

QUEENBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Queenborough Town Council **Environment Committee** held on **Monday 27th March 2023** in the Committee Room at 44 High Street, Queenborough at 19.00

ALL MINUTES ARE WATERMARKED 'DRAFT' AND REMAIN A DRAFT COPY UNTIL THEY ARE AGREED AT THE NEXT RELEVANT COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE MEETING.

Present: Councillors Shiel, Telford, Fowle, Darby
Public members six
Scott Ping and Jack Allen from Southern Water

The Clerk to Queenborough Town Council, Lisa Gransden.

Councillor Sandra Fowle is Chairperson of the Environment Committee for 2022/2023.

1. Apologies received: Cllr Stockbridge – Holiday, Cllr Swarbrick – Another organisation, Cllr Flew – Holiday, Cllr Marchington – Work commitments.

2. Declaration of Interests: Cllr Telford Item 3 as a Castlemere Avenue resident.

3. Southern Water Representatives re raw sewage flooding at Castlemere Avenue
Scott Ping the Regional Ops Manager and Jack Allen the Field Performance Manager from Southern Water introduced themselves and updated Councillors and Public Members since their last Council visit.

There is to be a full drywall from floor level to the top of the building at Rushenden. Flow will be metered on site.

There was an incident in February 2023 with a burst on the main line which was controlled at the works.

The inhibit set up at Drove Road, once installed will shut down Rushenden Road once a level is reached to prevent further back up and stop any flow coming forward. Southern Water representatives will keep us updated from this meeting.

A spare pump is held on site to replace if failure occurs, comms failure will be picked up straight away at the control centre.

Inspections are now fortnightly rather than monthly at Rushenden.

Call centres are aware of the area and it being intensive, call centre is based in Rotherham which is outsourced. Everyone that needs to know is aware of Rushenden Road.

20th April 2023 a routine quarterly planned operation to clear the well, to check it works as it is supposed to do when it rains.

Not polluting environment, when Rushenden Road goes high then Castlemere pops there is now two weekly testing in place.

In heavy down pour Southern Water are manning the site, resident reported it is not weather related with representatives replying that the weather conditions give them less time to react to the situation.

Seven employees live in Medway and are on hand to attend, and Craig is on the Island if he was needed desperately.

There is now an alarm system fitted in Castlemere drain which is alarmed, which allows visibility to look at the drain.

They will keep us updated from this meeting with monthly spread sheets from Jack.

4. Public Questions

A resident repeated the request for more 20 mph signs at the High Street.

The Mayor reported this had been checked by himself and the Clerk and the Full Council had concluded that no further signs were required in this area at Full Council on 30th January 2023 to the resident's request. This item would and could not be revisited by the Town Council for at least six months.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13th of February 2023

The minutes were adopted as a true copy and signed by the Chairperson.

6. Matters arising from previous meeting held on the 13th of February 2023 –

There were not matters arising.

7. Chair's Remarks

Cllr Fowle 'thank you for coming to what maybe my last Environment meeting as Chair and thank you for allowing me to chair the committee'.

8. Date of next Environment Committee meeting

It was agreed by resolution that the next meeting of Environment committee be moved until after the Annual Meeting when a new committee will be formed after the elections.

9. Highway Improvement Plan

Previous HIP dated 12th January 2023 was superseded with the following.

It was reviewed to move the plan forward since the virtual meeting between the Town Clerk and The KCC Community Engagement Team Leader (East) | Road Safety and Active Travel Group | Highways, Transportation & Waste person.

It was noted and reported to the Committee that a lot of wordy information was deleted to make the HIP more user friendly.

a). i) Castlemere Avenue and Edward Road – lack of awareness for school signs for Queenborough School - it was agreed that additional school warning signs will be funded by KCC with their previous consent.

ii) School Travel Plan – the School Travel Plan was still not showing as updated on the KCC site since 2018, although the Headteacher had reported at Full Council that it had been updated. To re-check for update before the next Committee meeting.

Congestion and parking in this area requires an updated travel school plan by KCC before further consideration is given to working together with the School, to combat these issues.

Councillors noted KCC response to the HIP regarding irresponsible parking documented in (blue).

Irresponsible parking is a constant issue for the Highway Authority and schools. KCC is working hard to support Kent schools to educate parents through the Responsible Parking Campaign and School Travel Plan initiatives. Information about the Responsible Parking toolkit for Primary schools can be found here: www.responsibleparking.co.uk and for Secondary schools, here: www.responsibleparking.co.uk/secondary . The website provides an area in which best practice can be shared and schools who require the support to tackle responsible parking can get inspired, sign up to receive resources to help to educate parents on the importance of parking safely and responsibly, and set up their own campaigns to raise awareness and hopefully ease their issue.

There is no further action the Town Council can take at this time on this item.

b) Queenborough HGV traffic in Main Road, North Road, and High Street

i) HGVs in High Street, Main Road, and North Road

KCC had looked at installing some advisory HGV signs at the junction with Main Road and the High Street to deter lorries using the High Street.

They also encourage their lorry watch scheme which is run by residents.

Community volunteers record details of lorries that are suspected of using unsuitable roads or not sticking to the limits and restrictions. A link to more information can be found here.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/travelling-around-kent/lorries-and-hgv/lorry-watch>

Since the meeting KCC have reported that advisory HGV signs in the High Street, were considered by the Design and Delivery KCC Team and due to the number of businesses in the High Street, it isn't really feasible to install this type of sign to deter HGVs from using the High Street. They suggested that signs maybe more suitable at the junction with South Street. See image following:



HGV's struggling in the narrower section due to parked cars, possibly installing some double yellow lines, but this may not be popular with the residents who park in the carriageway, to which the Committee supported that this may not be a popular option.

