

Sheppey Area Committee meeting: 6 December 2022 – Matters arising

No.	Item	Background	Update on actions
1.	Coach Parking	<p>Jenny Hurkett from the Criterion at Blue Town raised the matter of coach parking on the Isle of Sheppey.</p> <p>Owing to issues outside SBC's control, this matter could not currently be progressed but when feedback was received, any decision making would go to the Community Committee.</p> <p>A Member stated that nothing could be done about the Ship on Shore car park until it could be accessed and suggested a report go to the Community Committee seeking vacant possession. The Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods agreed to look into the legal issues.</p> <p>The Coach Parking in Sheerness Report has been deferred to a future Community Committee.</p>	<p>The Head of Environment & Leisure advised reservations were recorded on the conversion of the Ship on Shore car park for coach parking. Officers are currently revisiting the options and will come back to March Community committee.</p>
2.	Connectivity across Sheppey	<p>A question was asked at the June 2021 meeting about transport issues on the Island. The Quality Bus Partnership has been suspended while (Kent County Council) KCC look at how to set up an Enhanced Partnership which will replace the QBP.</p> <p>Divisional Member for Sheppey, County Council Cameron Beart, reported that KCC were awarded £35.1M from the Government for bus services. An update on the new Enhanced Partnership was given at the KCC Environment and Transport Committee on 7 July 2022.</p> <p>Details of the Kent Enhanced Partnership Plan and East Kent Enhanced Partnership Scheme were circulated at the September 2022 meeting.</p>	<p>The Chairman to consider how to take this forward when more is known about the new group.</p>

3.	Neptune Terrace	<p>Chris Reed, Sheerness Town Council, asked for an update on Neptune Terrace and the removal of the steps so that people could cycle from Minster to Sheerness. The Director for Regeneration & Neighbourhoods advised that it was the responsibility of the Environment Agency (EA) but they had stated they could not fund the work.</p> <p>The Head of Regeneration & Economic Development advised a letter has been sent to the EA which was shared with Sheerness Town Council. A response was received from the EA which advised that although they are supportive do not have funding for access improvements on existing flood defences, therefore this is not something that the EA is able to do. They also advised “The Environment Agency has no objections in principle to any access improvement works proposed by SBC or STC, however this would be subject to the granting of the relevant Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP), and planning permissions.”</p>	A response has been received from the EA (Appendix 1).
4.	Dumping of spoil on the Eastchurch shoreline	<p>KCC Councillor Andy Booth asked if a report could be brought back to a future Sheppey Area Committee meeting providing details about the spoil that has been dumped on the Eastchurch shoreline. He said that it was important that the public were aware of what was happening.</p> <p>The Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods advised it is not appropriate to comment publicly on live investigations but the Council is working with the relevant agencies.</p>	The Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods reported that a multi-agency group continue to explore possible options for action led by the Environment Agency.
5.	Replacement of lighting along Sheerness Promenade	The Area Committee awarded £8,048.74 of funding for the replacement of lighting along Sheerness Promenade. The Head of Environment and Leisure advised these are part of the LED upgrade works. We are awaiting the latest prices from contractors.	The Leisure & Technical Services Manager advised initial inspection has confirmed that there is no live supply to these units. Investigation underway to confirm if existing

