

# Sheerness Area Committee

## Capital Projects Team Update

### Bench Refurbishment

The bench refurbishment programme was completed on 28<sup>th</sup> May. The ends of the benches have been painted Marine blue and the timber slats rubbed down and re-treated and/or replaced if required.



### New Planters

The new timber planters were installed throughout the High Street on 4<sup>th</sup> June and the existing planters relocated to Beachfield.

We are working with the Sheppey matters community gardeners for the relocated planters and they have plants at their allotment that they are going to use for this summer. A mix of fruit, veg, herbs and flowers so the community can help themselves to any produce. Sheppey Matters community gardeners are assessing the soil this week and checking the water reservoirs. As soon as this has been done and any defects rectified the planting will commence.



## **Highway Asset Painting**

Painting of lighting columns, illuminated posts, non-illuminated posts, bollards, railings, and cycle hoops is now scheduled to commence in July. The contractor is currently carrying out some additional training for their staff which is required by KCC. KCC have been contacted to see if painting can commence earlier on assets that do not require this training.

The railings at the three entrances to the main town centre have been inspected by KCC traffic engineers but, in the most part, are likely to remain. These have not been included as part of the asset painting package described above.

## **Clock Tower**

An application for listed building consent has been submitted which will need to go to Planning Committee as the clock tower is an SBC asset. The application will only need to be referred to the National Planning Casework Unit for a decision if an objection is received from Historic England and/or one or more of the national amenity societies. It is hoped that a decision can be made by the Planning Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> July after which the formal contract can be signed with the restoration contractor and they can begin to plan and programme their works.

A meeting took place on 1<sup>st</sup> June with the UKPN engineer to discuss the disconnection of the power to the tower (and later re-connection). We are currently awaiting a quotation from UKPN for this work however the engineer did confirm that the work can be scheduled to align with the programme for the tower removal.

The capital projects team have started to discuss a Communications plan with SBC's Comms team and have started engagement with companies to obtain quotes for hoarding with historic and informative notice boards/time lapse photography etc. Wider engagement will commence with the town council and town team once the initial plans are confirmed.

## **Concrete Balls around the clock tower**

KCC's traffic engineer is satisfied that the concrete balls surrounding the clock tower can be replaced with bollards (similar to those throughout the rest of the town). The capital projects manager has provided KCC's traffic engineer with some initial sketches and is awaiting a response. It is hoped that this work can be scheduled to take place prior to the tower being brought back and re-installed.