

## Matters Arising Report to Eastern Area Committee

### New actions/issues and progress with ongoing actions

No.	Item	Background	Actions/updates
1.	Community tensions	<p>Concerns were raised about a significant increase in community tensions within the Faversham area. This escalation was directly linked to the “Raise the Colours” campaign and the placement of various flags on local lampposts and buildings. There had been reports of increased levels of intimidation and racism which was causing distress to some members of the community, particularly those from ethnic minority backgrounds. The hostile atmosphere was also affecting the community's reputation. There were concerns about the anti-immigration march planned for Saturday 6 September 2025.</p> <p>The following actions were agreed and completed shortly after the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Head of Housing &amp; Community Services would check with Planning Enforcement to see if breach of Planning action could be taken where flags were placed in conservation areas and if Section 215 notices could be issued to deal with the matter via littering legislation.</li> </ul>	<p>Letters were sent as agreed to the Police and Crime Commissioner and to the Community Safety Partnership. The Community Safety Partnership discussed the tension issues at great length at their meeting in October. Initial actions included reviewing advice, support and training available to officers and Members in relation to managing community tensions. Research is also being undertaken with other locations deemed good practice, along with contacting MHCLG as the lead Government department for this issue. Possible project proposals will be considered at the CSPs next meeting, along with wider action to be considered as part of the refresh of the community safety plan. Individual agencies, including Swale BC have also developed their own action plan and are continuing to coordinate appropriate actions.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chair would ask the SBC Leader to write to the KCC Leader, the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner and local Member of Parliament requesting a coordinated and robust response to the community tensions.</li> <li>• The Chair refer the matter of community tensions to the CSP and request that they in turn report to the Chair of the Housing, Health &amp; Communities Committee Chair.</li> <li>• The Chair write to Kent Police and Crime Commissioner and local Member of Parliament requesting a coordinated and robust response to the community tensions.</li> </ul>	
<b>2.</b>	Reconnecting our Ancient Woodlands proposal.	At the September 2025 meeting Cllr Terry Thompson gave a presentation on the Reconnecting our Ancient Woodlands proposal. He said that he had been working with local MPs, councillors, wildlife groups and landowners, to develop a proposal to reconnect the ancient woodland from Kings Wood and Perry Wood, north-eastward to the Blean Woodland Nature Reserve and east Blean at Hoath, to connect essential wildlife habitats and re-create a landscape-scale forest in east Kent.	Initial discussions with Greenspaces and Planning officers have taken place and a meeting is being scheduled with Cllr Thompson to better understand the implications of this proposal, ahead of then taking something to Committee.

		<p>Councillor Thompson said he was seeking written support for this project from Eastern Area Committee, the Environmental Services and Climate Change Committee and SBC.</p> <p>It was agreed that Eastern Area Committee refer this matter to the Chair of the Environmental Services and Climate Change Committee to consider providing written support for the Reconnecting our Ancient Woodlands proposal.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	Litterlotto App	An SBC councillor asked if it was possible to have the Litterlotto App in Faversham. The way it worked was if anyone took a picture of litter as they placed it in a bin and submitted it on the app, they had a chance to win a prize.	This has been considered by officers and councillors previously. It requires a cost to the Council to sign up, somewhere in the region of £6,000 per year and was deemed not to be good value for money with our limited resources.
<b>4.</b>	Whiting Crescent	The Councillor for St Anne's Ward asked if it would be possible to install goal posts on the green at Whiting Crescent, Faversham instead of play equipment as they would not require much maintenance and it would provide a facility for older children.	The Green Spaces Officer meet with the Councillor for St Anne's Ward on site and agreed the position for the equipment to the rear of the open space away from housing. They agreed that standard posts would not be suitable but the team have a used MUGA frame which could be fitted when renovated. Faversham Town Council and an SBC Member have agreed to fund the installation costs.
<b>5.</b>	Taxi-rank, Faversham Railway Station	A Faversham Town Councillor said that enforcement of the taxi-rank at Faversham Railway Station was not taking place. It was	The Engineering Manager reports that this location has had a history schemes discussed/trialled at Joint Transportation Board, but the ongoing resident parking issues in the