		The latest quote was around £186,000 so our budget of £70k plus the £8k from Sheppey area committee is not enough. The work has been split into phases and the lights for Sheppey are included in Phase 1. Contractors have suggested they would be in a position to start these works towards the end of September, pending approval to proceed.	trunking can be used to run new supply and to confirm costs of new supply and if required new trunking. Sheerness remains top of phasing list.
6.	Installation of benches	The Area Committee awarded £1,400.00 of funding to install benches in the shelters overlooking the gardens by the Sheerness leisure centre. Works will be progressed by the seafront team after the main summer season.	This project is complete and the benches are now in place.
7.	Whitehouse toilet painting	the Area Committee awarded £2,500.00 of funding towards the painting of the Whitehouse toilets	The repair works have been completed and a new mural now in place.
8.	Barton's Point Covered Walkway	The Area Committee agreed Option 2 – the removal of roof slab and metal stations only at a cost of £10k. Initial quotations have been re-submitted. Decision to be taken as to which company will proceed with works.	This work is complete, the covered walkway roof and supports have been removed. The wall and pathway remain, the area is open.
9.	Coastal Policies Group	Councillor Peter MacDonald asked what progress had been made by the Coastal Policies Group regarding the change from no intervention on erosion to one of protection. The Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods advised a meeting between stakeholders and officers to progress this matter had taken place. A formal working group of the South-East Coastal group will be formed. Following initial fact finding, a report will be taken to Environment Committee detailing the options available to the Council and residents.	Ongoing

10.	Queenborough Guildhall	<p>Councillor Cameron Beart asked that the Regeneration & Property Committee look at the poor state of Queenborough Guildhall.</p> <p>An Extraordinary Regeneration & Property Committee was called for 26 September 2022 to discuss Queenborough Guildhall.</p>	<p>The Regeneration & Property Committee resolved that the inclusion of Queenborough Guildhall in the recommended programme of Condition Surveys be supported by the Committee.</p> <p>The minutes of the Extraordinary Regeneration & Property Committee meeting can be found on the website or via this Link.</p>
11.	Scrapsgate Field, Minster	<p>Councillor Cameron Beart raised the issue of Scrapsgate Field, Minster and explained that SBC used to cut and maintain a horse-riding ring on that land. This stopped due to SBC budget cuts and to protect brown nesting birds. A group of horse owners had requested to bring it back into use and were willing to contribute to the cost. Councillor Beart consulted with the Head of Leisure and Environment who advised that the support of the Sheppey Area Committee should be sought in the first instance, before taking the matter to the Environment Committee.</p> <p>The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods said that although SBC would prefer to keep the land as it was for biodiversity reasons, officers could look at the possibility of the horse-riding group leasing the land and taking on the liability.</p> <p>It was agreed that officers would take this away to see what the options were and then refer the matter to the Chair of the</p>	<p>The Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods advised that officers will be discussing the matter with the Chair of the Environment Committee as to if and when this is put on the agenda to consider.</p>

		Environment Committee to request it be added to a future agenda.	
12.	New Road Play Park, Minster-on-Sea	<p>At the September 2022 meeting members agreed a bid of £20,000.00 submitted by Councillor Elliott Jayes for improvements to New Road Play Park, Minster-on-Sea.</p> <p>Members are aware of the risk of the funding being forfeited if the funding is not spent by the end of the Civic year. An update on the progress is to be provided at the December meeting.</p>	<p>The Greenspace Technical Officer provided an update on this project. It has been agreed to leave all the existing play facilities in situ and look to integrate smaller pieces of equipment into the same area to provide different 'play values' than those already on site. An 'aerial runway' at the opposite end of the open space will be included as an additional 'option' when going out to design and tender.</p> <p>This will be going out to tender by mid/late December 2022.</p>
13.	Sheerness town centre	<p>The return of the Clock Tower marked the end of the currently funded regeneration programme for Sheerness Town Centre.</p> <p>At the September meeting the Head of Regeneration & Economic Development provided updates on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The latest situation with the LUF bid • The findings of the High Street Task Force visit • How the UKSPF bid might benefit Sheppey 	<p>The Head of Regeneration & Economic updated as follows:</p> <p>Works to Masters' House are very near completion, and an Expression of Interest process is underway to secure an operator. A simultaneous process has been launched for the Old Library at 44 Trinity Road. Combined or separate EOIs are invited.</p>

			Government's decision on our Levelling-Up Fund bid has been postponed and is now due before the end of the year.
14.	Q&R Regeneration	Six-monthly updates are provided by Homes England.	Neil Miller, Homes England, has been asked to provide an update. It will be circulated to Members when it arrives.