efficient packs to assist households in the Western area to reduce their use of energy and associated costs	01/12/2022	£4,523.13

**Sittingbourne Area Committee – funding allocation over three years - £125,000.00**

Applicant:	Project description:	Date approved by Area Committee:	Funding awarded:
Swale Media Arts Centre	Internal/External improvements to 34 High Street.	09/03/2021	£7,000.00
Brogdale CIC	Mill Skate park – purchase and installation of signage, benches and bins.	09/03/2021	£2,330.26
Milton Creek Country Park Trust	Purchase of additional park furniture at Milton Creek Country Park.	09/03/2021	£8,313.00
Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway	Signage at entrance to assist visitors to the heritage steam railway to find their way from the carpark to the station.	09/03/2021	£870.74
Kemsley Community Centre Trust	Replacement entrance and fire exit doors at Kemsley Community Hall	09/03/2021	£10,555.56
Member bid - Cllr James Hall	Flowers in Bloom – to fit flower beds in Murston Ward.	09/03/2021	£4,000.00
Dolphin Sailing Barge Museum	To provide a proper installation of electrical power to the wharf and workshop area via underground cabling and secured metal boxes.	09/03/2021	£4,537.20
Sailing Barge Raybel	To replace the Raybel bitt heads and diesel pump.	09/03/2021	£4,000.00
Member bid – Cllrs Davey and Winckless	Milton Rec Tennis Courts - to resurrect the floodlighting, separating the electricity and installing external switching	09/03/2021	£2,393.24
New Leaf Support	Continue with Healing together programme	01/02/2022	£3,080.00
Sittingbourne in Bloom (work to be carried out by SBC)	Improvements to Milton Regis High Street	01/02/2022	£9,649.25
Raybel Charters	Milton Creek navigation feasibility study proposal	01/02/2022	£12,000.00

Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway	Replacement firebox for the locomotive 'Superb' to comply with legal/safety requirements	01/02/2022	£8,170.00
Sittingbourne in Bloom	Installation of two signs on the wall in front of the library. Due to lack of funds to complete this project the Area Committee agreed to transfer the funding to the Milton Regis town sign project, which was underfunded.	01/02/2022	£568.80
Sittingbourne in Bloom (work to be carried out by SBC)	Replace damaged rail and bollard at Milton High Street	01/02/2022	£893.28
SATEDA	Provide a combined health and domestic response in Sittingbourne through the Iris initiative	08/03/2022	£2,994.55
Milton Creek Country Park Trust	Provide a community hub for Milton Creek Country Park	08/03/2022	£2,955.15
Diversity House	Three months pilot project aims to tackle Biodiversity and environmental topics	08/03/2022	£2,697.82
New Leaf Support	Support & Sing project with New Leaf	08/03/2022	£989.97
Youth Resilience UK CIC	Delivery of 1-1 support for young people in Swale schools	06/09/2022	£749.33
Diversity House	Happy to chat project – bench and ramp	06/09/2022	£4,111.71
Sittingbourne Community Radio	Continued delivery of radio service to the local community	06/09/2022	£3,386.39
Dolphin Sailing Barge Museum	Purchase of chairs and tables	06/09/2022	£943.58
Milton Creek Country Park Trust	Space in the Park – install trench for power and water supply	06/09/2022	£4,323.06
New Leaf Support	Activity days	06/09/2022	£3,158.24
Kemsley Community Centre Trust	Replace boilers	06/09/2022	£2,040.48
Ellie's Angels	Enhancements to Better-U app	06/09/2022	£1,921.36



Milton Regis Society	Improvements to Milton Regis town	06/09/2022	£3,841.71
Member bid – Cllr James Hall	Great Easthall shop feasibility work	06/09/2022	£1,921.36
Swale Media Arts Centre	Set up Visitor Information Centre at its premises at 34 High Street, Sittingbourne	06/09/2022	£4,338.43
Sittingbourne Christmas Lights & Sleigh Rounds	Purchase of new LED garland lights for Sittingbourne High Street.	06/09/2022	£1,556.30
Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway Ltd	Disabled/wheelchair accessible platform at SKLR Sittingbourne Viaduct Station	06/09/2022	£2,785.97
Member bid – Cllr James Hall	Shrubbery and flowerbeds in Murston	06/09/2022	£1,921.36

