

Sittingbourne Area Committee meeting: 7 December 2021 – Matters arising

No.	Item	Background	Progress on actions
1.	Sittingbourne town centre regeneration scheme	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.	As an update has not been to Scrutiny Committee since June 2021, there is no update report for this meeting.
2.	Entrance to skate park and Dolphin Barge Museum	At the September meeting the Chairman advised he met with Essential Land regarding the entrance to the skate park and Dolphin Barge Museum. He would chase up the outstanding issues including the fence, parking and littering.	The Chair will provide a verbal update.
3.	Heritage issues	The Sittingbourne High Street Conservation Area Review and Milton Regis Conservation Area Review	The Conservation & Design Manager has provided a written update (Appendix 1).
4.	Bomb shelter at Trotts Hall Gardens	At the September meeting the Chair advised he met with Richard Emmett regarding the bomb shelter at Trotts Hall Gardens and there could still be evidence of a shelter there. More investigations would take place.	There has been no further progress on this item.
5.	Improvements to lighting in Milton Regis area	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.	The Chair will provide a verbal update.

		The Chair will continue to explore this and will report back on Court Hall and the Library at a future meeting.	
6.	Swale Borough Council website	<p>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.</p> <p>Officers explained the reason for the current design of the website and advised a survey took place to provide an opportunity for further feedback.</p>	The Communications Manager advised three surveys will be carried out, one each for councillors, officers and the public. Officers are currently checking the questions in the surveys before they go live to make sure they will provide valuable insight.
7.	Periwinkle Water Mill Site	At the September meeting an update was given on the current situation. The Conservation & Design Manager advised that the greenery that needed to be cleared was from neighbouring land.	The Conservation & Design Manager has provided a written update (Appendix 1).
8.	Options for Roman Square & Square opposite Swale House	At the September meeting the Chair advised that he spoke to the occupants of Roman Square and the Working Group about brightening up the area.	The Chair will provide a verbal update.
9.	Traffic flow outside the bus station	A member of the public talked about traffic flows outside Sittingbourne Railway	This matter was referred to the Cabinet who advised that officers do not

		Station. He asked if he could work with the Swale Borough Council Engineering Manager to produce some plans.	currently have the capacity to resource this request. It was suggested at the September meeting these proposals are taken to the Swale JTB.
10.	Sittingbourne Tennis Club	It was reported at the September meeting there were still ongoing issues regarding the legal agreement to be finalised. The Club would like to take on the toilets and facilities at Milton Recreation Ground, an SBC officer was looking into the lease arrangements and would report back.	Following the contribution from the Area Committee to get the electrics isolated, the floodlights have worked but only intermittently. Officers and contractors continue to try and find a solution but it may be necessary for full replacement. Funding options are being discussed and at this point LEDs would be used. No update on the use of the toilets, officers will look to progress this for the next meeting.
11.	Sports facilities in the area	At the June meeting the Chair suggested reviewing sports facilities in the Sittingbourne area to see if any required work. It was agreed to bring this back to a future meeting once Members had been able to look at facilities in the area. This could also tie in with an SBC review that will be taking place of sports facilities and the Committee's input would be welcome.	Ongoing – please pass any comments to the Chair. The sports facilities review has not commenced yet due to other workload pressures. It is hoped this start in the new year.

12.	Damaged bins not being replaced	<p>A Member reported that bins in his ward (Roman) had been removed after being set alight and not replaced.</p> <p>The Chairman agreed to take this up with officers.</p>	Officers reported there is a delay in sourcing bins but sometimes the opportunity is taken to remove if litter is no longer issue.
13.	Local Heritage List	<p>Following a presentation on the Sittingbourne High Street and Milton Regis Conservation Area Reviews, a member of the public asked about making nominations to the Local Heritage List. It was suggested this should be added to the agenda for the next Area Committee Meeting to be discussed.</p>	The Conservation & Design Manager hopes to bring this to the March 2022 round of meetings.
14.	The Air Cadet Squadron	<p>The Air Cadet Squadron building at Westlands School was discussed as it was under threat. It was suggested this should be passed to the Western Area Committee to consider as it came under that area.</p>	This has been passed to the Western Area Committee to deal with.
15.	Swale Media Arts Centre lease.	<p>A resolution needs to be found.</p>	Cllr Ken Rowles will give a verbal update.
16.	Blockages in Environmental health and Planning Enforcement	<p>The Chairman stated he experiences blockages with these teams and would like to address this with officers.</p>	The Chair has discussed this with relevant Cabinet Members and officers.
17.	Milton Creek Country Park.	<p>An issue was raised about fly tipping and dog waste at Milton Creek Country Park.</p>	The Chair will provide a verbal update.

		The Chair agreed to raise this at the Trust meeting.	
18.	Saxon Shore Way	<p>A member of the public raised an issue about the maintenance of the Saxon Shore Way.</p> <p>Kent County Councillor Mike Dendor responded that KCC were aware and would follow this up.</p>	Kent County Councillor Mike Dendor advised that It has been established that the area at Crown Quay Lane raised as being part of Saxon Shore Way is not, in fact Saxon Shore or indeed a PROW, so KCC are not responsible for maintenance.
19.	Rights of way to Milton Creek	The matter of rights of way to Milton Creek not being maintained was raised. Kent County Councillor Mike Dendor agreed to look into this.	Kent County Councillor Mike Dendor advised this path is not a registered PROW so KCC have no responsibility for any such access to the quay side. Also, with commercial sites backing directly onto the creek, there is no path from the quay side to either Milton Creek Country Parkin the west or to Sittingbourne in the East.

Items to bring back to a future Area Committee Meeting:

	Item	Background	Comments on progress
20.	Signage around the town centre	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.
21.	Brown tourism signs	<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 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.</p>	The Chair will bring this back to a future meeting.
22.	Closed Churchyards	The Conservation and Design Manager explained that over £1 million of works	It was agreed to bring this back to a future meeting.

		needed to be carried out across Swale on closed churchyards to ensure they were maintained for heritage and health and safety reasons but the Council did not have this funding.	
--	--	--	--