

Ramsgate Town Plan : Action Plan (2015-2019)

Housing and Development

Priority	Action	Importance	Responsibility	Timescale
1st : Restrict development on open spaces	Ramsgate Town Council (RTC) will support and engage with Thanet District Council (TDC) in relation to TDC's Local Development Plan (LDP) and Corporate Plan to prevent development on all recreational spaces and parks in Ramsgate. For example, Montefiore Woodland has been designated as a Village Green.	High	RTC/TDC	On going
2nd : Improve range of shops available	RTC will encourage an improved range of shops and individual entrepreneurial retailers to offer a alternative market to the chain stores found at Westwood Cross shopping centre. RTC Town Promoter (TP) to engage and work with all businesses in the town and with the Town Team (TT) to bring in pop up shops, shop front improvements and empty shops back in to use. Contact Suzy Humphries, the Town Promotor, (suzyhumphries@talktalk.net) for more information. RTC engaging with TDC to produce a Master Plan for King Street with particular focus on a new use for the Swiss Cottage Public House. TDC has carried out a building conditions survey. Concept drawings for King Street available now. Public meeting to consult with residents and business owners in King Street planned.	High	TP/TT/RTC/TDC	Urgent
3rd : Support more affordable housing and properties to rent	RTC will seek to influence the housing mix throughout the town via TDC's LDP and consultation with the residents. RTC councillors and residents to identify empty shops and homes in their wards and bring them to the attention of TDC's Empty Properties Manager (Lesley.Dalton@Thanet.gov.uk) who will add the information to the Empty Properties Register. RTC to liaise with TDC concerning the identification of empty houses and flats above shops and ideas of how to bring them back into use. TDC have already renovated 30 properties in the town with another 15 earmarked for work. Kent County Council (KCC) has funding available for homeowners through their No Use Empty scheme. TDC are in the process of purchasing redundant garage sites, for example in Brights Place, for housing development. RTC to also encourage the development of brown field sites such as the old Gas Works at Boundary Road for new housing.	High	RTC/TDC/KCC/ residents	Urgent
4th : Create more primary school places	KCC responsibility. Ramsgate has a shortage of primary school places. Some expansion of school places has taken place already. For example, Newington Community Primary School and Nursery has grown from two forms of entry to three. New buildings completed May 2014. Some schools will expand subject to planning permission. For example, Bromstone Primary School to increase from two to three forms of entry. Currently out to consultation. For all KCC published admissions numbers, preferences and planned expansions, please see the information on RTC's website at www.ramsgatetown.org	High	KCC	Urgent

Transport and Infrastructure

Priority	Action	Importance	Responsibility	Timescale
1st : Improve parking provision	<p>RTC to ask TDC for a parking review of the whole town. This review to include all public car parks, in particular, Pier Yard, Staffordshire Street and Leopold Street car parks, plus the issue of illegal parking, confused/redundant signage and improved signage for pedestrians.</p> <p>In addition, the pedestrianisation of Harbour Parade should be a priority.</p> <p>Comprehensive review of season-ticket costs for all parking needed as well as TDC-backed deals with hotels in the town for their patrons using Leopold Street car park. More TDC enforcement officers and better focus of resources needed to combat illegal parking, especially on Sundays.</p>	High	TDC	Urgent
2nd : Improve public transport	<p>Improve the quality of the bus service between Dover, Sandwich, Cliffsend, Nethercourt, Ramsgate and Westwood Cross and the link with the Discovery Park in Sandwich. Earlier and later services would accommodate those working at Discovery Park. RTC support a new HS1 railway station at Cliffsend providing that this development does not have any detrimental effect on the viability of Ramsgate train station.</p>	High	KCC Highways/ Thanet Bus Partnership	Urgent
3rd : Increase traffic calming	<p>See priorities 1 and 2 above. Problem of narrow streets and large volume of residential street parking especially in the town centre. Encourage residents, businesses and visitors to use all car parks such as Leopold Street car park to reduce volume of on-street car parking, illegal parking and accidents. Make pricing scheme in Leopold Street car park more competitive. Free Saturday parking scheme a success. Encourage town centre hotels such as Travelodge to offer deals to their patrons to use Leopold Street car park rather than using on-street parking.</p>	High	TDC/KCC	Urgent

