

Eastern Area Committee Meeting June 2023 – Matters arising

No.	Item	Background	Progress on actions
1.	Bus consultation project	<p>At the December 2021 meeting, Eastern Area Committee Members agreed to award £10,000.00 to undertake a public consultation on local bus services. The Project Centre Ltd were commissioned in February 2023 to carry out the consultation, following a delay due to a lack of resource within the department.</p>	<p>The consultation was launched on the 24 March 2023 and closed on the 27 April 2023. There were a range of different methods used to collect responses including a 22-question online survey, meetings with members of the community and a youth engagement workshop held at the Abbey School.</p> <p>There was a good response to the consultation and Project Centre Ltd are currently finalising a summary report of the findings. The final report will be brought to the Eastern Area Committee at the next meeting in September 2023.</p>
2.	Flooding in the Whitstable Road area and other parts of Faversham	<p>At the December 2022 meeting, Cllr Julian Saunders provided a written update which included a response from Sue Cobb, Southern Water (SW), about concerns raised by the Area Committee about CSO discharges and the local sewage network.</p> <p>Kent County Council (KCC) have advised investigations were successfully completed, with deeper soils 3 to 4 metres below the ground offering some permeability. They have subsequently drafted a catchment assessment and</p>	<p>The Greenspaces Manager advised that KCC Highways advised in April 2023 that planned works on Whitstable Road in May 2023 will help alleviate some of the matters raised by residents. They have further assessed the use of soakaways in the Recreation Ground, but advised doing so</p>

		<p>are working on designs and costs which would be capable of absorbing at least part, but not all of the run-off.</p> <p>At the February 2023 meeting the Chair gave further updates from KCC and SW. Residents referred to flooding in Whitstable Road, Faversham, in particular commenting on the hydraulic overloading of the combined and foul sewers owned by SW, roads being blocked by flooding which stopped emergency vehicles getting through and concerns about a crack in the fresh-water supply pipe which could cause a contamination of drinking water risk when flooding occurred.</p> <p>The Chair of the Environment Committee wrote to Central Government about the issue of flooding in rural areas. Due to changing weather patterns, drains were not able to cope and this was now a problem for residents across the Borough of Swale.</p>	<p>would require multiple soakaways, pushing up cost and the level of disturbance, versus the benefits it would bring. Therefore, delivering the work in Whitstable Road and monitoring the effectiveness seemed more appropriate at this time.</p> <p>Given the above information, Swale has started to once again consider how to slow and reduce water run-off from the Rec, to try to reduce the impacts.</p> <p>The letter to Central Government about flooding issues and the response received (Appendix I & II) are attached to this report.</p>
3.	Active Travel update	At the February 2023 meeting, the Active Travel Co-ordinator gave an update on the Faversham Active Travel Fund Tranche 4 proposals.	Please see Appendix III for an update.
4.	Town to Parishes project	In March 2021, the Eastern Area Committee allocated Faversham Town Council £12,500.00 to undertake a Faversham Parishes to Town Project. Mr Adrian Berendt, from Berendt Consulting Ltd attended the Eastern Area Committee meeting in December 2022 to provide an update on the progress of the project.	Adrian Berendt advised the report is now complete and due to be signed off by Faversham Town Council on Monday 15th May. It will then become an appendix to the Faversham LCWIP. The Town Council is sharing it with neighbouring parishes and

			<p>intends to submit it to the Swale JTB for formal endorsement and recognition by KCC and SBC as they develop their plans for active travel. The report is available to read under Appendix IV of this Matters Arising update.</p>
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