

Update for Sittingbourne Area Committee – 5 September 2023

By the Conservation & Design Team of Swale Borough Council.

Periwinkle Water Mill Enhancement Project

In view of the sole tender quote which came in at the end of last year significantly over the anticipated budget, the Conservation & Design Team has been in the process of exploring an alternative procurement option given the need to keep the project within budget.

In liaison with project advisors East Kent Engineering Partnership and the Council's Health, Safety & Risk Officer, the team has concluded it is feasible to eliminate structural interventions to limit project costs by combination of site management and warning signage/info, in order to help ensure that the project can be delivered within budget. Officers were previously waiting for an estimate for the landscaping works from the Council's term landscape contractors for green spaces, having already received a favourable estimate from a separate contractor for the general building and metalwork fabrication/installation needed. However, the term landscape contractor has advised it is not in a position to be able to carry out the proposed landscaping works, so we now have an updated quote from the Council's term building contractor for the landscaping works (in addition to the building related work), which is reasonable, this being based on the landscaping works being carried out by a subcontractor.

Landscaping works being carried out by the Council's term building contractor (albeit in the form of it managing a specialist subcontractor) is outside the scope of the Council's contract arrangement with the company, so officers are in the process of applying for the waiver which would need to be agreed to allow officers to effectively work around this issue. If the waiver is agreed, as anticipated, it is expected that works should be able to commence in September or October 2023, with the landscaping works being the last element of work to be carried out, to coincide with the start of the autumn planting season.