Tourism and Leisure

Priority	Action	Importance	Responsibility	Timescale
1st : Improve leisure facilities	<p>New swimming pool and renovated sports centre in High Street completed Summer 2013. TDC Destination Management Plan being implemented now. Involves participation from residents and businesses to improve quality of the beaches (Ramsgate Main Sands and the Western Undercliff) and the facilities connected with them, for example, the beach cafes and toilets and any adjacent public buildings which need upgrading or bringing back in to use. £500,000 investment from TDC.</p> <p>RTC's Active Ramsgate scheme in conjunction with KCC Explore Kent has promoted cycling and walking tours around the town (three routes) and geocaching since summer 2013. Sailing, canoeing and fishing schemes to be rolled out now (Summer 2014). Aim of the scheme is to support economic regeneration and healthy living. Contact the Town Promoter, Suzy Humphreys, for more details.</p>	High	RTC/TDC/residents/ KCC Explore Kent	Now
2nd : Increase facilities for young people	<p>See above. New skateboard park and new children's play park to be built at the Warre Rec. Tender bid for skateboard park chosen and tender bid for play park is out to tender now. Resident's group involved in design of skateboard park and future development of additional facilities such as toilets/shop. Jackey Baker's changing facilities to be renovated. New children's play park to be built at King George VI Park. Public consultation for both Warre Rec and King George VI Park to commence on 18th August 2014. See TDC website for details (www.thanet.gov.uk).</p>	High	RTC/TDC/residents	Spring 2015?
3rd : Improve the promotion of events	<p>RTC has a successful and wide-ranging events programme all year round. See www.ramsgatetown.org for details. RTC runs a Visitor Information Centre at the Customs House to promote all events in the town. RTC works with Ramsgate Events Organisation (REO) to fund, organise and publicise future events. Contact Ralph Hoult (ralphhoult@aol.com) or the Assistant Town Clerk, Eileen Richford, for more details.</p>	Medium	RTC/REO/residents	On going
4th : Create a "What's On In Ramsgate Guide" to attract visitors	<p>Three issues have already been published and are delivered free of charge to every household in Ramsgate. Guide is published every three months. For more information, please contact the RTC Technical Officer, Dean Williams (dean.williams@ramsgatetc.org.uk) Contributions welcome. If, for some reason, you do not receive a copy, please contact Dean Williams, and he will contact the publishers of the Community Ad Magazine on your behalf.</p>	Medium	RTC/residents	On going
5th : More Twinning Events	<p>RTC organise twinning events with other towns in Kent and Conflans in France. Please contact the Mayor of Ramsgate or the Deputy Mayor for further details via the Mayor's Secretary, Helen Tyrrell, at mayor@ramsgatetc.org.uk</p>	Low	RTC/residents	On going

Crime and Community

Priority	Action	Importance	Responsibility	Timescale
1st : Increase visible policing on streets	<p>Need more visible neighbourhood policing. RTC have met with Police and have discussed the issue. Police have reorganised their resources so that there is now at least one PCSO assigned to each ward in Ramsgate during the day. Each PCSO works out of Ramsgate Police station. Backed up by warranted officers who work out of Margate Police station and deal with urgent offences both during the day and at night. New Kent-wide policing model now in operation. One Police Constable will be based in Ramsgate as well. To contact your local ward PCSO, email: csu.thanet@kent.pnn.police.uk.</p>	High	Kent Police	1st June 2014 onwards
2nd : Improve safety in town centre after dark	<p>Increase police numbers on the streets throughout the whole week not just on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday nights. RTC and TDC extended Dispersal Zone in town centre until 1st August 2014. Problem of street drinkers and skateboarders in town centre. Enforcement of selling alcohol to minors and drunks needs to be improved. RTC liaising with TDC Licensing and Community Safety plus Turning Point and Porchlight charities.</p>	High	Kent Police/RTC/TDC Community Safety	Now
3rd : Improve street lighting	<p>RTC conducted site visit with KCC Highways in April 2014 to put forward ideas to improve and consolidate the street lighting in the High Street, Kings Street and Leopold Street. KCC Highways Action Plan and improvements due in Autumn 2014. RTC strongly object to KCC plans to switch off or part-light a number of streets in Ramsgate. Most of these works have already been initiated, for example, on the port access road and on Winterstoke Way and Winterstoke Gardens. To report any lighting faults (specify fault, lamp number and location), please contact the Town Clerk, Richard Styles, (richard.styles@ramsgatetc.org.uk) who will report the fault to KCC on your behalf.</p>	High	KCC Highways	Spring 2014 onwards
4th : Improve safety in my own neighbourhood after dark	<p>As above. Police recommend that residents set up Neighbourhood Watch schemes in their areas. Contact Kent Police at www.kent.police.uk. TDC Community Safety (CS) hold residents' meetings with local police every three months at different venues throughout the town. See TDC, RTC and Kent Police websites for more details.</p>	High	TDC CS/Kent Police	On going

