

Sittingbourne Area Committee meeting: 9 March 2021 – Matters arising

Item	Who initiated?	Background	Progress on actions
Brown tourism signs	Cabinet Member for Planning	To commence an audit of existing local brown signs - Cabinet adopted a Visitor Economy Framework Action Plan on 28 October 2020. This includes a medium-term action to undertake a wayfinding audit of signage and identify any gaps. The delivery partners identified for this action are: SBC; town and parish councils; Visit Swale; Kent Highways; and local businesses.	The Chair would like to discuss the audit with Committee Members further as some signs may be both area specific as well as Borough wide.
Conservation issues, including ponds	Cabinet Member for Planning	Swale BC only has details of the ponds which it manages directly. There is a strategic and heritage, conservation and tourism need for information, including ownership, condition and management of the ponds in the area.	<p>The Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group have confirmed they are happy to work with SBC on this in the following ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They can provide species data for all ponds in Swale, not just the ponds in public ownership. This will require Swale to sign a data sharing agreement 2. They would be happy to attend meetings and provide advice and guidance where possible. 3. They can provide a database of known ponds, however they will need to get agreement for a third party for this.

			<p>Kent Fire and Rescue have also indicated that they hold data on all known water sources they are able to use for firefighting operations, including ponds and are happy to share this data with SBC.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Environment has advised that this should be dealt with as a borough-wide issue and referred to the appropriate officer to deal with in due course.</p>
Primary, secondary and further education	Committee member	Swale BC have been in discussions with Kent County Council regarding secondary school provision in Swale. It is suggested that the Committee hold off any consideration of this issue until matters become clearer in the new year.	Cllr Bonney will be in attendance to provide a verbal update on this.
Exploration of issues facing ward members in Sittingbourne area	Committee chairman	Area Committee Chairman to explore issues arising in wards across the Sittingbourne area.	Cllr Davey received a request from Kemsley Ward and he subsequently undertook a ward walk. Once it becomes possible, he is happy to do further ward walks should any Ward Councillors request one.
Sittingbourne town centre regeneration scheme	Member of public	Implementation of this scheme has been regularly reviewed by the Council's Scrutiny Committee for many years. It was proposed that the Committee receive the same written report that the Scrutiny Committee receive.	<p>Cllr Davey to provide a verbal update.</p> <p>The STC update report that was considered at the Scrutiny Committee Meeting on 25 February is in the agenda pack.</p>

Entrance to skate park and Dolphin Barge Museum	Committee member	The skate park has now been handed over to Brogdale CIC to operate.	There is still an ongoing requirement for improvements to the entrance, including provision of an information board.
Tennis courts at Milton Recreation Ground	Committee member	The Head of Commissioning, Environment and Leisure said that the courts were run by Milton Fitness Club and the Council were trying to find how the supply to the floodlights at the tennis courts could be isolated so that they could be operated independently.	Martyn Cassell will be in attendance to provide a verbal update.

Items to bring back to a future Area Committee Meeting:

Item	Who initiated?	Action	Comments on progress
Heritage issues	Cabinet Member for Planning	Background: Cabinet adopted a Heritage Strategy and Action Plan on 18 March 2020. The Action Plan contains a programme of Conservation Area reviews. It has been suggested by the Cabinet Member that the Area Committee may want to fund CA reviews for areas which are outside of the planned programme of reviews in the Action Plan.	As there have been no suggestions regarding additional conservation area reviews in the Sittingbourne area, the Chair proposes postponing this until the June meeting when more information will be available.

Bomb shelter at Trots Hall Gardens	Committee member	After discussion with officers, it has been decided not pursue this any further given competing priorities.	Cllr Simon Clark is in the process of making enquires and will report back at the June Area Committee Meeting.
Signage around the town centre	Committee chairman	The Chairman had circulated a schedule of signage around the town centre and invited members to comment on whether they thought any needed changing.	There has been no feedback on this from members. The Chair proposes waiting until the signage in town centre has been finalised and then bring it back to a future meeting to see if there are any gaps.
Improvements to lighting in Milton Regis area	Committee Chairman	It was noted that the clock had been reinstated in Milton Regis and the Chairman would be exploring how lighting in the area could be improved.	The Chair will continue to explore this and will report back at a future meeting.