

Eastern Councillors & Residents Forum – June 2026

You said, we did and matters arising

No.	Item	You said:	We did:
1.	Swale Local Bus Forum	A Faversham Town Council councillor asked who was invited to attend the Swale Local Bus Forum meetings, the Chair confirmed that bus operators were invited to attend. Faversham Town Councillor Martin asked what the criteria of a bus operator was as Faversham TC operated a bus service in the area.	The Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods checked with Kent County Council about a representative from the Faversham Hopper bus service attending the Swale Bus Forum and they said that the criteria for being on the forum is that a local bus service is registered with the Traffic Commissioner. As the Faversham Hopper does fall into that category they will be invited to future meetings.
2.	Reconnecting our Ancient Woodlands proposal.	At the February 2026 Area Committee meeting, Councillor Terry Thompson explained the background to the National Landscapes boundary extensions 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. This project included a “green” land bridge across the A2, creating “steppingstones” to connect habitats and develop marginal habitats to support the biodiversity of the forest. Councillor Thompson requested that Eastern Area Committee agreed to support progressing the proposal and to also to see if funding could	This matter has been referred to the Chair of the Environmental Services and Climate Change Committee to consider providing written and funding support for the Reconnecting our Ancient Woodlands proposal.

		be found to produce a definitive map to support the proposal to bring Blean into the National landscapes. The first step would be to find out from National Landscapes who they would accept producing a map and then to seek a quotation for that piece of work.	
3.	Lack of fully accessible rural social housing	Councillor Terry Thompson said that due to a lack of fully accessible rural social housing, there was a long waiting list for residents. He asked if there was anything that could be done to address this issue. It was agreed to refer this matter to the Chair of the Housing, Health & Communities Committee.	Swale Contribute towards the Kent wide Rural Community and Enabling Services (RACE) a link to wider information on enabling rural housing delivery RACE Resources - Kent Housing Group . Please find attached to this report details about the RACE online seminar on 7 July at 11 am which is taking place during the Rural Housing week. We also work closely with English Rural the largest rural housing association, who have a large focus on Kent. The last rural exception site scheme was completed in Hernhill in 2022.
4.	Benches at Faversham Recreation Ground	Councillor Hannah Perkin said that the benches at Faversham Recreation Ground were broken and asked if repairs could be made.	The Greenspaces Manager advised that the benches in Faversham Recreation Ground have been repaired. Recently, a further new Legend on the Bench Charity, suicide prevention bench has been installed in Faversham Recreation Ground. The aim of which is to provide comfort and hope to those in our community who are

			struggling with mental health challenges and may be feeling isolated or in despair.
5.	Conservation Area Reviews	Councillors requested that regular updates should be provided at future Eastern Councillors & Residents Forums. The Conservation & Design Team report progress on the following Conservation Area Reviews to the Area Committees: • Faversham - Preston Next Conservation Area • Faversham- Town Conservation Area • Cellar Hill & Greenstreet Conservation Area • Graveney Bridge, Graveney Church and Graveney Goodnestone Conservation Area	Faversham - Preston Next Conservation Area - the adopted document is now published on the Swale Borough website. Faversham- Town Conservation Area - the Conservation Area appraisal was presented to the Policy & Resources Committee on the 20 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 Summer 2026. Cellar Hill & Greenstreet Conservation Area - the Conservation Area with extended boundaries is now adopted, the latest map of the conservation area is published on the SBC website, along with the final adopted document. Graveney Bridge, Graveney Church and Graveney Goodnestone Conservation Area Review - the Conservation Area appraisal was presented to the Policy & Resources Committee in March 2026, where in it was unanimously agreed to adopt the

			proposed document along with the proposed Boundary changes. Press notifications to the properties within the conservation area and to London Gazette were sent out in April 2026. The latest maps of all three conservation areas are published on the SBC website, along with the final adopted document.
6.	Area of Special Control of Advertisements (ASCA)	Councillors requested that regular updates should be provided at future Eastern Councillor & Residents Forums.	The proposed designation of an Area of Special Control of Advertisements (ASCA) underwent an eight-week public consultation from 1 April to 26 May 2026. The consultation outcomes were presented to the DMT on 26 May 2026. The updated ASCA paper is now scheduled for consideration by the Planning and Transportation Policy Working Group (PTPWG) on 9 June 2026, followed by Policy & Resources Committee (P&RC) in July 2026. Subject to approval by PTPWG and P&RC, the final ASCA document will be submitted to the Secretary of State for formal adoption and approval.
7.	Swale Local Heritage List	Regular updates on the Swale Local Heritage List have been given at Eastern Councillors & Residents Forums.	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 confirmed 90 additional assets for inclusion on Swale's Local Heritage List. These were ratified by the Policy & Resources Committee for on 4 February 2026

			and are now available to view on the SBC website. The Selection Panel also agreed that the next round of the Local Heritage List 'invitation to nominate' will take place in 2027 as part of Heritage Strategy Action Plan 3.
8.	Swale LCWIP (Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan) update	When available regular updates provided at future Eastern Councillor & Residents Forums.	The Active Travel Officer advised that the Swale LCWIP (Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan) has completed its public consultation. In total, over 300 comments were received and this resulted in 20 changes to the original report in terms of routes and proposed interventions to help improve the Borough's walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure. The amended report was then presented to the Environment Services & Climate Change Committee in March and has been formally adopted into SBC Policy. The full LCWIP document, a shorter executive summary and the changes made post consultation can be viewed on the following webpage: Strategies and policies - Swale Borough Council - Active Travel
9.	Swale Community Lottery	Councillors & Residents Forum Chairs requested an update on the Swale Community Lottery be taken to the summer round of meetings.	Swale Community Lottery is a fundraising scheme that supports Good Causes in the borough. Residents can buy tickets to take part in a weekly draw held every Saturday night, with proceeds helping local organisations deliver their services and the opportunity to win prizes. The Swale

			Community Lottery held its first-year anniversary at the end of March 2026 where we held a small celebratory event, inviting Good Causes and winners to celebrate the success of the lottery. News - Community lottery helping local good causes A Good Cause is a not for profit, voluntary or community group (e.g., registered charities, sports clubs, schools, social enterprises). Swale Community Lottery currently has 57 local organisations registered as a Good Cause who are raising funds by being listed as a good cause for people to select when they play. To play Swale Community Lottery visit: Swale Community Lottery: Easy online fundraising for good causes - Swale Community Lottery
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