

Agenda

Sheppey Area Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 3 February 2026

Time 7.00 pm

Venue: The Criterion, 69 High Street, Blue Town, Sheerness ME12 1RW

Membership:

Councillors Andy Booth, Hayden Brawn, Angela Harrison, Elliott Jayes (Chair), Peter MacDonald, Peter Marchington, Lee-Anne Moore, Pete Neal, Tara Noe, Tom Nundy, Ashley Shiel, Mark Tucker, Mike Whiting and Dolley Wooster (Vice-Chair).

Quorum = 5

Pages

Information about this meeting

Members of the press and public can listen to this meeting live. Details of how to join the meeting will be added to the website by 2 February 2026.

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1. Emergency Evacuation Procedure

Visitors and members of the public who are unfamiliar with the building and procedures are advised that:

- a) There is no scheduled test of the fire alarm during this meeting. If the alarm does sound, please leave the building quickly without

collecting any of your possessions, using the doors signed as fire escapes.

- b) Assemble outside where directed. Await instructions before re-entering the building.
- c) Anyone who requires assistance in evacuating the building, should make themselves known during this agenda item.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Minutes

To approve the [Minutes](#) of the meeting held on 2 December 2025 (Minute Nos. 522 – 535) as correct records.

4. Declarations of Interest

Councillors should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their families or friends.

The Chair will ask Members if they have any disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) or disclosable non-pecuniary interests (DNPIS) to declare in respect of items on the agenda. Members with a DPI in an item must leave the room for that item and may not participate in the debate or vote.

Aside from disclosable interests, where a fair-minded and informed observer would think there was a real possibility that a Member might be biased or predetermined on an item, the Member should declare this and leave the room while that item is considered.

Members who are in any doubt about interests, bias or predetermination should contact the monitoring officer for advice prior to the meeting.

5. Police update

6. Sheerness Revival Project update 5 - 6

7. Community Governance Review update (potential changes to arrangements for town and parish councils)

8. Local Government Reorganisation update (Government wants us to deliver your services differently) 7 - 8

9. Public Forum

10. Swale Bus Partnership Forum

11. Matters arising from previous meetings 9 - 14

12. Local issues to be raised

13. Matters referred to Service Committee Chairs for consideration

Issued on Monday, 26 January 2026

The reports included in Part I of this agenda can be made available in alternative formats. For further information about this service, or to arrange for special facilities to be provided at the meeting, please contact democraticservices@swale.gov.uk. To find out more about the work of the committee, please visit www.swale.gov.uk.

**Chief Executive, Swale Borough Council,
Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT**

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Sheppey Area Committee Meeting

3rd February 2026

Sheerness Revival Project Update

Project 1: Beachfields:

- Site was closed over the festive period with onsite security provisions, and few issues around ASB.
- Landscaping continues to progress including the opening up of the area near McDonalds and the sculpture reinstated for completeness.
- The new access paths have been carved out with tarmacking commencing in January.
- New windows are being installed and will remain protected via netting for the duration of the works.
- Unforeseen structural challenges that resulted in delay to the programme have now been resolved, with a solution around fire protection now being implemented.
- Changes to leisure provisions with studio classes relocating to the poolside and the health suite being moved to a temporary location will continue while construction works progress. Both provisions will move to their new permanent location once the works are completed.
- Sheerness Shipwreck Adventure Golf continues to be well used including during colder off-peak times.

Project 2: Sheppey College:

- The new building is nearing completion with the ground floor fully fitted and operable. Students were welcomed to the space in January allowing for practical studies to take place.
- Due to fire protection requirements to the internal structure, the first floor is still undergoing works and is due to be completed in February.
- External works continue to progress well.
- Final completion of the project is expected at the end of February, with the official opening event planned to take place in March.

Project 3: Masters House:

- All three garages and welfare unit were completed end of December.
- Installation of the door shutters, minor snagging and cosmetic enhancements carried out in early January.
- To support the deterrence of ASB, anti-climb paint has been added to the low/sloping roofs in the courtyard and defence guard strips have been installed at the rear of the garage roof. Two planters are in place between the main building and the water

tower to deter parking at the entrance.

- The building was handed over to Launch It as part of the official opening event on 21st January.