**Sheppey Area Committee – funding allocation over three years - £159,000.00**

Applicant:	Project description:	Date approved by Area Committee:	Funding awarded:
Queenborough Town Council	Queenborough Castle Site - Pye Play Park Access Path - installation of access paths	16/03/2021	£1,876.24
Teddy Bear Day Care Sheppey Ltd	Provision of a neuro-linguistic programming practitioner and wellbeing garden at the centre	16/03/2021	£7,000.00
Leysdown Parish Council	Contribution towards three CCTV cameras in Leysdown for the benefit of local residents to tackle anti-social behaviour and crime in Leysdown	16/03/2021	£6,092.40
Member bid - Cllr Cameron Beart	Reinstatement and extension of width of public footpath PROWZB50 between Stanley Avenue, Queenborough and Neats Court Retail Park	16/03/2021	£29,690.72
Member bid - Cllr Elliott Jayes	The provision of solar panels for Thistle Hill Community Centre	16/03/2021	£5,000.00
Member bid - Cllr Elliott Jayes	The Glen, Minster-on-Sea's village green improvements - replacement of the current benches and picnic tables	16/03/2021	£4,496.04
Member bid - Cllr Elliott Jayes	Thistle Hill Improvements - additional bins and dog waste bag dispensers	16/03/2021	£1,844.60
Warden Bay Playgroup	Resurface playgroup play area as current surface was unsafe	30/11/2021	£3,010.56
Sheppey District Scouts	Contribution to complete repairs to the Sheppey District Scout Hut	30/11/2021	£1,550.00
Queenborough Town Community Centre Ltd	Repairs and replacement flooring at the Castle Connections community hub	30/11/2021	£9,000.00
Member bid - Cllr Harrison	Installation of benches in shelters overlooking the gardens by the Sheerness leisure centre.	30/11/2021	£1,400.00
The Sheppey War Memorial Trust	Extend the Sheppey War Memorial wall to accommodate the names of all those from Sheppey who lost their lives in the two World Wars	30/11/2021	£21,464.00

Member bid Cllr Jayes	Repaint the Whitehouse toilet building	30/11/2021	£2,500.00
Blue Town Remembered	To contribute to the installation of a lift to provide disabled access to all floors of the Blue Town Remembered centre	30/11/2021	£2,000.00
Teddy Bear Day care Sheppey	To contribute to the replacement of the ceiling at the Centre to reduce heat loss and make the building more environmentally friendly and carbon neutral	30/11/2021	£2,798.00
Sheppey Heritage Trust for Eastchurch Aviation Museum	To provide an extension to existing Eastchurch Aviation Museum to provide new facilities and additional exhibition space	30/11/2021	£4,228.70
Member bid - Cllrs Eakin and Harrison	To contribute to the Sheerness Promenade replacement lighting project	15/03/2022	£8,048.74
Youth Resilience UK CIC	Delivery of 1-1 support for young people in Swale schools	22/09/2022	£1,560.00
Sheppey Matters	Sheppey Tourist Information Centre support	22/09/2022	£6,585.42
Queenborough Town Community Centre Ltd	Bump, Baby and Beyond community project	22/09/2022	£5,045.00
Song Signing	Starting a new community group in Eastern Sheppey	22/09/2022	£3,936.00
Member bid – Cllr Elliott Jayes	New Road Play Park, Minster-on-Sea improvements	22/09/2022	£20,000.00
Queenborough Town Council	Queenborough Railway Station Building Mural	22/09/2022	£1,285.68
Warden Parish Council	Replacement flooring in village hall	06/12/2022	£4,322.70
Curly's Farm	Extra staff resource for 'outpost' learning base	06/12/2022	£2,075.00
Friendly Faces of Kent	Warm hub funding for Rushenden	06/12/2022	£2,190.20

**Eastern Area Committee – funding allocation over three years - £136,000.00**

Applicant:	Project description:	Date approved by Area Committee:	Funding awarded:
Doddington Allotment Association	Replacement noticeboard and gates at Doddington allotments	17/12/2020	£837.00
Boughton under Blean	Install an outdoor gym at Bull Lane for residents and visitors of all ages to use free of charge	18/03/2021	£14,663.00
Gem72 – Faversham & Surrounding Area (St Mary of Charity)	Mobile youth project to engage with young people in local neighbourhoods	18/03/2021	£10,000.00
Abbey Physic Community Garden	To repair and refurbish an area near the APCG entrance that wraps around the front of the cabin using composite decking	18/03/2021	£5,000.00
Faversham Town Council	Parishes to Town Project to benefit all local residents by identifying good walking and cycling routes linking Faversham and neighbouring communities and producing a report with recommendations for a series of interventions to make walking and cycling on those routes easier and safer	18/03/2021	£12,500.00
Oare Parish Council	To contribute towards the regeneration and rewilding of the village	18/03/2021	£5,000.00
Green Cube CIC	Flowering up Teynham village project – to create a brighter, cleaner and greener environment for all of the local community	03/02/2022	£2,870.00
Member bid - Cllrs Gould, Saunders & Whiting	To carry out a public consultation on local bus services, the results to be used to influence KCC and local bus companies in renewing and developing local bus services	03/02/2022	£10,000.00
Doddington Parish Council	To contribute towards Wicksteed Simba toddler multiplay at the playing field	03/02/2022	£5,000.00
Faversham Town Council	To contribute towards the Swale Eastern Area Park and Pedal Project – an e-bike hire scheme	03/02/2022	£7,796.00

