

Council – 15 November 2017

Public Questions and Answers

1. From Mr Rylands to Councillor David Monk, Leader of the Council

QUESTION:

Shepway District Council will donate £20,000 towards upgrading Sandwich Railway Station, so as to help the Royal & Ancient - who will stage the Open Golf Championship in 2020. When was it decided and by who was it decided to donate £20,000 towards the upgrading of Sandwich Station?

ANSWER:

It was formally approved by Corporate Management Team on the 27 June 2017 to contribute £20,000 towards the improvements at Sandwich Station to ensure the success of the Open Golf Championship at the Royal St Georges Golf Course in 2020. The improvements required include:

- Extension of the up and down platforms at sandwich rail station to accommodate 12-carriage trains.
- Construction of an additional footbridge linking the platforms to a footpath leading to the Royal St George's Golf Club
- Construction of the pathway from the extended platform to the footpath leading to the Royal St George's Golf Club.

The benefits of hosting the event in East Kent are great and research undertaken by the Sport Industry Research Centre at Sheffield Hallam University after the Open was hosted in Sandwich in 2011, clearly show the significant positive impact on the East Kent and wider Kent economy, including:

- An estimated 180,000 spectators to Royal St Georges over the period
- Total spend (on accommodation and other services) of £12.34 million in East Kent and £13.42 million in Kent overall.
- Overall direct economic impact was estimated at an extra £17.65 million for the East Kent economy.

In terms of local benefits, the Littlestone Golf Club was used as a practice ground, and the golf club would become part of the tour.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

Should Shepway District Council be spending funds to help Royal and Ancient?

ANSWER:

It was important for the economy of Kent.