

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL      LOCAL BOARDS**

**NOTES OF MEETING  
SHEPPEY LOCAL ENGAGEMENT FORUM**

**Date Tuesday, 28 April 2009**

**Venue: Sheppey Leisure Complex, The Broadway, Sheerness, Kent**

**Present:**

**Local Board Members: Andrew Bowles, Adrian Crowther, Keith Ferrin, Tom Gates, Angela Harrison, Brenda Simpson and Roger Truelove**

**Apologies for absence:**

**KCC Officers:**

		<b>Action</b>
<b>A13.</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	
	<p>SHEPPEY LOCAL ENGAGEMENT FORUM</p> <p>MINUTES of the Meeting held in the De Lacey Hall, Broadway, Sheerness on Tuesday 28th April 2009 from 7:00 pm to 9:32 pm.</p> <p>PRESENT: Councillor John Morris (Chairman), Councillors Mick Constable, Mark Ellen, David Garside, Paul Hayes, Lesley Ingham, Kenneth Pugh, Pat Sandle, David Sargent, Paul Sturdgess and Worrall. Kent Association of Local Councils Representative: Mr Pye (Queenborough Town Council). Kent County Councillors: Mr Adrian Crowther and Ms Harrison (Vice-Chairman).</p> <p>OFFICERS PRESENT: Philippa Davies, Ketra Najjingo, Bob Pullen, Mark Radford, Kelly Walker and Jean Wood (all Swale Borough Council (SBC)) and Bill Ronan (Kent County Council (KCC)).</p> <p>ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Inspector Tony Henley and Inspector Applegate (Kent Police), Eileen Martin and Elizabeth Smith (AmicusHorizon) and David Miekle (Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust (PCT)). Messrs Kemp, Lewis and Moore (local residents).</p> <p>APOLOGIES: Councillor Andy Booth.</p>	

	<p>871 MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th January 2009 (Minute Nos. 609 - 619) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the amendment that Mr Tatton spoke as Chairman of Warden Parish Council and Mr Pursord spoke as Chairman of Leysdown Parish Council.</p> <p>In response to a question, the Chairman confirmed that, with regard to the replacement of the 'Welcome to the Isle of Sheppey' sign, discussions were ongoing.</p> <p>Councillor Worrall raised concern with the lack of progress to repairs to the road surface in Millennium Way. He welcomed the update on pressure jet washing at the last meeting and requested that The Broadway, Sheerness also be jet washed. The Chairman agreed to look into this.</p> <p>Chairman</p>	
<b>A14.</b>	<b>Declarations</b>	
	<p>872 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>No interests were declared.</p>	
<b>A15.</b>	<b>Apologies for absence</b>	
	<p>APOLOGIES: Councillor Andy Booth.</p>	
<b>A16.</b>	<b>Public Engagement Session</b>	
	<p>873 PUBLIC SESSION</p> <p>Mr Kemp, a local resident, reported that a street lamp had gone missing following highway works that had been carried out on the street where he lived and requested to know what had happened to it.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that a response would be sent to him.</p> <p>Democratic Services Officer</p> <p>Mr Moore, a local resident, asked who had given authority for the public toilets at Beach Approach to close. He questioned why no notices had been put up and reported that there had been no prior notification.</p>	

The Chairman advised that a response would be sent to him.

Chairman

The Chairman brought the Forum's attention to the questions and responses attached the agenda. The response to Question one was considered later in the meeting under the Update from Partners.

Question 2

Councillor Worrall was not satisfied with the response from KHS. Bill Ronan (KCC Community Liaison Manager) advised that he would take the question back to KCC.

Community Liaison Manager

Question 3 and 4

Bill Ronan advised that there had been lack of space in the Kent publication for an article regarding 100 years of aviation on the Isle of Sheppey to be included. He explained that KCC supported the centenary.

The Chairman advised that there would be a fly pass, from Sheerness to Southend, on Friday 1st May 2009 as part of the centenary celebrations.

Councillor Adrian Crowther (KCC) raised concern with the amount of shops in the High Street that had been forced to close as the reduction in business rates had been withdrawn.

