

# Sheerness Area Committee

## Capital Projects Update

### Clock Tower removal and refurbishment journey

Following the removal of the Clock Tower on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 the refurbishment has taken place in Smith of Derby's workshop.



Regular updates and pictures of the restoration journey have been shared by Smith of Derby and featured on Visit Swale. Two visits to Derby have also taken place with the filming team to capture the progress and carry out interviews with Smith of Derby employees.

### Clock Tower return notification

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 Smith of Derby confirmed that the clock tower would be ready for return on 16<sup>th</sup> May and that a road closure for Broadway should be requested from KCC for 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> May.

### Preparatory Works

The timber hoarding with imagery detailing the restoration project around the clock tower site was fully removed on 3<sup>rd</sup> May in preparation for the return of the clock tower. Temporary Heras fencing was installed around the site to enable preparatory works to take place (cleaning of the granite sett surface along with concrete ball / directional arrow monolith cleaning and new uplighter installation).



## **Clock Tower return**

As planned, on 16<sup>th</sup> May at midday the two specialist HIAB loader crane vehicles arrived into the High Street from Smith of Derby's workshop carrying the four main sections of the clock tower. Work soon began within Smith of Derby's site to install the time capsule which was filled with information by the children of Rose Street Primary School, this was followed by the installation of the new metal grid floor and then the base and second section of the clock tower were lifted into position. The upper two sections were also offloaded to enable one of the two lorries to leave site.



On 17<sup>th</sup> May Smith of Derby arranged for a subcontractor to erect scaffolding around the bottom two sections to enable to clock face section and capping section with the bell to be installed safely. The clock face section followed by the capping section were then lifted into place while being witnessed by the Mayor, Cllr Bonney and Ward members.



On 18<sup>th</sup> May with the tower fully in position Smith of Derby started to install the four bracket arms and new lanterns before the scaffolding was then removed. Smith of Derby also started to install the electrical cables within the tower. UK Power Networks (UKPN) were also on site to reconnect the power supply to the tower.



### **Clock Tower works still to take place**

On 20<sup>th</sup> May the remainder of the uplighter installation is taking place and an electrician from Kirkman & Jourdain will be connecting the tails from the UKPN supply, installing the fuse board and connecting up some of the sub circuits.

During week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> May the granite seating plinth will be installed, the granite setts around the new uplighters will be put back, the meter will be installed by Npower and the electrical circuits within the tower will be commissioned to enable the clock to become operational.

Finally the Heras fencing surrounding the clock tower will be fully removed allowing the public to have access to the tower prior to the start of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

### **Footage capture, interviews and photography**

The whole of the clock tower's refurbishment journey has been captured with time lapse recordings of the removal and reinstallation processes along with interviews, clips and photographs. These will be available as soon as the editing has been completed.