

Appendix 1 – Matters Arising

Update from the Conservation & Design Manager:

Milton Regis CA review work: Following an initial meeting with Cllr Davey in October 2021, I am in the process of collating the reference material for the area with a view to start compiling the review document in the new year, when further site visits will also be needed. It is planned to carry out an initial condition survey of the buildings as one element of putting together the management plan for the area to help tackle its heritage at risk status. It is clear from my most recent visit to the area that the boundary of the conservation needs very careful consideration and may need some revision. It is hoped to be able to have completed the draft of the review document in early spring 2022 with the aim being to give a presentation on this at the spring meeting of the committee as part of the public consultation.

The Sittingbourne CA review was presented to the area committee at the earlier meeting, and Jhilmil Kishore the Senior Conservation & Design Officer is now just in the process of getting the agreed form of the document edited using professional editing software and added to the Swale Borough Council website. It will be necessary to formally notify the Secretary of State of the changes to this conservation area and place notices in at least one local newspaper and the London Gazette before we can formally adopt the agreed form of the review document for development management purposes, and it is hoped that we can have this in place by late January 2022.

Periwinkle Mill Wheel Enhancement Project: An updated activity plan has just today been received from our design advisors, the East Kent Engineering Partnership. This provides estimated costs for the previously planned enhancement works as well as costings for different options to address the structural problems at the site in order to allow varying degree of volunteer access into the gated/locked site in order to assist the Council in effectively managing as a mini built and natural heritage/wildlife site. The anticipated costs of the project are significantly more (at least £20k) than the approximate sum of £30k available from the Sittingbourne Society. Whilst some of the extra costs can and will be met from the Council's Heritage Strategy budget, there is already significant pressure on that budget and so officers will be looking to see which design option(s) offer the best value for money and whether there might be any other sources of money which can be used to help fund the project to maximise the enhancement benefits that the project can bring to Swale's overall heritage offer, biodiversity gains and improvements to local visual amenity and civic pride. The Council's Conservation & Design Manager spoke on 25 November 2021 with the new management company (ManCo) for the adjacent apartment block scheme next to the site (known as Watermill Close). The ManCo is interested to see the plans for the project once they have been finalised, but based on a verbal summary of what we have planned, it was suggested that it seems like something a number of the block residents might be interested in helping to maintain as volunteers, once the physical works are complete.