Councillor Harrison (KCC) advised that shop owners had been made aware that the discretionary rate for businesses had come to an end. The Chairman advised that the Budget Task Force would look at this issue next year.

Councillor Sandle reminded Members that she had requested that the works to the junction of the B2231 and Scocles Road and the junction of Rowetts Way with the B2231 be programmed into the PIPKIN bids for 2010/2011 (Minute No. 614/01/09 refers, Sheppey Local Engagement Forum). She explained that there were a lot of potholes in the area and also raised concern that Kent Highway Services (KHS) did not engage with the local community. Councillor Sandle had hoped that a meeting was going to be arranged between the Four Parishes and KHS to carry

this forward, but nothing had been arranged. She raised concern that the issue would be delayed until the next meeting of the Swale Joint Transportation Board.

The Chairman advised that a letter would be written to the Chairman of the Swale Joint Transportation Board and the Community Delivery Manager to request a meeting with the Four Parishes.

Councillor Worrall asked, with regard to funding available from the Local Engagement Forums (LEF), who was responsible for paying the money out and what was the criteria for local communities to bid for the funds.

The Policy and Performance Officer responded to Councillor Worrall. He advised that £100,000 had been allotted each year to the three LEFs and that the Sheppey LEF could receive around £30,000 of that amount, although arrangements had not been finalised. He advised that the LEFs needed to decide how to prioritise the bids for the funding. Some funding would also come from KCC Members. The Policy and Performance Officer explained that there would be more details of the funding procedures at the next meeting of the Sheppey LEF on 21st July 2009.

Bill Ronan advised that the KCC Members would make recommendations for funding and these would go to the Cabinet Member for a formal decision. He stated that the LEFs would provide a sounding board for projects for the funding and that it was crucial that the public became involved in this. Elected KCC Members would also have £25,000 of funding to allocate to highway projects.

Councillor Worrall explained that members of the public were unaware of the funding from the LEFs and he suggested that it should be advertised and made public.

The Chairman raised concern with the lack of members of the public and the press in attendance at the meeting. In response to a question, the Chairman advised that there were limited members of the LEFs who were allowed to vote on issues that were raised.

Bill Ronan suggested that it be advertised that the LEFs had funding to allocate and emphasised the importance of receiving public input and engagement on how the money should be distributed.

Councillor Sturdgess suggested that a flow chart be produced for the public to show the procedure for making bids and how the

	<p>funding was allocated.</p> <p>Discussion ensued on the attendance at the LEF meetings and Members considered ways of increasing engagement. The Policy and Performance Officer explained that Swale Borough Council already had a presence on Twitter (a social networking and microblogging website that utilises text messaging and the internet to distribute information) and suggested that this could be utilised to promote and advertise dates of forthcoming LEFs.</p>	
<p><b>A17.</b></p>	<p><b>Reports for the Sheppey Local Engagement Forum to decide.</b></p>	
	<p>874 OVERVIEW OF HEALTH ON THE ISLE OF SHEPPEY</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed David Mickle (Director of Financing and Commissioning, Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust (PCT)) to the meeting.</p> <p>Mr Mickle gave a presentation on the achievements of the PCT in improving access to health facilities for the people on the Isle of Sheppey and their aspirations for the future. He advised that the PCT had worked hard to identify the key priorities for 712,000 people throughout a diverse area which included rural, coastal, deprived and wealthy. He explained that there were disparities in the average life expectancy with a 17 year difference in the age that people were expected to live.</p> <p>Mr Mickle outlined the key priorities of the PCT, as listed below:          Break the cycle of inequalities in health - transforming the relationship between the community and the health service.          Revolutionise services for older people - investing in more services in the community to improve their quality of life and allow older people to be at home rather than in hospital.          Appropriate funding needed for the main killers - including heart disease and cancer - trying to encourage people to consult their doctor earlier when they had a problem as this could mean an increased chance of survival.          Improve mental well-being - services at a local level, treatment to include counselling, rather than drug treatment.          Transform the life chances of disadvantaged children - need to work on a local level to get a better service, especially with regard to reducing the amount of teenage pregnancies. He suggested that a targeted plan was needed to improve self esteem and encourage better engagement with young people.</p> <p>Mr Mickle outlined other areas where there were improvements to service. These included maternity, elective care, reducing waiting times, end of life care and dental care. In meeting local needs, Mr Mickle advised there were eight additional beds at Sheppey Community Hospital, local clinics had increased the</p>	

range of care that they could provide, community nursing staff provided an integrated service, there was an increase in specialist nurses, a fully operational minor injuries unit, improvement to mental health services and an expanded chronic pain service.