Communications and Engagement:

- Interviews were held with the Etec group to select 2 work experience brick laying students. Feedback was given to all students who attended the interviews. The successful 2 students commenced their placement on 21st January.
- Following the relocation of the health suite, an engagement session was held to update users on the progress of the healthy living centre and next steps. Users were able to ask questions and meet the design team.
- Opening of Masters House: Makers Studios took place on 21st January. Swale Borough Council hosted an event to mark the completion of works. This included the phase one renovation of the main building and the phase two conversion of the three garage space into Makers Studios.
- Engineering students were welcomed to the ground floor of the new extension at EKC Sheppey College. Final touches are taking place to ensure the first floor is ready to welcome students to their new learning space in February. An opening event is scheduled to take place at the college to showcase their new facilities in March 2026.
- Ahead of the festive season, Etec Group worked with council officers to make a donation to two local charities in Sheerness. A £400 toy donation was made to the Salvation Army to support families, helping ensure that children of all ages were able to receive a gift over the festive period. A £300 food donation was made to Fair Share food bank.
- Workshops took place with local primary school students to create a time capsule within the walls of the healthy living centre. Students were given a brick to paint which will be placed within the brick work of the new extension. These bricks will be laid by work experience students from the college.
- College students placed a time capsule of 2025 within the grounds of the new extension at EKC Sheppey College for future students studying on the campus to find.
- Further social value contributions will see Beachfields contractors, Etec, working with the local Pyramid Project to support the local hospital to redecorate some of the rooms.

Local Government Reorganisation Update – Area Committees February 2026

We are expecting Government to launch its public and stakeholder consultation on a number of Kent and Medway Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) models in early February. This consultation will inform which model Government then chooses to implement for Kent and Medway – the decision for which is expected by mid-July 2026.

All local authorities in Kent and Medway will support the promotion of this consultation to ensure that our local residents and stakeholders have a say in shaping the future of local government in our area.

Swale Borough Council will also be considering its own response to the consultation.

If at the time of each Area Committee in this round, the consultation is live, further details will be shared on where it can be found. Details will also be on www.swale.gov.uk.

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Sheppey Area Committee Matters Arising Report February 2026

New actions/issues and progress with ongoing actions

No.	Item	Background	Actions/updates
1.	Health facilities in the East of the Isle of Sheppey	Members suggested that a representative from the National Health Service (NHS) be invited to a future Sheppey Area Committee meeting.	A representative will be invited to attend a future meeting.
2.	Kent County Council Education	It was agreed that representatives from KCC Education be invited to a future Sheppey Area Committee meeting to answer questions that frequently arose at meetings:	An invitation has been extended to KCC Education to attend a future meeting.
3.	Sport England – Active Kent and Medway	It was agreed that representatives from Sport England, Active Kent and Medway be invited to a future Sheppey Area Committee meeting to answer questions that frequently arose at meetings:	A representative will be invited to attend a future meeting.
4.	Keep-fit equipment on Minster Leas	Councillor Tom Nundy reported that the keep-fit equipment on Minster Leas was in need of maintenance and also asked if it was possible to install memorial benches on the seafront if they were funded externally? A local mental health organisation were keen to fund a bench in Sittingbourne and/or on the Isle of Sheppey. The Chair said that the issues would be referred to the Greenspaces Team.	The Greenspaces Manager responded to the issues raised as follows: Our regular inspections have highlighted and identified several maintenance issues with the fitness equipment at Minster Leas. Officers have been trying to source spare parts from the original manufacturer (The Great Outdoor Gym Company based in Faversham), but following some company changes we have experienced difficulties. We are currently trying to source spares via an alternative route.

			It is not currently possible to place a memorial bench at Minster Leas due to the limited space available, but we would be willing to consider other sites on the seafront at Sheerness or in greenspaces throughout the Borough.
3.	Barton's Point	Councillors requested that regular updates should be provided at future Sheppey Area Committee meetings under the Matters Arising item.	All political parties have now nominated their representative and the first working group met on 21 January 2026. Regular updates will be sent to Environmental Services and Climate Change Committee and Economy and Property Committee and this Area Committee following any decisions.
4.	Household Support Fund to be replaced by the Crisis Resilience Fund	The Community & Partnerships Manager advised that the Crisis Resilience Fund is replacing Household Support Fund as of April 2026 and we are still waiting on Government guidance which is due in January 2026. Further information will be provided at the February 2026 Sheppey Area Committee Meeting if available.	Government has released the guidance for CRF, we are now waiting for KCC to issue information about the level of funding we may receive and what the expectations are for us to deliver local support. Crisis and Resilience Fund: Guidance for local authorities in England (1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029) - GOV.UK
5.	Area of Special Control of Advertisements (ASCA)	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.	The draft consultation document is currently progressing through the Council's approval process. It was presented to the PTPWG on 18 December 2025 and is scheduled for consideration by the Policy & Resources Committee on 4 February 2026. Subject to the Committee's approval, the public consultation is expected to take place in spring 2026.

