

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL BOARDS

NOTES OF MEETING

SHEPPEY LOCAL ENGAGEMENT FORUM

Date Tuesday, 20 October 2009

Venue: De Lacey Hall (next to Sheppey Leisure Complex), Broadway, Sheerness

Present:

Local Board Members: Adrian Crowther and Ken Pugh

Apologies for absence:

KCC Officers:

		Action
A1.	Apologies for Absence	
	<p>SHEPPEY LOCAL ENGAGEMENT FORUM</p> <p>MINUTES of the Meeting held in the De Lacey Hall, Broadway, Sheerness on Tuesday 20th October 2009 from 7:00 pm to 9:05 pm.</p> <p>PRESENT: Swale Borough Councillors: Councillor John Morris (Vice-Chairman), Councillors Mark Ellen, David Garside, Harrison, Paul Hayes, Lesley Ingham, Paul Sturdgess and Worrall. Kent County Councillors: Mr Kenneth Pugh (Chairman) and Mr Adrian Crowther. Kent Association of Local Councils: Mr Ingleton.</p> <p>OFFICERS PRESENT: Philippa Davies, Eric Fisher, Martin Goodhew, Louise Matthews, Bob Pullen, Pete Raine and Jean Wood (Swale Borough Council) and Bill Ronan (Kent County Council).</p> <p>ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Ted Pye (Queenborough Town Council), Peter Macdonald (Minster Parish Council), Mike Brown (Eastchurch Parish Council), Chief Inspector Tony Henley and Inspector Applegate (Kent Police), Mick Durkan (Kent Fire and Rescue), Eileen Martin (AmicusHorizon), Sarah Williams (Swale Council for Voluntary Service), John Hopkinson and Liz James (Voluntary Action Within Kent), Mr Brown (Isle of Sheppey Sailing Club), Mr Deal, Mrs Francis, Mrs Hurkett, Mrs Pomeroy, Miss Risdon, Mr Kemp and Mr Smith (local residents).</p>	Heather Batt

	<p>APOLOGIES: Councillors Andy Booth, Pat Sandle and David Sargent and Abdool Kara, Chief Executive (Swale Borough Council).</p> <p>430 WELCOME</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed Pete Raine, the newly appointed Interim Regeneration Director (Swale Borough Council), to the meeting.</p>	
A2.	Minutes from Previous Meeting	
	<p>431 MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st July 2009 (Minute Nos.196 - 206) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:</p> <p>(i) That Mr Mick Durkan (Kent Fire and Rescue) and Jean Wood (Swale Borough Council) attended the meeting.</p> <p>(ii) The inclusion of additional comments from Minster Parish Council in relation to Minute No. 203/07/09 (loss of youth work provision on Sheppey):</p> <p>'Mrs Codrington (Clerk to Minster Parish Council and also Local Resident) raised concern that KCC had not liaised with either Minster-on-Sea Parish Council or Minster Community Centre on their business plan for youth provision in Minster and queried if any business plan existed. She pointed out that Minster-on-Sea Parish Council had asked all 5,600 plus households in Minster for their views on whether or not Minster had adequate youth provision and advised KCC that this was an ideal opportunity to liaise with the Parish Council to find out what the Public wanted. She also reminded KCC that Minster residents contribute 12% to its overall annual council tax budget and that some of this money should be invested in youth provision in Minster'.</p> <p>(iii) That Minute No. 201 (public session) be amended to read: 'He asked that both Swale Borough Council (SBC) and Kent County Council (KCC) assert pressure on Kent Highway Services (KHS) to action the erection of appropriate signage along the A249'.</p> <p>(iv) That the resolution at Minute No. 206/07/09 (Funding for Sheppey LEF) be amended to read 'that applications for funding that met the criteria be agreed by the Vice-Chairman and when different, the Executive Member for Community Services'.</p>	Heather Batt
A3.	Declarations of Interest	
	432 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	Heather Batt

