

# ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND LEISURE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday 14 September 2021  
Time: 6.30 pm  
Venue: Town Hall, High Street, Maidstone

Membership:

Councillors Cannon, Cox, Forecast, Harper, Hinder, Naghi, Newton, Round  
(Chairman) and S Webb (Vice-Chairman)

*The Chairman will assume that all Members will read the reports before attending the meeting. Officers are asked to assume the same when introducing reports.*

---

## **AMENDED AGENDA**

Page No.

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Notification of Substitute Members
3. Urgent Items
4. Notification of Visiting Members
5. Disclosures by Members and Officers
6. Disclosures of Lobbying
7. To consider whether any items should be taken in private because of the possible disclosure of exempt information.
8. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 13 July 2021
9. Presentation of Petitions
10. Question and Answer Session for Members of the Public
11. Questions from Members to the Chairman (if any)
12. Committee Work Programme
13. Reports of Outside Bodies
14. Economic Development Strategy Consultation Review
15. Recovery and Renewal Actions  
**Appendix C: Maidstone Riverside Light Walk**

94 - 95

---

**Issued on Friday 10 September 2021**

**Continued Over/:**

*Alison Broom*

**Alison Broom, Chief Executive**

16. Spend of further allocation of Additional Restrictions Grant
17. Appointment to Maidstone Area Arts Partnership
18. Appointment to Maidstone Twinning Association

## **INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC**

In order to ask a question at this meeting in person or by remote means, please call **01622 602899** or email [committee@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:committee@maidstone.gov.uk) by 5 p.m. one clear working day before the meeting (i.e. by 5 p.m. on Friday 10 September 2021). You will need to provide the full text in writing.

If your question is accepted, you will be provided with instructions as to how you can access the meeting.

In order to make a statement in relation to an item on the agenda, please call **01622 602899** or email [committee@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:committee@maidstone.gov.uk) by 5 p.m. one clear working day before the meeting (i.e. by 5 p.m. on Friday 10 September 2021). You will need to tell us which agenda item you wish to speak on.

If you require this information in an alternative format please contact us, call **01622 602899** or email [committee@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:committee@maidstone.gov.uk).

To find out more about the work of the Committee, please visit [www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk).

# Agenda Item 15

## APPENDIX C - Maidstone Riverside Light Walk

### Introduction

The Council has been looking at how we can improve links between Archbishops Palace, Lockmeadow and Maidstone Town Centre. An officer group has been formed with representation from both MBC and KCC, focusing on potential public realm improvements.

The group commissioned a study which provided a list of short-, medium- and longer-term options of public realm improvements. The working group decided that their initial focus should be on the tow path between the Thai Orchid restaurant and Lockmeadow and the route across millennium bridge.

One of the main reasons to focus on this part is that Lockmeadow continues to be improved and this autumn will see the opening of an 8-unit food hall and the installation of a play area. Both attractions will increase footfall and traffic to and from the site and we would like to encourage more people to walk along the river to get there.

### Consultation and ideas.

The next steps were to obtain the views of the local councillors, colleagues in various related departments and Maidstone River Partnership. All felt the area we are talking about is very important for the town and is also very neglected, dark and unappealing.

There have been long standing anti-social behaviour issues in the area and this activity is encouraged as the routes are dark and underused by the public.

Examples from other areas were looked at including the Olympic park and Torquay Rock walk and the concept of a light walk was born.

All consulted thought that this would be a real asset to the town in terms of an attraction, would encourage pedestrian and cycling activity and solve the issue of the area being dark and uninviting.

This walk would have a wonderful view of the palace, church and surrounding buildings and the aim would be to incorporate a viewing platform on the old timber yard jetty with an information board about the historic building's opposite.

### The concept

The architect who designed the food hall at Lockmeadow has worked on light projects before in partnership with a specialist lighting company. They have worked on a large project together including installations as part of Liverpool's city of culture.

We have worked up an initial concept that could be expanded if funding were available. The concept is based on a series of lights that could create different effects.

The main lights represent the skeleton of our iguanodon and benches along the part will provide places for people to sit and enjoy the view. The walk can commence in two directions either from the Archbishop's side and across the foot bridge or from the Thai Orchid.

### Funding

Other authorities have used the Covid 19 grant, which Maidstone is using for Recovery and Renewal initiatives, to fund memorials to victims of the pandemic. We believe the walk would create a fitting memorial and create a lovely community space in their memory. Members are therefore invited to allocate £50,000 from the Recovery and Renewal Fund for this project.

Illustrative examples



Alexa Kersting-Woods

Leisure Property Manager 03/09/2021