



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group

Venue: The Council Chamber, The Custom House, Harbour Parade, Ramsgate

Date: Wednesday 29th July 2026, 6pm

Present: Councillors: Tricia Austin (Chair), Jim Driver, David Green, Tony Ovenden and Trevor Shonk (joined during Item 6)
Residents: Eddie Gadd.

Also in attendance:

Dean Williams (Deputy Town Clerk & Compliance Officer – Minutes)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Hudson, Huxley, Wing and Young. There were no other apologies.

RESOLUTION: To approve the apologies received.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group meeting held on Wednesday 29th April 2026 were received and considered. It was noted that matters arising would be considered as part of the action plan and correspondence updates.

RESOLUTION:

- **The minutes were noted as accurate.**

CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE

Jim updated the group following correspondence and a meeting with Stagecoach. It was noted that passenger numbers remain significantly reduced following Covid and that Thanet Garage is no longer performing as strongly as it had previously. Stagecoach indicated that it would welcome support to encourage greater bus use, although routes and service frequency must remain commercially viable.

The group discussed the reduction to the 34 service and the wider issue of bus subsidy, particularly for areas such as Newington and Northwood. It was agreed that the group should consider whether a case could be made for bus subsidy to be treated as a local priority, with particular focus on routes used by residents to access services and facilities.

The group also discussed Tetrapak recycling. It was confirmed that Tetrapaks can now be recycled through the household recycling arrangements introduced by Thanet District Council. For households with bins, Tetrapaks should be placed in the blue bin and not with cardboard; for households using

bags, they should be placed in the mixed recycling bag. The group agreed that this should be promoted.

RESOLUTION:

- **The group to consider bus subsidy and priority routes in Ramsgate, particularly the impact of changes to the 34 service.**
- **Tricia and Dean to promote the updated Tetrapak recycling arrangements.**

CYCLING FACILITIES

Tricia informed the group that the officer at Thanet District Council responsible for the bike hanger project had now visited the proposed venues, spoken to relevant authorities and suppliers, and was preparing to put the work out to tender. The group noted that the scheme had not been delivered in time for the summer, but it was hoped that the facilities would be in place during the autumn.

The group discussed the possibility of supporting local bike repair and reuse initiatives, including the existing Pie Factory bike project and a local resident's proposal to repair and sell donated bikes. Tricia also advised that Harbour Bikes may be able to revisit electric bike trials in early autumn, subject to the business regularising its arrangements.

RESOLUTION:

- **Tricia to continue to follow up the bike hanger tender and report back on progress.**
- **Tricia to follow up with Michael Morgan regarding the possibility of electric bike trials through Harbour Bikes.**

ACTION PLAN

Dean advised that the action plan would continue to be used, with new items added where appropriate. The group discussed the environmental impact of the Radford House refurbishment and noted that officers and relevant councillors would be kept informed of climate-related considerations and decisions.

Dean confirmed that the fruit tree project would be restarted, with publicity due to begin the following week and continue until the end of the year, ready for delivery in February/March 2027. The windowsill planter project had also been approved by Council and would be promoted alongside the fruit tree project. It was noted that the planter scheme would be undertaken in autumn, as the weather and supplier availability had made a summer scheme impractical.

Dean advised that the carbon audit would now progress, with Hannah collating invoices and relevant information. It was expected that this work would be completed by October.

Dean explained that the Environmental Policy would be reviewed to include the disabling of read receipts by default, subject to exceptions where evidence of sending or delivery is required, such as funding applications, allotment appeals and key allotment correspondence. The draft would be circulated to the group for comment before being taken to Full Council in September.

Dean advised that the Asset Management Committee had requested work on levelling up allotment sites. This may include CCTV, facilities and other improvements across the sites. Dean would explore green alternatives, including solar-powered CCTV, routers and equipment, and would circulate the report to the group for comments on the climate considerations before it was taken to the Asset Management Committee.

Dean confirmed that the group's membership questions and panel format had been circulated. Two responses had been received. Chris Scutt from the Friends of Ellington Park had also expressed an interest in joining the group and would be asked to complete the questions. It was hoped that two or three new members of the public would be able to join the group by September.

The group noted that Kent County Council had been contacted again regarding the use of weedkiller and had confirmed that it intended to continue using it. Tricia advised that the Government may be considering further restrictions. It was agreed that information received from Kent County Council about spraying periods should be shared more widely, including through Council channels.

Dean advised that the Highways Improvement Plan was due for review in October and would be considered by the Planning Committee. Following a meeting with Kent County Council Officers, it was noted that Ramsgate would continue to be limited to two priorities at any one time, although further priorities could be added once existing priorities were close to completion.

The group noted that Ramsgate Town Council had been signed up to the Kent Climate Network using the Climate Change Task Group email address, so that updates would be shared directly with group members. Information from the Repair Café network and Thanet climate contacts would also continue to be circulated where relevant.

The group received updates on community initiatives. The refillable van had moved from Radford House to the Pie Factory. The clothes swap initiative may be trialled as a pop-up at a future Repair Café. The Repair Café remained popular and had begun considering how to gather data on carbon saved through repairs. The Town Shed was now running three sessions a week and was working towards becoming an independent organisation, with its own bank account and constitution in progress.

The group received an update on water fountains. The new fountain funded for the Westcliff area would be located near the back of the Lookout Café, subject to the outcome of survey work on pipe locations. Once installed, new signage would be arranged for this and the existing water refill points.

David updated the group on Nethercourt Park. Hedge planting was expected to take place in November, with whips to be ordered for September. Grass cutting and wildflower seed spreading were due to take place in September, and the rakes and seeds had now been received. It was noted that the Nethercourt play area was also due to be refurbished as part of wider works.

The group discussed future tree planting and whether the project could be developed further over the next one to two years, particularly to provide more shade in public spaces during hot weather. It was agreed that this should be

placed on the agenda for the next meeting and that members should consider possible opportunities in advance.

RESOLUTION:

- **Dean to circulate the draft Environmental Policy updates to the group for comment before the committee meetings.**
- **Dean to circulate the allotment levelling-up report to the group for climate-related feedback before submission to the Asset Management Committee.**
- **Dean to progress the carbon audit with Hannah, with completion expected by October.**
- **Tricia and Dean to promote the updated recycling information, including Tetrapak recycling and clearer recycling guidance once available.**
- **David and Dean to progress the ordering of whips for Nethercourt Park and arrange collection of the rakes and seeds.**
- **Future tree planting and a possible three-to-five-year plan to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.**

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 30th September 2026 at 6pm.

Tricia closed the meeting at 6:45pm.