

Sheppey Area Committee meeting: 5 December 2023 – Matters arising

No.	Item	Background	Progress on actions
1.	Dumping of spoil on the Eastchurch shoreline	<p>The multi-agency group, led by the Environment Agency, secured a restriction order at Third Avenue, Eastchurch. This has resulted in all dumping activity coming to a stop at the location. We continue to monitor other sites on the Isle of Sheppey that may still be active.</p> <p>The agency group continue to meet to look at the next steps.</p>	<p>There continues to be no tipping at the Restriction Order site.</p> <p>New signage has been placed at the two beach level entry points to Eastchurch gap (Minster Leas and Warden Point) to warn people around cliff dangers and hazardous materials.</p> <p>The agency group continue to meet and monitor other sites.</p>
2.	Beach Hut proposal	<p>The decision to proceed with Phase 1 (Minster x 12 & Leysdown x 14) was agreed at the Regeneration & Property Committee on 6 July 2023. Target for live tender was the end of September 2023 with construction intended ready for the start of April 2024.</p>	<p>The tender process resulted in 6 companies submitting a tender. Unfortunately, all 6 came in over the agreed budget and as such a decision has been taken to not award contract at this time. Officers are currently looking at revising the specification to hopefully still deliver the new huts by April next year.</p>
3.	Active Travel update	<p>SBC had received funding from the Capability and Ambition Fund for a feasibility study to improve connectivity between Minster, Sheerness, Queenborough and Halfway. The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) was progressing, funding had been received to do detailed route mapping.</p> <p>Consultants WSP have been fully briefed and started work on a Sheppey Towns Active</p>	<p>The Active Travel Coordinator advised that consultants WSP have completed analysis work for the Sheppey Towns Active Travel Connectivity Feasibility Study and held a Community Engagement Workshop at the Healthy Living Centre on Wednesday 18 October 2023. Based on the feedback, a draft network has been drawn up and categorised as Primary and Secondary (primary being the</p>

		Travel Connectivity Feasibility Study. This work is expected to be completed in November 2023.	most direct route connecting to key destinations with the secondary routes joining up the network). The network will be audited towards the end of November. Further funding is being sought to extend the work.
4.	Sheerness- Marine Town & Mile Town Conservation Area Review	Six weeks public consultation for both the Conservation Area reviews closed on Friday 6 October 2023. It is envisaged that the adopted versions of both the Conservation Areas will be published on Swale Borough Council website by Spring 2024.	The Senior Conservation & Design Officer advised that both the reports are scheduled to be presented to Planning and Transportation Policy Working Group on 23 November 2023 and to the Policy and Resources Committee on 7 February 2024. It is envisaged that the adopted versions of both the Conservation Areas will be published on Swale Borough Council website by spring 2024.
5.	20 is Plenty	A question was asked if SBC were considering expanding the '20 is Plenty' speed limit to all the residential streets in Sheerness to make it safer for children getting to school. Kent County Council (KCC) Councillor Andy Booth, Divisional Member for Sheppey said he would take this back to KCC.	Update from KCC Divisional Member for Sheppey, Andy Booth – <i>“Regarding the 20 is plenty scheme, there have been a number of cases where exploration into reducing current speed limits in Swale has been undertaken. Any reduction in speed limits must pass through a comprehensive consultation process with all interested parties being able to contribute. This can be arranged via Swale Borough Council. It is evident that some of the schemes that have been adopted are proving difficult to police... with persistent offenders continuing their disregard for the law. The Police generally are unable to respond to incidents of speeding due to their limited manpower struggles. There are 'speedwatch' groups in Swale but these have</i>

			<p><i>no powers to enforce. The majority of road users are considerate and adhere to the speed limits - I would urge caution, if a consultation is successful the resulting limit reduction is pretty much unenforceable. Happy to discuss with individuals or groups as necessary."</i></p>
6.	Sheerness High Street traffic	<p>A question was asked if double yellow lines could be introduced along Sheerness High Street as there was a lot of traffic in that area where motorists were looking for parking space which was dangerous for pedestrians. KCC Councillor Andy Booth, Divisional Member for Sheppey said he would take this back to KCC.</p>	<p>Update from KCC Divisional Member for Sheppey, Andy Booth – <i>"Regarding the double-yellow line parking restrictions, there is a procedure in place to request additional parking and waiting restrictions on our roads. This will again have to travel through both KCC and SBC to investigate whether the request is appropriate and viable. I cannot subscribe to having double yellow lines the full length of the high street (Sheerness). There are appropriate parking bays along this route as well as prohibitive signage advising of permitted parking times. Of course, if individuals or groups have concerns, they can contact me directly as appropriate."</i></p>