		<p>suggested that the public should have a drop-off area.</p> <p>It was agreed to refer the matter to the Chair of the Swale Joint Transportation Board to request that the whole area was reviewed.</p> <p>The request to review the area around Faversham Railway Station was discussed at the Swale Joint Transportation Board Chair's briefing. It was agreed that this was an enforcement issue and should be referred directly to the Head of Environment &amp; Leisure for action not an agenda item for the JTB</p>	<p>vicinity have generally meant that new proposals have not been taken forward.</p> <p>Option 1 is what we currently do. Number 2 may still not be feasible:</p> <p>Option 1 – Enforcement – Issue of Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) would be a first step. The use of the PCN might stop the use of the rank by other members of the public. However, outside the hours of enforcement, no action can be taken against the transgressors. We currently use our 15,000 patrol hours with the contractor to cover all restrictions across the Borough and our car parks, so cannot have a constant presence in any one location.</p> <p>Option 2 – use of CCTV cameras and imposition of fine for those who park on the Taxi rank. The use of CCTV cameras for moving traffic offences is governed by KCC and not well tested across the county yet. This may be something that new unitary authorities look at in future.</p>
6.	Conservation Area Reviews	<p>The Conservation &amp; Design Team report progress on the following Conservation Area Reviews to the Area Committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faversham - Preston Next Conservation Area</li> <li>• Faversham- Town Conservation Area</li> </ul>	<p><b>Faversham - Preston Next Conservation Area</b></p> <p>The Conservation Area appraisal was presented to the Policy &amp; Resources Committee on the 7 of February 2024, where in it was unanimously agreed to adopt the proposed document along with the proposed Boundary changes. The adopted document is now published on the</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cellar Hill &amp; Greenstreet Conservation Area</li> <li>• Graveney Bridge, Graveney Church and Graveney Goodnestone Conservation Area</li> </ul>	<p>Swale Borough website and notifications to the properties within the conservation area have been sent, and press notification to London Gazette and Kentish gazette were published on 14 August 2025.</p> <p><b>Faversham- Town Conservation Area</b> - The Conservation Area appraisal was presented to the Policy &amp; Resources Committee on the 20 of March 2024, where in it was unanimously agreed to adopt the proposed document along with the proposed Boundary changes. Next step is to finalise the document with the proposed changes and send notifications to the properties within the conservation area and to London Gazette. It is envisaged that the final adopted document will be updated on the SBC website by Spring 2026.</p> <p><b>Cellar Hill &amp; Greenstreet Conservation Area</b> At the November 2024 P&amp;R Committee, it was agreed that another round of public consultation is undertaken to review additional boundary changes and the document be adopted under delegated powers. The public consultation on Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan document concluded on 19 September 2025. Press notifications to London Gazette and a local newspaper are being published on 5th December 2025. Final adopted document is envisaged to be published on the SBC website by mid- December 2025.</p>
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			<b>Graveney Bridge, Graveney Church and Graveney Goodnestone Conservation Area Review</b> - The public consultation on Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan document concluded on 10 October 2025. The findings of the public consultation are expected to be presented to the February/March 2026 Policy & Resources Committee.
7.	Heritage issues	<p><b>Area of Special Control of Advertisements (ASCA)</b></p> <p>Swale Borough Council currently does not have an ASCA. Since the adoption of the Heritage Strategy in 2020 and subsequent Action Plans wherein a number of Conservation Areas have been reviewed, it has been proposed that in order to better manage and maintain Swale's historic environment and heritage, targeted ASCA can prove beneficial for Conservation Areas with a commercial centre.</p> <p>Any designation needs to be based on public consultation and must follow specific legal steps, including consideration of the order by the Secretary of State.</p> <p>Following an all members briefing in May 2024, it was agreed that a draft consultation document be prepared for approval by the PTPWG and Policy &amp; Resources</p>	<p>The draft consultation document is now ready and scheduled to be presented to PTPWG on 18 December 2025 followed by Policy &amp; Resources Committee in February 2026.</p>

