

**Sittingbourne Area Committee meeting: 8 June 2021 – Matters arising**

Item	Who initiated?	Background	Progress on actions
Brown tourism signs	Cabinet Member for Planning	<p>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.</p> <p>The Chair commented at the last meeting he would like to discuss the audit with Committee Members further as some signs may be both area specific as well as Borough wide.</p>	<p>Update provided by the Head of Housing, Economy and Community Services:</p> <p>The Brown Signs audit for the borough is not underway as yet as it is programmed in for a later stage of delivery of framework Year 4 (currently in Year 2). This is to enable other actions to take place which will identify and support the businesses and develop the offer. We will then be in a stronger position to identify where signs are required and also where the signs are no longer appropriate. Work is underway in the Town Centres to review wayfinding and street clutter and brown signs will be reviewed as part of this work.</p>
Primary, secondary and further education	Committee member	<p>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.</p>	<p>Cllr Bonney has been invited to attend to give an update.</p>

Exploration of issues facing ward members in Sittingbourne area	Committee chairman	<p>Area Committee Chairman to explore issues arising in wards across the Sittingbourne area.</p> <p>Once it becomes possible, the Chair is happy to do ward walks should any Ward Councillors request one.</p>	The Chair will give a verbal update.
Sittingbourne town centre regeneration scheme	Member of public	<p>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>	<p>There have been no further reports taken to Scrutiny since March. This item will be brought back in September when the next report will be available. However, the Chair will give a verbal update.</p> <p>The Chair will also give a verbal update on a matter raised by a Member regarding an issue with Virgin Fibre Optic.</p>
Entrance to skate park and Dolphin Barge Museum	Committee member	<p>The skate park has now been handed over to Brogdale CIC to operate.</p> <p>The skate park received an allocation of funding from Sittingbourne Area Committee.</p>	The Chair will provide an update about a matter a member raised at the last meeting regarding rubble at the entrance which needed removing.
Heritage issues	Cabinet Member for Planning	<p>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</p>	So far no suggestions have been put forward for conservation area reviews.

		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.	The Chair will remind those present to let him know if anyone has ideas for potential reviews.
Bomb shelter at Trots Hall Gardens	Committee member	The Chair and Cllr Simon Clark had agreed to meet with Richard Emmett from the Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne to discuss further.	The Chair to give a verbal update.
Improvements to lighting in Milton Regis area	Committee Chairman	<p>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.</p> <p>The Chair will continue to explore this and will report back on Court Hall and the Library at a future meeting.</p>	The Chair to give a verbal update.
Swale Borough Council website	Committee member	A Member raised concerns about the difficulties residents and Councillors experienced when trying to navigate the Swale Borough Council website. Some items appeared to be 'buried' and took a number of steps to find. It was agreed that the Chairman would refer this matter to Cabinet.	The Chair attended Informal Cabinet on 26 April and set out the concerns raised at the last meeting. Officers explained the reason for the current design of the website and advised a survey is about to be launched so there will be opportunity for further feedback.

**Items to bring back to a future Area Committee Meeting:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Who initiated?</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Comments on progress</b>
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 the town centre has been finalised and then bring it back to a future meeting to see if there are any gaps.