

Sheppey Area Committee meeting: 30 November 2021 – Matters arising

No.	Item	Background	Comments on updates
1.	Closed Churchyards	<p>The Committee Members considered the report but felt the non-urgent heritage works should not be funded by the Area Committee.</p> <p>The Area Committee requested this should be referred back to Cabinet.</p>	<p>This matter was referred back to Cabinet. The Chair was advised that officers continue to work on the high priority elements of closed churchyard works from existing budgets and the Improvement and Resilience fund via the Cabinet member for Planning, as a result no funding from SPF or Sheppey improvement fund has been allocated.</p> <p>Area committees were given the report to inform them of the potential future works and whether they wanted to bring forward some of the repairs not deemed urgent. Some area committees are considering contributing along with other's committing Member grants.</p>
2.	Eastchurch to Leysdown route for cycling and walking	Following a presentation made by a member of the public speaking on behalf of Sustrans, a request for support was referred to the Cabinet.	The Cabinet Member for Environment advised that although this would be good for tourism, Swale Borough Council do not have the resource to prioritise this project.
3.	Coach Parking	A member of the public raised the matter of coach parking on the Isle of Sheppey.	A meeting has taken place on this matter looking at the Ship on Shore car park.
4.	Tidal Pool at Sheerness	A member of the public put forward a proposal for a Sheerness Tidal Pool to be constructed and asked for the Area Committee to consider looking into this. This proposal was referred to the Cabinet as the	The Cabinet Member for Economy and Property commented that this had previously been considered. However, construction and maintenance costs were considered too high and there were also health & safety issues.

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		cost would be too high for the Area Committee to fund.	This would be a long-term aspiration but not a current priority.
5.	Shingle Bank Slipway	A Member suggested reviving this project and get new costings but as it is likely to exceed what the Area Committee could fund it would need to be taken to Cabinet.	This was referred to Cabinet for consideration and they advised it was not a funding priority at this time.
6.	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>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 suggested at the September meeting postponing this discussion until more is be known about the focus of the new group</p>	Kent County Councillor Cameron Beart advised the new Enhanced Partnership is due to be launched in April 2022 alongside a new Bus Feedback Portal.

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7.	Sheerness town centre regeneration	Updates have been given at previous meetings 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 for the latest update.
8.	Restoration of war memorial, Sheerness	An update was given at the September meeting on the restoration of Sheerness war memorial.	<p>Update provided by Cllr Peter MacDonald on the War Memorial Project. There are now 988 names missing from our existing War Memorial they have all been researched and validated dear Loreley & I spent many thousands of hours over the 12 years.</p> <p>To fit on all the names it has been necessary to extend the wall by another 2 metres (7ft), The Stone Masons came up from Portland to see the site, on their recommendation, the steel reinforced foundation was raised requiring a further 7m³ of reinforced concrete. This was installed last week so all is ready for the new wall. The engraving of the names has started in Portland (10,000 letters). The wall erection is due to take place early in the new year.</p> <p>The very necessary NHS COVID Testing Station taking up the car park behind the War Memorial site did cause us some problems but our team got over them, pumping the concrete for a good distance and materials handling all added to the Trust's costs. We are ready & waiting. At their meeting last night Sheerness Town Council the Dedication Parade should</p>

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			take place on the 24th April next year 2022. It is expected that the military will want to take part to represent their service men & women who lost their lives, if so it will be quite a big Parade.

Bring back to future meetings:

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9.	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>Petra Clarke, Homes England provided a written update at the September 2021 meeting.</p>	It is suggested to request updates twice a year from Homes England.
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.	This item will come back to a future meeting.