		Committee, before undertaking public consultation.	
<b>8.</b>	Heritage issues	<p><b>Swale Local Heritage List</b></p> <p>The Selection Panel met on 17 October 2024; 278 nominations were presented out of which 150 were shortlisted to be designated as Swale's Local Heritage.</p> <p>The proposed designation list was presented to the Policy &amp; Resources Committee on 27 November 2024, wherein it was unanimously agreed to designate the shortlisted assets with addition of one more asset- taking the total to 151 designated assets on Local Heritage List. The mapping work on SBC GIS system and associated data organisation that will include photo and brief description of each asset is ongoing.</p>	<p>At the Selection Panel meeting there were several deferrals. Also, the team have identified a few geographical gaps in terms of current nominations and wish to include some recommendations emerging from Conservation Area appraisal work. As such, an additional call for 'invitation to nominate' Local Heritage assets concluded on 31 October 2025. The Selection Panel is scheduled to meet on Tuesday 13 January 2026. Following that, it is anticipated the list would be updated every three years following a call for nominations and Selection Panel. The next one being scheduled for 2028.</p> <p>In addition to the above, a protocol for urgent designation of assets on Local Heritage was adopted at the June 2025 Policy &amp; Resources committee.</p>
<b>9.</b>	Area Committees Review	A review of Area Committees is currently underway and Area Committees were consulted during the summer round of meetings. The public, councillors and officers were consulted for their views.	The Member Working Group have reviewed the consultation responses, along with feedback from the sessions at Area Committee meetings. They have developed 14 recommendations which were agreed at the Policy & Resources Committee on 26 November 2025. They will now go to Full Council for final approval and if agreed will come into effect from May 2026.
<b>10.</b>	Public Toilet Facilities Public Consultation	The public toilet consultation was carried out based the recommendations in the July Environmental Services and Climate Change	There were over 800 consultation responses; 60 of which were paper submissions and 752 online. All the feedback from residents, visitors, Area

		<p>Committee report. The public consultation lasted 12 weeks was opened to Swale residents, visitors, community groups and businesses to ensure as many people could take part. Everyone was encouraged to share their honest opinions, particularly from representative groups such as those with a disability, older people, families with young children or those who are pregnant. There were also posters in all the public toilet facilities, posters in all Council offices along with paper forms, advertised on the Swale website and social media, shared with the local press, Area Committee presentations and directly contacting representative organisations (such as, Swale CVS, Age UK, Swale Seniors Forum, Freedom Centre and others).</p>	<p>Committees, Community groups, Town/Parish Councils, letters and petitions have been collated and were presented at the Environmental Services and Climate Change Committee on 12 November 2025 along with recommendations.</p> <p>Swale Borough Council Councillors agreed to new proposals to transform public conveniences. These new proposals expect to generate saving that can be used to ensure that the Council maintains financial stability and continue to deliver statutory services for our residents.</p> <p>Residents can now expect several public conveniences to be managed by Town and Parish Councils who are able to effectively keep public conveniences open and respond to local demand.</p> <p>We will also be working with local businesses to allow residents and visitors to use their toilet facilities free of charge. To participate businesses must be inclusive well-placed businesses with convenient operating hours, who will in turn receive contributions towards upkeep.</p> <p>To help residents and visitors be better informed about the locations of publicly accessible toilets, there will be information added to the Swale website and updated regularly. This will enable residents and visitors to plan their journeys more</p>
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<b>11.</b>	Swale Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)	A public consultation was carried out to assist with the development of a Swale-wide Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan. Area Committees gave their feedback at the September 2025 round of Area Committee Meetings.	<p>The LCWIP consultation closed on the 26th October 2025 with a total of 82 engagements ranging from paper responses, comments on map pins and on-line completions of the questionnaire. Currently, the feedback is being collated and analysed by consultants. Once this is done, necessary amendments will be completed and the report will go back to Committee for feedback. When the Committee is happy with the final report, this will then form part of the Council plan and can be cited for funding bids to start to design the routes in the LCWIP.</p> <p>A thank you to all that took the time to complete this complicated consultation.</p>