	No interests were declared.	
A4.	Welcome to Members of the Public and Opportunity for Questions	
	<p>433 PUBLIC SESSION</p> <p>Questions were raised at the meeting on the following topics. Members requested that answers to questions be included in the minutes of the meeting or in an addendum should responses not be available at the time the minutes are published.</p> <p>ANSWERS ADDED 9TH NOVEMBER 2009</p> <p>Appendix NEPTUNE TERRACE</p> <p>The Chairman brought the Forum's attention to the tabled response to a question raised in Minute No. 201 at the meeting held on 21st July 2009. This related to the use of the old bait and tackle kiosk and stores at Neptune Terrace. A report had been requested on the condition and possible uses of the building. Councillor Ellen, a Ward Member, welcomed the response and considered that the plan was an interim measure.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>(1) That the report be noted.</p> <p>PUBLIC TOILETS AT BRIDGE STREET</p> <p>Mr Moore, a local resident, explained that with regard to Minute No. 873 (28th April 2009), he had not yet received a response to his question regarding the public toilets at Bridge Street. The Chairman advised that this would be followed up and a response sent to Mr Moore.</p> <p>Democratic Services Officer</p> <p>VACANT COMMERCIAL PROPERTY</p> <p>Mr Deal asked what SBC's policy was for letting vacant commercial Council property. The Interim Regeneration Director confirmed that this question would be forwarded to the Estates</p>	Heather Batt

	<p>Surveyor for a response.</p> <p>Estates Surveyor</p> <p>SHEERNESS TOWN CENTRE</p> <p>Mr Macdonald, speaking as a local resident, raised concern with the bad state of buildings, gardens, war memorials and roads in Sheerness. These comments were forwarded to the Greenspaces Officer for a response</p> <p>Greenspaces Officer</p> <p>Mr Macdonald welcomed the work that had been carried out on the windmill in the town centre. He suggested that more money was spent on the upkeep of the town and that Sheerness should have a Town Council.</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed that he would take Mr Macdonald's comments regarding the state of the roads back to KCC and suggested that residents in Sheerness start a petition to progress the move towards having a Town Council in Sheerness.</p> <p>Chairman</p> <p>SIGNS IN BLUETOWN</p> <p>A local resident raised concern that towns signs had not yet been provided for Bluetown.</p> <p>Regeneration Manager</p> <p>VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS</p> <p>Mr Smith raised a query regarding the process for responding by telephone and internet to the voter registration form. The Chairman advised that this query would be forwarded to the Electoral Services Department for a response. Post meeting note: Electoral Services have responded direct to Mr Smith, but assurance was given that telephone and internet registration was working correctly and was a secure way of responding.</p>	
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	<p>Electoral Services Officer</p> <p>B2231</p> <p>Mr Brown raised concern with a report that had been written by Kent Highway Services regarding the re-instatement of the B2231 as an 'A' road. He suggested the report was factually incorrect and considered the road to be busy, dangerous and in need of repair.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that he had attended a meeting regarding this and explained that discussions on this matter were currently being held. He supported the re-instatement of the road to an 'A' road.</p> <p>ROAD SURFACE IN SHEERNESS</p> <p>A Member raised concern with the lack of progress to repairs to the road surface from the Clock Tower to Millennium Way, Sheerness. The Chairman advised that he would take this back to KCC.</p> <p>Chairman</p> <p>FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES</p> <p>Councillor Morris explained that funding allotted to Members for distribution for projects in the Borough could not be rolled over to the next financial year. He encouraged Members who had not made proposals for distribution of their money, to liaise with other Members to see if the funds could be shared to cover projects that needed extra money. A paper was tabled which showed the bids made for community schemes so far.</p> <p>Mr Moore suggested that funding be given to provide bollards to restrict vehicle access and reduce fly tipping on a local footpath. He gave his details to the Community Liaison Manager.</p>	
A5.	Isle of Sheppey Sailing Club	
	<p>434 ISLE OF SHEPPEY SAILING CLUB</p> <p>Mr Brown gave a presentation on the Isle of Sheppey Sailing Club. He explained that the club had been in existence since 1965 and that there had always been a problem with insufficient parking space for boats. He gave some background information</p>	Heather Batt

