

Sittingbourne Area Committee: Progress on matters arising - September 2023

No.	Item	Background	Update on actions
1.	Sittingbourne Tennis Club	<p>A report concerning the proposed improvements to Milton Rec & King George's PF tennis courts was considered by the Area Committee at the December 2022 meeting and the Lawn Tennis Associations proposals were supported by Members.</p> <p>A report on the Tennis Court Improvement Project was taken to the Community Committee on 1 March 2023. The designated usage of courts from multi-use to tennis only at Milton Recreation Ground was agreed. It was also agreed that there would be a sinking fund commitment and ongoing maintenance responsibility as part of the bid for funding from the LTA and that the Council applied for improvement funding from the LTA.</p>	<p>Contracts have now been signed and works commenced on 10 August at both locations. Works are scheduled to last between 8 and 10 weeks. Signage has been installed and a new online bookings system at Milton is being designed. King George's already has online bookings available. The Tennis Club at Milton have been informed throughout the process. Works have progressed well in the first week with no issues of note.</p>
2.	Sports facilities in the area	<p>The Built Facilities Strategy (BFS) will go to the September 2023 Community Committee for adoption. Following that any Sittingbourne specific actions can be reported to the Area Committee.</p>	<p>The review meeting took place on 10 August 2023. The BFS is scheduled to go to October Community Committee meeting.</p>
3.	Pond safety in Swale	<p>A discussion took place on what could be done about the safety of ponds in Swale. A letter was sent by the Chair to the Swale Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) to see what sessions they could hold to</p>	<p>KCC Divisional Member Mike Dendor raised the issue of pond safety with the KFRS Director of Response and Resilience who advised that they do already go to some schools to talk about inland water safety, but they are currently</p>

		educate children and parents about safety around ponds.	reviewing their educational programme. He has agreed to have further discussions on expanding/improving the programme.
4.	Coombe Drive	A resident raised the issue of vandalism taking place in the alleyway at the back of houses on Coombe Drive, Sittingbourne. Residents had requested that the alleyway be shut and had raised this with SBC.	The Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to gate the alley way between Elm Grove and Coombe Drive has now been implemented and gates installed.
5.	Heritage issues	<p>The Conservation & Design Team have been providing regular updates on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sittingbourne High Street Conservation Area Review; and • Milton Regis Conservation Area Review. 	<p>The Conservation & Design Team provided the following updates:</p> <p>The Sittingbourne Conservation Area Review - The adopted version of the Conservation Area appraisal document is now published on the Swale Borough Council website, along with a link to the latest map of the Conservation Area. All formal legislative requirements regarding notifications to local residents, the parish council, local newspaper, and the London Gazette are complete.</p> <p>Milton Regis Conservation Area Review - The consultant (Peter Bell) is in the process of being appointed to undertake the review work. Public Consultation for the document is estimated to be undertaken towards the end of the year (2023)/early 2024.</p>
6.	Periwinkle Water Mill Site	Regular updates have been given on this project.	Please see Appendix 1 for an update by the Conservation & Design Team.

7.	Swale Local Heritage List	Updates have been given at previous meetings on the Swale Local Heritage List.	<p>The 6-week duration initially provided for invitation for nominations was extended by another 3 weeks and finally concluded on 17th July 2023. The officers are in the process of collating all the nominations received.</p> <p>There will be a Selection Panel set up in Autumn 2023 to assess those considered worthy of including on the Local Heritage List</p>
8.	Swale Public Transport Group	<p>Mr Jackie Davidson (resident) said before the Pandemic there used to be a Swale Public Transport Group led by SBC which looked at improving public transport in Swale. Mr Davidson asked if this group could be reinstated.</p> <p>Related to this the Chair confirmed that bus companies and representatives from KCC would be invited to the September 2023 Sittingbourne Area Committee meeting.</p>	<p>The Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods advised there were currently no plans to reinstate the Swale Public Transport Group.</p> <p>Before the pandemic there was a group that met called the Quality Bus Partnership (QBP). This was run by KCC. This stopped due to the government's new approach to bus infrastructure and their requirement that KCC establish what's called an Enhanced Partnership. This is run at a strategic level by KCC. It is responsible for delivering the county's Bus Service Improvement Plan. As such it will not cover any local district issues. To fill that gap, KCC are suggesting EP Local Focus Group (EP LFGs) meetings be set up in each district. They are happy to send representatives but cannot resource it like they used to do the QBP and so are asking districts to set up and resource them. These are not a statutory requirement.</p>

			<p>As such SBC are looking at if the local focus group should be set up and resourced. This is being discussed by members in September. If it is agreed to be set up it will be held every 6 months and be a forum for SBC, KCC and local bus operators to come together to discuss issues.</p> <p>Representatives of Stagecoach and Chalkwell have confirmed they will be attending the September 2023 meeting, a discussion will take place under item 5.</p>
9.	Anti-social behaviour	<p>Members reported a number of anti-social behaviour incidents in Sittingbourne Town Centre and Milton Regis High Street.</p> <p>It was agreed to invite a representative from Kent Police to a future Sittingbourne Area Committee.</p>	<p>The Policy & Engagement Officer has passed on details of the incidents to the Community Services Manager and responses were fed back to the Members.</p> <p>A representative of the Police will be attending the December 2023 meeting.</p>