

Cabinet	
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Meeting Date	4 February 2015
Report Title	Local Engagement Forums December 2014
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Localism
SMT Lead	Pete Raine
Head of Service	Emma Wiggins
Lead Officer	Brooke Buttfield
Key Decision	No
Classification	Open
Forward Plan	Yes

Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note and consider the discussion and outcomes of the three Local Engagement Forums held during December 2014. 2. To suggest topics as agenda items for future Local Engagement Forums.
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Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 The report draws together notes of the discussion, outcomes and recommendations for Cabinet to consider following the recent Swale Local Engagement Forums (LEFs) of Faversham (2 December 2014), Sheppey (9 December 2014), and Sittingbourne (16 December 2014).
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to formalise the reporting relationship and encourage greater connectivity between the LEFs and Swale Borough Council's (SBC) Cabinet.
- 1.3 The report demonstrates to residents the potential of their forums to advise and influence local public services.
- 1.4 The next Swale Local Engagement Forums are being held during February/March 2015; Faversham (24 February 2015), Sheppey (10 March 2015), and Sittingbourne (17 March 2015). Cabinet is also asked to consider and suggest agenda items for future LEFs.

2 Background

- 2.1 The LEFs are one of the key consultation methods for the Council, providing a route for residents as a group to advise on the shape and future of public services in the borough. This report summarises the You Said We Did reports that are compiled after each LEF, including discussion and outcomes from the LEF for

noting and discussion by the SBC Cabinet. It is hoped that this report will foster a two way dialogue. This report summaries the You Said We Did reports which are available online: <http://www.swale.gov.uk/LEF/>.

3 Proposal

- 3.1 To note the outcomes from each meeting (shown in Table 1) and feedback to the LEF chairmen as appropriate.
- 3.2 To suggest topics as agenda items for future Local Engagement Forums.

Table 1

Faversham LEF 2 December 2014 – Chairman Cllr Anita Walker
<p>Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Police led a discussion about their crime recording rate and the recent change in the way these figures are collated. • Residents raised the issue to Kent Police around the increase of anti-social behaviour, particularly involving youths, in Faversham. • Bill Ronan provided an update on behalf of Cllr Tom Gates around the growing issue of heavy good vehicles travelling through Faversham. • Bill Ronan updated residents on school parking and traffic management in Faversham as well as the solutions being developed to solve the problem.
<p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the discussion led by Kent Police, the public were made aware of the way crime figures are collected and were provided with statistics over the last 2 years. • Further to the issue raised by residents regarding anti-social behaviour, Kent Police explained that the service does not have the capacity to work solely on anti-social behaviour and have to prioritise incidents in terms of risk and harm to others. • Residents raised their concerns with the amount of heavy good vehicles travelling through unsuitable roads, and Bill Ronan agreed to organise a meeting with Highways, Engineers and any other representatives to arrange for proposed signage and confer other solutions. • The community were made aware of the proposal to begin consulting the issue around school parking with representatives from five schools in Swale. All suggestions made from residents will be taken to the meeting on 9 December, as well as keeping the item on the agenda for future Local Engagement Forums.
Sheppey LEF 9 December 2014 – Chairman Cllr Patricia Sandle
<p>Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Police led a discussion around anti-social behaviour on Sheppey, particularly in Sheerness. • Representatives from Peel Ports provided information to residents on the 20 year Masterplan for the Port, as well as discussing the public consultation events. • Cllr Pat Sandle discussed with the public the safety measures desired to be put in place on the Sheppey Crossing and Bill Ronan provided an update on behalf of KCC.

- Residents raised concern around the lack of parking available for commuters travelling from the Island.

Outcomes:

- Residents were made aware of new legislations in place to prevent anti-social behaviour in the area, as well as recently developed initiatives to target crimes, in particular burglary.
- Residents raised various questions regarding the plan and the affect it will have on the Isle of Sheppey. Local residents were made aware of the opportunities available to voice their opinions at the public consultation stage of the process.
- Residents discussed the need for safety measures on Sheppey Crossing including speed cameras, speed limits and matrix signs. Bill Ronan agreed to take the suggestions made to KCC which will be discussed at JTB meetings.
- The proposal for a car park at Queenborough Train Station was discussed and liaison will begin between Network Rail/South Eastern.

Sittingbourne LEF 16 December 2014 – Chairman Cllr Mike Whiting

Issues:

- A representative from Kent Fire and Rescue led a discussion around the statistics within Sittingbourne, Swale and Kent with regards to incidences over the last year.
- Kent Police led a discussion about their crime recording rate and the recent change in the way these figures are collated.
- Ann Barnes, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, attended the meeting to discuss with the public the recently reported rise in some categories of crime in the Swale area.
- Pete Raine discussed the consultation period for the Bearing Fruits 2031 Swale Borough Local Plan which starts on 19 December 2014 and closes at 5.00pm on 30 January 2015

Outcomes:

- Residents were made aware of the scheme which is run by KFRS in relation to smoke alarm tests and free smoke alarm/carbon monoxide detectors that are available to residents in need.
- Following the discussion led by Kent Police, the public were made aware of the way crime figures are collected and were provided with statistics over the last 2 years.
- The public raised concerns in relation to the rise in crime and received answers from both Ann Barnes and Kent Police.
- The public were made aware of the consultation period for the Bearing Fruits 2031 Swale Borough Local Plan and were informed of how to submit their comments.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 Not applicable as this is an update report for noting and consideration.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 The public were given the opportunity at each LEF to question and challenge public sector representatives about the issues discussed at the meeting.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The LEFs contribute towards the SBC corporate priority of Embracing Localism as they are one of the key projects for empowering local residents. In particular they contribute to the aims of enabling members to champion communities and improving local consultation and engagement.
Financial, Resource and Property	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Legal and Statutory	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Crime and Disorder	Residents can engage directly with senior police officers at the meetings.
Sustainability	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Health and Wellbeing	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Risk Management and Health and Safety	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Equality and Diversity	One of the aims of the You Said We Did is to report the issues raised and questions asked at the meeting as accurately as possible, so as not to discriminate against anyone who raises an issue at the meeting. The reports remain live and residents can challenge it they are incorrect. If the amendment is approved, they are then updated on the online version of the report.

7 Appendices

- 7.1 There are no additional documents to be published with this report.

8 Background Papers

- 8.1 LEF Terms of Reference