Creating a healthy environment

Priority	Action	Importance	Responsibility	Timescale
1st : Discourage dog fouling	Lack of TDC enforcement officers and TDC dog wardens. Need to increase the fines levelled on the owners and name and shame them. Dog licence is needed for every owner. Requires a change in the law. Number of reported incidences to TDC has decreased from 82 (2012/13) to 43 (2013/14). RTC to work with TDC to find solutions to this problem, for example, TDC and RTC funding a town warden. Please report any dog fouling to Waste&streetcleaning@thanet.gov.uk . Or contact your ward councillor.	High	TDC/central govn.	On going
2nd : Improve street cleaning	As above. Not enough TDC enforcement officers or street cleaners. RTC to work with TDC to improve the service provided and focus resources properly. TDC to carry out a deep clean programme in central Ramsgate in mid September 2014. Residents encouraged to report spilt rubbish or missed collections to TDC (Waste&streetcleaning@thanet.gov.uk); fly tipping to TDC at Streetscene.enforcement@thanet.gov.uk ; and dumped cars to car.parking@thanet.gov.uk . Or contact your ward councillor. Town Team liaising with TDC and local businesses to organise deep clean programme, paint street furniture, for example, steps from beach to top of Eastcliff, introduce new litter bins and remove weeds. RTC campaign to back up the deep clean programme. TDC to purchase £30,000 of equipment to carry out clean up.	High	TDC	On going
3rd : Maintain public toilets	RTC to work with TDC to improve cleanliness of public toilets in Cavendish Street car park, Western Undercliff and Royal Esplanade. Renovate toilet block at Pier Yard. RTC could take over management of some of the toilets listed from TDC, subject to funding.	High	RTC/TDC	On going
4th : Improve disabled access	TBC. Survey of central Ramsgate to be carried out by 30th September 2014.	High	KCC	On going
5th : Provide more allotments for residents	RTC own and manage three allotment sites at Chilton Lane East, Chilton Lane West and Jackey Bakers. RTC also manage the Cemetery Gates and Margate Road sites on behalf of TDC. The total waiting list is 82 over all sites but many residents are on all the waiting lists. Contact the Assistant Town Clerk for more details (eileen.richford@ramsgatetc.org.uk).	Medium	TDC	On going

RTC provides the following services:

Priority	Action	Importance	Responsibility	Timescale
1st : Representing Ramsgate on town planning issues	Please contact your ward councillor for advice on any planning applications submitted in your ward you wish to comment on. Or contact the Assistant Town Clerk, Eileen Richford.	High	RTC/TDC	On going
2nd : Events and events funding	Please contact the Assistant Town Clerk, Eileen Richford or Ralph Hoult for details.	Medium	RTC	On going
3rd : A Visitor Information Centre	Set up and run by RTC in the Customs House main entrance. Staffed by volunteers. Please contact Ralph Hoult (ralphhoult@aol.com) if you are interested in volunteering at the VIC.	Medium	RTC	On going
4th : A Town Mayor	The Town Mayor and the Deputy Town Mayor can be contacted via the Mayor's Secretary, Helen Tyrell. The Mayor's charity is run by David Hougham. Contact him by email: davehougham@hotmail.co.uk.	Medium	RTC	On going
5th : Decorative Lighting	RTC provides Christmas lighting in the town centre every year. For more details, please contact the Town Clerk, Richard Styles, (richard.styles@ramsgatetc.org.uk).	Medium	RTC	On going
6th : Allotments for residents	RTC owns and maintains allotments on three sites and manages two other sites for TDC. For rental fees and further details, contact the Deputy Town Clerk, Eileen Richford (eileen.richford@ramsgatetc.org.uk).	Medium	RTC	On going
7th : Twinning events	RTC organises and funds twinning events with other Mayors in Kent, London and Conflans in France. Details available from The Mayor or Deputy Mayor (mayor@ramsgatetc.org.uk)	Low	RTC	On going

Please note that all Councillors' contact details are to be found on the RTC website at: www.ramsgatetown.org or in the Community Ad Magazine.

The final Town Plan will not contain any proposed actions which RTC are not responsible for, but all issues will be identified and raised with the appropriate Local Authority, such as KCC and TDC.

Corinna Huxley, August 2014.