Mr Mickle advised that access to GPs had improved and reported that an Equitable Access Centre had opened on 23rd March 2009 and was open from 8 am until 8pm. There were now five additional GPs and seven extra nurses on the island. A mobile unit helped to bring medical care to the more remote areas.

Mr Mickle explained that future plans included improving access to wider services, increasing the number of GPs, establishing investment plans. He advised that there would be a mobile CT scanner on the island and increased access to clinics in the area to increase the range of services, with easier access.

Mr Mickle answered questions from the Forum:  
Communication with young people  
Working in partnership was important. The Childrens' Trust was trying to increase communications with schools. A project called 'The House Project' had been set up with KCC where empty shops were converted to enable them to become meeting places where teenagers could talk about issues that were important to them.

24 hour services for health  
There were plans for this to be on the PCT agenda.

Beds on the Isle of Sheppey  
There were 40 hospital beds on the island.

Present pandemic  
The PCT and partners were going through their Emergency Plan and had access to a supply of Tamiflu.

Care in the community  
Overnight services were being looked into and monitoring health through the internet.

GP consistency  
The PCT had invested heavily to work alongside GPs to improve standards and quality.

Access to hospitals  
Mr Mickle confirmed that he would respond to Mr Moore with further information on when the orthopaedic clinic was coming to Sheppey.

Promotion of work

There were plans to put plasma screens in PCT premises and take a health page on Kent TV to publicise services.

Car parking

This is free at the hospital and it may need to be bigger in the future.

Members thanked Mr Mickle for his presentation and welcomed the increase in choice and easier access to health services that was now provided for people on the Isle of Sheppey.

875 UPDATE FROM PARTNERS

Discussion ensued on the question from Councillor Worrall regarding response times to reported incidents to the Police and the response by Inspector Applegate. The Inspector advised that the information Councillor Worrall had requested was not readily available and the time taken to respond to all Councillor Worrall's questions was not viable, nor a good use of Police time. The Chairman advised that he would pass on an email received from Inspector Applegate to Councillor Worrall.

Chairman

Inspector Applegate explained that crime figures were on the Police website. In response to a statement that not everyone had a computer, Chief Inspector Henley suggested that others could access the information on behalf of those who wanted it.

Inspector Applegate gave an update on PACT priorities for each area of the Isle of Sheppey.

He advised that criminal damage, theft and violent crime had decreased on the island. There had been increases in cases of burglary, fraud and forgery, sex offences, theft of bicycles and vehicle interference.

Inspector Applegate informed the Forum that crime levels generally increased in the summer months, including anti-social behaviour and minor crimes. He explained that there was still much to do and that he relied on the support of local people in the aim of reducing crime.

In response to a question, Inspector Applegate endeavoured to keep PCSOs in one area, but when other incidences occurred, sometimes they needed to be relocated.

	<p>The Community Cohesion Worker explained, with regard to the poor attendance at PACT meetings, that there would be PACT surgeries on 21st and 22nd May 2009 held at venues in Sheerness East and West.</p>	
<p><b>A18.</b></p>	<p><b>Overview of Health on the Isle of Sheppey</b></p>	
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<b>A19.</b>	<b>Update for Local Strategic Partnership Partners</b>	
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<b>A20.</b>	<b>Future Meetings of the Sheppey Local Engagement Forum</b>	
	<p>876 FUTURE MEETINGS</p> <p>The venue for the next meeting on 21st July 2009 was to be</p>	

Tuesday, 28 April 2009

	arranged. Democratic Services Officer	