Faversham Town Council	To contribute to bike hanger supply and installation to provide secure cycle storage for individuals who live or work in the town centre with no space to securely store a bike within their building	03/02/2022	£7,580.00
Faversham Swimming Pools Management Committee Ltd	To purchase and install a new, energy-saving pool pump at Faversham Pools	22/03/2022	£8,670.00
Friends of Oare Gunpowder Works	To engage a specialist contract to restore the Leat system	22/03/2022	£4,800.00
Painters Forstal Community Association	Painters Forstal - cycle destination project to install bicycle racks and information boards at the community hall	22/03/2022	£1,266.37
Youth Resilience UK CIC	Delivery of 1-1 support for young people in Swale schools	22/09/2022	£1,560.00
West Faversham Community Association	Youth project	22/09/2022	£4,000.00
Faversham Swimming Pools	Replace lockers	22/09/2022	£10,000.00
Swale Friends of the Earth	"Lovely World" exhibition	22/09/2022	£1,233.00
Teynham Parish Council	CCTV system, Teynham	22/09/2022	£5,444.00
Oare Village Hall	Repairs to Oare Village Hall	22/09/2022	£5,000.00
Friendly Faces of Kent	Warm hub funding for Teynham	15/12/2022	£1,051.66
Painters Forstal Community Association	Painters Forstal – community hunger heroes project	15/12/2022	£533.79
Faversham Umbrella	Joint bid offering support in the community as part of the response to the cost-of-living crisis	15/12/2022	£4,393.44
Teynham Parish Council	Heat, light & power for the Teynham Warm Bank	15/12/2022	£138.38

Abbey Physic Community Garden	Supporting food resilience in the community	15/12/2022	£1,937.27
Faversham Salvation Army	Community Wardrobe	15/12/2022	£397.83
Brogdale CIC	Project working with vulnerable families	15/12/2022	£4,310.41

## **Eastern Area Committee Priorities**

This discussion paper follows on from the previous item which reviewed the achievements of the Area Committees over the last three years.

As explained in that report, there is no longer funding available for Area Committees to allocate to support their priorities, however, Eastern Area Committee can feed into and influence the corporate priorities and objectives that are relevant to their specific areas.

One of the first tasks for the new council will be create a corporate plan to set out what the council wants to achieve in the next four years. This will help make sure council resources are allocated in a coherent, accountable and effective way.

The current Corporate Plan priorities are:

- Building the right homes in the right places and supporting quality jobs for all;
- investing in our environment and responding positively to global challenges;
- tackling deprivation and creating equal opportunities for everyone; and
- renewing local democracy and making the council fit for the future.

Area Committees are being asked to have an input into the Corporate Plan at an early stage, by outlining their own aspirations for their individual areas, which will help inform the new Corporate Plan.

When considering what these aspirations should be, it is important to bear in mind the challenging budget position which is likely to continue over the next few years and the capacity of the organisation to deliver on them on top of previously agreed workloads.

The aspirations of the Area Committee could be issues that are the responsibility of Swale Borough Council to achieve, or things that are the responsibility of external organisations which we could try to influence. They could also be ambitions to work towards for the future.

### **Council Services:**

Examples of things that fall within the area of responsibility of Council services are:

- Identifying areas that would benefit from being prioritised for deep cleans; and
- addressing problems that affect our open spaces.

### **External Services:**

Examples of things that fall within the area of responsibility of external partners are:

- Lobbying Kent County Council on matters such as education, youth provision and transport issues;
- lobbying the Government on the need for policy change specific to the needs of the borough;

- lobbying water companies and or/the Environment Agency on matters such as fresh water supply, waste water and flooding;
- lobbying the Police on matters such as traffic management enforcement, rural crime or drug related crime; and
- lobbying the Swale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

**Activity:**

The Chair will invite those in attendance – including members of the public - to split into groups of 4 or 5 to talk about what is important for the Eastern area and put a list of suggested priorities together. Ten minutes have been set aside for this task.

Please focus on answering the following questions:

1. What issues affect residents in your Ward that fall within the responsibility of Swale Borough Council;
2. What issues affect residents in your Ward that fall within the responsibility of an external partner; and
3. What changes would you like to see that could improve the life of residents in the future.
4. What are the top three issues you would like to Area Committee to take forward in the coming year.

You will be provided with paper and pens to make a note of your suggestions, one person from your group will be asked to feed back at the end of this session.

Those attending remotely are invited to type their suggestions in the meeting 'chat'.

All suggestions will be collated and fed into the preparation of the Corporate Plan.

If anyone has further ideas after the meeting, please email them to [areacommittees@swale.gov.uk](mailto:areacommittees@swale.gov.uk)