		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. Following an all members briefing in May 2024, it was agreed that a draft consultation document be prepared for approval by the Planning Committee, before undertaking public consultation.	
6.	Sheerness - Conservation Area Reviews	Regular updates on Marine Town & Mile Town Conservation Area Review and the Bluetown Conservation Area Review come to Sheppey Area Committee meetings.	The Design & Heritage Team provided the following updates: Sheerness- Marine Town & Mile Town Conservation Area Review - press notifications to London Gazette and one local newspaper are now submitted. The final adopted version of the appraisal documents is envisaged to be published on the SBC website by mid-February 2026. The adopted map of redesignated Conservation areas with their changed boundaries are available on the SBC website. Sheerness- Bluetown Conservation Area Review - review of Sheerness Blue Town Conservation Area is estimated to start in spring of 2026 as part of Heritage Strategy- Action Plan 2.

7.	Local Heritage List	The second round of the Local Heritage List 'invitation to nominate' closed on 31 October 2025.	The Selection Panel met on Tuesday 13 January 2026 and has confirmed approximately 80 additional assets for inclusion on Swale's Local Heritage List. These are scheduled to be presented to the Policy & Resources Committee for ratification on 4 February 2026. The Panel also agreed that the next round of the Local Heritage List 'invitation to nominate' will take place in 2027.
8.	Pride in Place Programme	At the December 2025 Sheppey Area Committee meeting the Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods said that the Pride in Place Programme was launched by Government in September 2025 and Sheppey East had been awarded £20m over 10 years starting from 2026. SBC would be the accountable body. The funding had been awarded based on data and the Government would be releasing a data pack to help the Board target interventions. The three strategic objectives were: • Building stronger communities; • creating thriving places; and • empowering people to take back control. An independent Board would be set up and be considered by the Policy & Resources Committee about how the external Chair would be appointed. The next step would be to get a delivery plan in place ready for the	At the time of writing, the data pack is still awaited. Officers met with Kevin McKenna MP and a representative from the Communities Delivery Unit at MHCLG very late last year and confirmed a shared understanding of the programme. Further guidance was released soon after. MHCLG are hosting an information and networking event related to PiP in London on 12th February. The invite has been shared widely with over 70 community and interest group representatives. SBC will be represented by the Head of Place and Community and Partnerships Manager. It is hoped many Sheppey East reps will join them. A paper has been prepared for the Council's Policy and Resources Committee on 4th February, for members to review how SBC can

		Government to sign-off. Delivery funding would be received in March 2027.	best support the establishment and operation of the Board. Capacity funding has been confirmed to ensure SBC can fulfil its various support roles. Early capital funding of £120k has also been confirmed, for 'quick win' priority interventions. Preparation for recruitment of the Chair and Board members will begin in earnest in March. Listening exercises will take place across Sheppey East to understand the issues residents would most like the funding to address.
9.	Swale Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)	Public consultation was carried out to gather local views on the proposals. Engaging with people who walk, wheel, or cycle in Swale, as well as those generally interested in the Borough's future infrastructure, helped ensure the LCWIP reflects community priorities. The cycling and walking routes, updated following stakeholder engagement, were consulted on for six weeks during September and October 2025. The public were able to participate through an online consultation webpage, which included details of the LCWIP, an interactive mapping tool with all proposed routes and an accompanying questionnaire. In-person consultation stands were also put up at a number of locations around Swale with details of the proposals and feedback forms. Written feedback was also received throughout the	The public suggested adjustments to route alignments and interventions to maximise benefits, as well as ideas for new measures. The online consultation received the following volume of engagement: • 264 active users engaged with the consultation webpage • 311 comments were received across all feedback methods • 34 consultees completed the questionnaire • 21 pins were left on the interactive mapping tools. As a result of this feedback, some routes will have some changes or additions and more interventions will be added to the maps. The

		consultation period. Feedback was sought on the proposed routes and interventions.	routes will also be prioritised based on Active Travel England criteria before the LCWIP is finalised ready for Council sign-off. It is expected that this will be in March 2026.
10.	Area Committees Review	A review of Area Committees has taken place, 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 agreed 14 recommendations went to the Policy & Resources Committee on 26 November 2025 and 13 January 2026 for consideration.	On 28 January 2026 the recommendations went to Full Council for consideration. A verbal update will be given at the Sheppey Area Committee meeting.