

Cabinet	Agenda Item: 6
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Meeting Date	4 November 2015
Report Title	Local Engagement Forums September 2015
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Localism
SMT Lead	Pete Raine
Head of Service	Emma Wiggins
Lead Officer	Brooke Buttfeld
Key Decision	No
Classification	Open
Forward Plan	Yes

Recommendations	1. To note and consider the discussion and outcomes of the three Local Engagement Forums held during September 2015.
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Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 The report draws together notes of the discussion, outcomes and recommendations for Cabinet to consider following the recent Swale Local Engagement Forums (LEFs) of Faversham (9 September 2015), Sheppey (15 September 2015), and Sittingbourne (29 September 2015.)
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to formalise the reporting relationship and encourage greater connectivity between the LEFs and Swale Borough Council's (SBC) Cabinet.
- 1.3 The report demonstrates to residents the potential of their forums to advise and influence local public services.
- 1.4 The next Swale Local Engagement Forums are being held during September 2015; Faversham (1 December 2015), Sheppey (8 December 2015), and Sittingbourne (15 December 2015). Cabinet is also asked to consider and suggest agenda items for future LEFs.

2 Background

- 2.1 The LEFs are one of the key consultation methods for the Council, providing a route for residents as a group to advise on the shape and future of public services in the borough. This report summarises the You Said We Did reports that are compiled after each LEF, including discussion and outcomes from the LEF for noting and discussion by the SBC Cabinet. It is hoped that this report will foster a two way dialogue. This report summarises the You Said We Did reports which are available online: <http://www.swale.gov.uk/LEF/>.

3 Proposal

- 3.1 To note the outcomes from each meeting (shown in Table 1) and feedback to the LEF chairmen as appropriate.

Table 1

Faversham LEF 8 September 2015 – Chairman Cllr Anita Walker
Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kent Police led a discussion about the current work taking place with the community to encourage various areas to take up speed watch by introducing the ‘20 is Plenty’ speed reduction campaign.• Mark Radford, Director of Corporate Services, outlined the planning consent conditions for Domino’s Pizza in Faversham and residents and members raised issues.• Charlotte Hudson, Economy and Community Services Manager, and Stephanie Curtis, Safer and Stronger Communities Officer, attended the meeting to run a short consultation on SBC’s Community Safety Priority Setting exercise.• A representative from the Natural England gave a presentation on the England Coast Path and answered questions from residents and Members’ on the new National Trail around England’s entire coast.
Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following the discussion led by Kent Police, the community were updated on the progress of the scheme and reassured that the Police are liaising with the community to make the area a safer place for residents.• The issues raised by residents and members regarding the new takeaway in Faversham were answered by Mark Radford, and any unable to be answered were reported back in the You Said We Did, for further clarification at the next Faversham LEF.• Residents and members were informed of the online questionnaire and were able to share their views on crime and anti-social behaviour in the area.• The community and members were made aware of the current progress in relation to development of the Coast Path and also information around the drop-in events which will be taking place in Faversham.
Sheppey LEF 15 September 2015 – Chairman Cllr Ken Ingleton
Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kent Police responded to various questions raised by the public in relation to the Pony and Trap Drive which took place through the Island in August, by outlining what Kent Police did about the situation, and what suggestions have been made to the organisers if the event was to happen again in the future.• Sarah Williams, Assistant Director at Swale CVS, provided an update in relation to Big Local Eastern Sheppey and the improvements the scheme has made to the eastern end of the Island.• Members of the Forum discussed the Sheppey Lower Road and cycle track, highlighting safer alternatives for the road.• Bill Ronan provided the Forum with information about the Kent Environment Strategy Consultation and how to express their points in relation to the strategy.
Outcomes

- Residents and members were reassured about the event and precautions taken, and were also informed of various ways to report any concerns/complaints they had in relation to the event.
- Residents and members were made aware of the positive implications the scheme has had on the eastern end of the Island and were also informed of how to get involved in the partnership.
- Suggestions were taken on board by Swale Borough Council and residents were reassured that the particular route is on the agenda at SBC and a consultation is planned for the near future.
- Residents and members were made aware of the Kent Environment Strategy Consultation and were able to receive answers to any queries they had.

Sittingbourne LEF 29 September 2015 – Chairman Cllr Sue Gent

Issues

- Kent Police led a discussion about the ‘Swale Safe’ partnership, highlighting that it is a business crime reduction partnership between Swale town retailers and other town centre businesses, SBC and Kent Police.
- A representative from the Natural England gave a presentation on the England Coast Path and answered questions from residents and Members’ on the new National Trail around England’s entire coast.
- Charlotte Hudson, Economy and Community Services Manager, and Stephanie Curtis, Safer and Stronger Communities Officer, attended the meeting to run a short consultation on SBC’s Community Safety Priority Setting exercise.
- An update was provided by representatives from Kent Science Park in relation to the 20 year masterplan which was been developed for the site.
- Cllr Roger Clark asked for action to stop lorries parking overnight in Tribune Drive, Trinity Trading Estate, Sittingbourne.

Outcomes

- Residents were informed of the Swale Safe partnership and reassured that retail crime is on the agenda at Kent Police and were also made aware of how to become a member of Swale Safe.
- The community and members were made aware of the current progress in relation to development of the Coast Path and also information around the drop-in events which will be taking place in the area.
- Residents and members were informed of the online questionnaire and were able to share their views on crime and anti-social behaviour in the area.
- Residents and members were informed of the current masterplan and were notified of various consultation events happening in the area to formally submit their views and ideas.
- Tony Henley responded to Cllr Clark saying that he was aware of the problem, which had been raised previously by Cllr Clark and by Gordon Henderson MP, and his sergeant is looking into this and would be making recommendations.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 Not applicable as this is an update report for noting and consideration.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 The public were given the opportunity at each LEF to question and challenge public sector representatives about the issues discussed at the meeting.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The LEFs contribute towards the SBC corporate priority of Embracing Localism as they are one of the key projects for empowering local residents. In particular they contribute to the aims of enabling members to champion communities and improving local consultation and engagement.
Financial, Resource and Property	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Legal and Statutory	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Crime and Disorder	Residents can engage directly with senior police officers at the meetings.
Sustainability	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Health and Wellbeing	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Risk Management and Health and Safety	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Equality and Diversity	One of the aims of the You Said We Did is to report the issues raised and questions asked at the meeting as accurately as possible, so as not to discriminate against anyone who raises an issue at the meeting. The reports remain live and residents can challenge it they are incorrect. If the amendment is approved, they are then updated on the online version of the report.

7 Appendices

- 7.1 There are no additional documents to be published with this report.

8 Background Papers

- 8.1 [LEF Terms of Reference](#)