

Officer Report 14th September 2026

VIKING BAY BOARD WALK AND TAP PROJECT.

The Community Engagement Officer has been in correspondence with TDC officers to request an update/ time scale for the additional board walk that the Town Council will be paying for on Viking Bay.

Once erected, this will connect the main board walk to the shower unit that is currently isolated in the sand, making this more accessible for beach users.

TDC have said they are liaising with the contractors, and we will keep us updated once they have confirmed dates.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE EVENTS

To support local environmental initiatives, the council hosted a 'Trash to Treasure' craft workshop before each of the summer theatre family shows this year.

The sessions were free and open to all on a first-come, first-served basis.

As part of a broader push to deliver a plastic-free theatre series, the workshops focused on the use of recycled materials. Other craft items were purchased under the under 18's budget. There were four workshops in total;

The first was an under the sea themed crafts using yogurt pot and plastic cups, followed by a crab themed summer theatre performance they could then attend.

The second craft event was make your own harvest crafts or plant a magic beanstalk. Children were given plastic cups or tin cans to decorate then plant up their own magic bean in compost. This was followed by a harvest themed summer theatre.

The third craft event was to make your own butterfly wings and dragon wings. The children were given pre-cut out cardboard wings to decorate that they could then wear to the butterfly themed show that followed.

The fourth and last event was to create your own bug buddies using pinecones, yogurt pot and plastic cups. The children then took their new friends to an ugly bug themed show.

All recycled items were collected and supplied by officers hanging onto items they would have usually recycled, so all clean yogurt pots, cups, tin cans and cardboard boxes were all reused items. The pinecones used were collected from the park and outside officer homes! Officers also pre-cut the wings from cardboard boxes before the event!

The event was led by the Community Engagement Officer in collaboration with the

events team with help on the day from Cllr Fi O'Connor.

Officers received several positive comments from attendees, who also asked for more free craft events to take place in the future!

Officer recommendation: To schedule more Trash to Treasure events.

Officers would like to schedule a new event to make bat wings and masks out of cardboard for a Halloween/ rainy day event.

Permission sought from council to use budget to buy new glue sticks.

MEADOWS

CULMERS AMENITY LAND AND OSBORNE ROAD UPDATES

It has been another successful year for the meadows, creating wildlife havens for lots of insects and birds. The new educational signs have also been well received. Now that it is the end of season for the meadow, the contractors will now be cutting it back to start its lifecycle again for next year.

Osborne Road- The Community Engagement Officer had reached out to KCC representatives to ask if the Town Council could take on Osborne Road Meadow on a long-term lease rather than applying for a 'no cultivation licence' on a yearly basis. KCC Councillor John Finch advocated for the Town Council for a 'pepper corn rent' but unfortunately this was rejected by other KCC officials.

Cllr Finch has offered to support the process of replacing the diseased tree on the land.

Updates will be given to council once further information is received.

New meadow sites- The Community Engagement Officer has asked Cllr Finch to look at other potential meadowing sites, one of which may be available in St. Peter's.

Officer to keep Council updated with further information once received.

Culmers - Big plant week, that was planned and cancelled last year due to rough sleepers, will now be moved to take place at the end of November. Once the date has been confirmed members of the public, organisations and schools will be asked to join Council staff (and Councillors) to plant up Culmers Amenity land as per the planting plan approved by Council and CT10 Charities last year.

This will be advertised in due course once the items have been ordered; delivery dates will determine the plant date.

TRAFFIC INITIATIVES

TRAFFIC EVENT WITH KCC

The Community Engagement Officer has been working with the Safer Road Users Officer at Kent County Council to organise a collaboration event. The event will take place at Pierremont Hall on 9th December. The Town Council has given use of the room to KCC free of charge under the community offer.

Overview of the event:

This course, designed and delivered by Kent County Council Safer Road Users Team, is predominately aimed at drivers over 55 who are currently driving; although it encompasses general road safety advice for all drivers, passengers, and road users.

The course is an interactive session lasting approximately one and half hours, and includes topics such as:

- General health
- Fatigue
- Alcohol
- Hazard awareness
- Crash causation
- Speed limits
- and more!

The course is free to attend. Members of the Safer Road Users Team will be on-hand to answer any questions you may have.

HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (HIP)

On August 24th the Community Engagement Officer hosted an informal brainstorm meeting attended by members of the public, Community Interest Companies, organisations, Councillors and officers. This was to discuss items/ areas of interest to consider to update the HIP.

The following items were discussed,

Signs- Slow Down Signs - Callis Court Road, Convent Road, roads with Playgrounds/ near nurseries.

Wig wag signs (20mph)- outside Charles dickens school and Dumpton Park Drive outside Holy Trinity School.

Signs- Caution Pedestrian – Chandos Road and Harbour street

Temporary signs- Car park Full- Harbour Street

George Hill Road, Whiteness Green and whiteness Road- it was discussed in detail that this road is a problem due to speeding and a lack of footpath for pedestrians.

There have been several complains from members of the public regarding this road. Cllr Finch offered to investigate this. This was the response from a KCC officer:

“I have assessed the location of George hill Rd and whiteness Rd and there have been no collisions in this area for five years to suggest that there is a safety issue present. Drivers should always expect the possibility of pedestrians in the road, and we cannot install signs at every location where there is not a footway. With no safety issue requiring our intervention, this request would need to be placed on Broadstairs town councils HIP As one of their two priorities for further investigation, should they support it. Further information would be required for the team to assess, where are the pedestrians coming from and going to etc and how many there are. My opinion is that it isn't likely to be many and there are other areas of Broadstairs which could be treated as a higher priority.”

Officer recommendation: To put these forward as considerations to update the HIP.

Items to not add to the HIP but to action if approved by Council:

Education- Scope out the possibility of facilitating a joint traffic event with local schools to update their traffic management plans.

BROADSTAIRS IN BLOOM GRANTS

A couple of enquiries have come in this summer with which we would have liked to assist:-

- Two residents maintain a small green space on Nelson Place between Tunis Row & Crow Hill and made an enquiry via Cllr Roberts about a grant to improve this green space with raised beds, abroad a range of plants, etc.
- Another resident expressed an interest in planting pollinator paths (or Bee Roads!) along their road in front gardens and asked whether a grant was available to assist.

At present neither would be eligible for a grant because they don't have a constitution and (perhaps more importantly) a bank account in the name of the “group”. They are community minded individuals rather than organisations, but it would be good to help them.

The Town Clerk and the Community Engagement Officer who together administer the scheme looked at amending the conditions of funding slightly so that projects by community spirited individuals could be accommodated. The scheme is already “light touch” with minimal paperwork and a quick turn around with regard to approval.

Officers’ suggestions:

- For individuals or unconstituted groups the funds are given retrospectively.
- An application form will still be completed and a site visit made by an officer and a councillor.
- If approved the individual will incur the expenditure themselves.
- Payment will be made on completion of the work and production of valid receipts.
- The current maximum grant of £300 could be lowered if councillors wish.

If Councillors agree to these terms, officers will make amendments to the application form for approval by Council.

SOUTHERN WATER- WATER BUTTS PROJECT

The Community Engagement Officer has been in contact with Southern Water to request free water butts for residents and Town Council owned areas. They have also been informed that the Town Council is interested in a collaboration project with them to promote water-butts and rain gardens in Broadstairs & St. Peter's.

They have acknowledged this request and plan to contact the Town Council with more information in the autumn.