	<p>on the club and considered the site was a good one with excellent, safe sailing conditions and there was potential for it to expand further. He reported on the use of the club and outlined the events that took place, which included the round the Island race which attracted around 500 people to the club each year. Space and lack of resources restricted further development of the club, its racing schedule and its use as a training centre. Mr Brown reported on the benefits that sailing had brought to him. He explained that running costs for the club were high and because of the size of the club, members were restricted. The club's long term viability was dependent on increased membership. Mr Brown explained that in order for the club to continue running, it was important to keep the momentum going and raise capital.</p> <p>The Chairman advised Mr Brown to put his proposals for the club together and to come back to the Forum at a future date.</p>	
A6.	Update from Partners	
	<p>435 UPDATE FROM PARTNERS</p> <p>Inspector Applegate updated the Forum on Police matters on the Isle of Sheppey. He advised that crime statistics could also be found on the Kent Police website.</p> <p>He explained that open air surgeries had been held in various areas and the Police hoped to increase engagement with local residents.</p> <p>Chief Inspector Henley advised that the Police had become 'more visible' and wanted to instill confidence in the community.</p> <p>Mick Durkin, Kent Fire Brigade, explained that the Fire Brigade had a busy period in the summer dealing with grass fires. He also requested that people parked sensibly to allow the Fire Brigade access through streets in an emergency.</p>	Heather Batt
A7.	Swale Borough Council Budget Consultation 2010/2011	
	<p>436 SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION 2010/2011 AND BROAD-BAND SURVEY</p> <p>The Head of Policy introduced her report which outlined the budget consultation with members of the public, local businesses and key partners to find out what peoples' opinion was on SBC's priorities for spending for the 2010/2011 budget. She distributed paper copies and explained that the consultation would also be available on the Council website at www.swale.gov.uk. The deadline for responses was 30th November 2009.</p>	Heather Batt

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	<p>Members of the public were encouraged to respond to the consultation.</p> <p>The Head of policy introduced the supplementary item on the Broadband Survey for Leysdown, Warden and Eastchurch. She explained that the Local Strategic Partnership had funding available to enable a better Broadband provider to be used. She welcomed residents' views on Broadband use in these areas. Copies of the survey were made available at the meeting. The deadline for responses was 30th November 2009.</p>	
A8.	Swale Centre for Voluntary Service	
	<p>437 SWALE COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE</p> <p>Sarah Williams introduced this item and gave an overview on the work that the Swale Council for Voluntary Service carried out. She explained the importance of engaging with public, private and voluntary services in order that they could all work together.</p> <p>John Hopkinson explained the importance of engaging with decision makers to get an informed debate and transparent decisions. He stated that value for money was the key issue.</p> <p>Sarah Williams invited the Forum to have a round-table discussion to get ideas on how groups could engage better, what they were doing at the moment and how this could be improved.</p> <p>The Forum split into groups from 8:40 pm to 8:55 pm.</p> <p>Ideas from the groups included: get out there and get peoples' views; 'can do' attitude was needed; link with projects; funding issues; apathy; communication; support elected Members in their leadership role; Local Strategic Partnership as tool for information; Member briefings; share information; share resources for greater impact; increase link with Parish Councils; one-stop-shop; raise aspirations of local people; potential opportunities for fund raising; and more awareness of the voluntary sector.</p> <p>Sarah explained that the voluntary sector was not solely about volunteering and they wanted to be on a par with other organisations within the community.</p>	Heather Batt
A9.	Venue for next meeting	
	<p>438 VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p>	Heather Batt

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	(1) That the next meeting on 26th January 2010 would be held in Eastchurch Village Hall.	