

## Sheppey Area Committee meeting: 14 September 2021 – Matters arising

No.	Item	Action	Comments on updates
1	Connectivity across Sheppey	<p>The Council is currently undertaking a review of its Local Plan. One of the documents that is being developed alongside this review is a Transport Strategy.</p> <p>At the June meeting a briefing by the Public Transport Unit at Kent County Council provided an update on Sheppey bus service provision.</p> <p>A question was asked at the June meeting about transport issues on the Island. Previously a KCC forum dealt with these issues, if the forum is no longer in existence should the Area Committee take this on?</p>	<p>The Kent County Council forum that looked at connectivity across Sheppey, originally set up by Mike Whiting when he was the KCC Cabinet Member for Transport, is no longer in existence.</p> <p>Additionally, the Quality Bus Partnership has been suspended while KCC look at how to set up an Enhanced Partnership which will replace the QBP. The Chair suggests postponing this discussion until the December meeting, when more will be known about the focus of the new group</p>
2	Sheerness town centre regeneration	At the March meeting Cllr Bonney provided a verbal update on the restoration of the Grade II listed Sheerness clock tower, refurbishment of Master's House, Sheerness and the Sheerness High Street project.	Please see Appendix 1 and 2 for an update.
3	Restoration of war memorial, Sheerness	An update was given at the June meeting on the restoration of Sheerness war memorial. The first phase of the works is complete with the renovation of the paving area around the memorial. The foundations have been laid for the memorial wall and the order for the stones for the wall has now been placed. Collation of	<p>Cllr Peter MacDonald provided the following update:</p> <p>"The project has progressed, all the names are now validated. Before the engraving starts, Albion Stone will prepare the layout &amp; I will travel to Portland to see if their layout appears right. Assuming it is, they will then start the</p>

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		<p>names for the wall continues to be undertaken by the Sheppey War Memorial Trust.</p>	<p>engraving. They will deliver all the stone blocks to site &amp; their stone masons will erect the whole wall on the reinforced concrete foundation which is ready &amp; waiting. On completion of the wall, the paving will then be completed &amp; the site cleared. Provided there are no problems, the whole project should be complete well before this year's Remembrance Parade. It would then be appropriate for a Dedication ceremony &amp; parade in April/May next year on the 100th Anniversary of the Dedication of our existing War Memorial. I would anticipate that all Services would want to attend. "</p>
4	Post office provision	<p>At the December meeting the Chairman suggested Members liaised with local community groups to put a proposal together for a community post office in Queenborough and bring that back to the next meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>At the March meeting it was reported that the Town Council were exploring options as it had not been possible to apply for a community post office.</p>	<p>The Post Office is now moving into Queenborough Stores in the High Street providing that they can get planning permission for the installation of a disabled access ramp.</p>
5	Brown tourism signs	<p>To commence an audit of existing local brown signs in concert with parish and town councils.</p> <p>So far nothing specific has been identified, however, the Sheppey Community</p>	<p>The Chairman proposes waiting for the Sheppey Community Development Forum to finish their review and then bring back to a later meeting.</p>

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		Development Forum are considering brown tourism signs as part of their review.	
6	Queenborough and Rushenden regeneration	<p>The Committee to prioritise which local issues should be added to future agendas for substantive consideration and discussion.</p> <p>The Chairman proposes bringing this back to a future meeting at the appropriate time.</p>	A tabled briefing paper (Appendix 4) prepared by Petra Clarke, Homes England, is to follow.
7	Child Poverty	A parish councillor asked for an update on what SBC were doing to combat child poverty on the Island. The Chair agreed to consult with officers and feedback at the next meeting.	Please see Appendix 3 for a briefing.
8	Green areas – Minster on Sea	A question was asked about the green areas in Minster on Sea, in particular Scrapsgate and the definition of boundaries and protection of wildlife.	<p>The Head of Environment and Leisure advised some of the field is cut as amenity cut which is short grass. The rest of the area is left as wild due to the further investigation of wildlife habitats. We continue to mow small pathways through the space to allow access over it.</p> <p>Environment Agency are soon due to undertake some works to Scrapsgate drain which may impact on access slightly.</p>
9	Changes to licensing rules	A question was asked at the June meeting about recent changes to licensing rules at SBC which make it very difficult for creative activities to take place in town centres.	The Head of Housing, Economy and Community Services advised that the revised Street Trading policy was adopted by General Licencing Committee and came into force on 1st April 2021, it was subject to the statutory

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			consultation processes and is legally compliant with the relevant licencing legislation. The policy is not meant to hinder creative activities, but where trading is part of these activities then individual stall holders are required to be licenced. This is ultimately to protect the consumer and the event organiser who cannot be responsible for the quality and safety of individual stall holders products. The Licencing team are supporting Sheerness Town Council with advice and guidance.
10	Residents commenting on planning applications	At the June meeting a resident commented that public's concerns might not always be heard when a planning application was considered. The Chair agreed to take this up with officers with a view to providing information on the issues that could be considered in determining a planning application.	The Head of Planning Services has confirmed a briefing will be given at the December meeting.