The Committee by resolution agreed to add the extension of the yellow lines and some advisory HGV signs along North Road to be updated to the HIP.

C. High Street – speeding traffic in a 20-mph zone

i) Telematic Data was circulated prior to the meeting for High Street

KCC reported that in the main the mean speeds are well within the enforceable speed limit along the High Street. The Committee noted the report.

ii) To review/adopt 20 and 30 mph toolkits – the Committee agreed to adopt the toolkits and work to put into place in the future for the High Street, North Road and Main Road and any other areas in the town.

iii) Speed indicator device – review of town information pack

Speed watch from Kent police

Link <https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/wsi/watch-schemes-initiatives/kent/community-speedwatch/>

The committee noted the contents of the speed watch, this would require volunteers to put into place and something for further consideration for the new Council.

d) North Road and Main Road – Speeding Traffic

i) 20 mph scheme layout design for Queenborough and Rushenden – to review any roundels missed off, the Committee will check further the roundels in the area are in place according to the map. For future action.

ii) Telematic Data

Data was noted for the High Street, North Road, Railway Terrace and Whiteway Road.

KCC reported that in the main the mean speeds are well within the enforceable speed limit along North Road and Main Road. Whiteway Road is slightly higher, and this is because the data is collected along lengths of the road and if you look at the location tab, it crosses over into the national speed limit section.

The only way to get accurate data within the 30-mph limit here would be to carry out a traffic survey by way of pneumatic tubes across the carriageway for a period of 7 days. Which KCC can look at doing if QTC wish. The Committee noted the report and will continue to monitor any further concerns in this area.

Again, the speed indicator device information was noted for this area.

5. Whiteway Road – Historic Queenborough brown sign that previously existed and was removed, after review of the circulated guidance notes on brown tourist sign, it was agreed to adopt the application and look at the quote for costs once applied with the new committee.

6. Install planters on the Highway, a licence is required from the Street works Team – it was agreed to proceed with the licence application. This item was removed from the HIP.

10. Budget VS Spend and virements

It was agreed by resolution to move the following within the Environment Budget. Environmental projects available to spend £8,787 before movements.

To move as agreed £3,000 to Coronation Event and any remaining after the event to be ringfenced for future Annual Events, £2,000 to for a new Rushenden bench and sign at First Avenue, £3,000 to Christmas lights for new sockets and units.

a) Lottery funding had been unsuccessful for the QTC Coronation Event 2023 the event currently with a budget of £1,000 it was agreed to move £3,000 from Environmental improvements to the Coronation Event and any unspent funds to be carried forward to future Annual Events.

b) The bench and sign at Rushenden, to remove the bench and sign and replace the bench it was agreed to move £2,000 for a new coronation bench and an engineered metal welcome to Rushenden sign along with reinstatement and groundworks costs.

To move from Environmental improvements ringfenced for use in the new financial year.

c) Paint for In Bloom bollards was considered but these had already been purchased by In Bloom funds at a cost of under £40 so there was no further requirement for funds.

d) Christmas Lights require new motifs and replacement sockets; it was agreed to move £3,000 from Environmental improvements to Christmas lights for use in the new financial year.

e) It was agreed to ringfence the freighter day remaining £6,000 to the new financial year for freighter day in 2023/2024.

f) to propose to F&GP that allotments balance is ringfenced for use by the allotment committee for new fencing and future improvements at the allotment sites.

11. Queenborough and Rushenden Brochure inc. map and board

The committee had been circulated the new draft and reviewed the brochure and map. Amendments were noted and will be sent to Handy Prints, once completed the new draft will be presented at the next Environment meeting.

12. The Sheppey Light Railway

The committee noted circulated presentation and newsletter regarding the SLR. Cllr Fowle, Telford and the Clerk agreed to walk the route in Queenborough and invite representatives to attend the next environment committee meeting or suggest that they present to the Swale Area Committee for all local councils.

13. Litter pick in Alsager Avenue

At the Mayors request the item was moved from Full Council. The Mayor and Cllr Telford agreed to litter pick Alsager Avenue at 10.30am on 3rd April 2023. No other Councillors were available to volunteer on this day.

14. Youth and Social groups

At the Mayor's request the item was added to tonight's agenda.

The Mayor reported on moving forward with a running agenda item and local community assets delivering services in supporting the community. The Mayor will bring up the item at tomorrow night's Castle Connections meeting and report back to the next council meeting.

15. Reports from working parties.

a) Christmas Lights – The Mayor thanked Environment for moving money to support new units and sockets.

b) In Bloom – The Clerk had purchased the new seafront troughs; Act team are painting the bollards at North Road.

c) Allotments – meeting had been held this evening with allotment holders as a question-and-answer session due to an inquorate meeting of Town Councillors. Points taken from holders will be reviewed.

d) Community Emergency Plan – the Mayor reported on adding new government energy system.

e) Food Bank – Cllr Darby reported on increasing food donations from Morrisons and sharing out food to other food banks namely Sheppey Support Bus and Trinity Church Sheerness.

f) Kings Coronation Event – a meeting was agreed for next Monday.

16. Correspondence –

A resident email was considered regarding bikers on King Georges and marshes in Queenborough. Councillors reported to advise the resident to ring the PCSO constantly and report online/phone to 101. Kent Police has successfully ceased bikes recently at Alsager Avenue.

17. Any other Business

The Mayor reported on the Isle of Sheppey not being successful in a bid for a specialist school. KCC had put in a bid for funding and plans were in place, but the Government had turned down the application.

Being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.13.

Date of next meeting: To be advised after QTC Annual Meeting