



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group

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

Date: Wednesday 30th September 2026, 6pm

Present: Councillors: Tricia Austin (Chair), David Green, Corinna Huxley, Tony Ovenden (joined during Item 4) and Trevor Shonk (joined during Item 5)
Residents: Eddie Gadd, Chris Scutt and James Bonthron.

Also in attendance:

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

RESOLUTION: To approve the apologies received.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Chris Scutt and James Bonthron declared an interest as volunteers with the Friends of Ellington Park.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group meeting held on Wednesday 29th July 2026 were received and considered. Matters arising were addressed through the correspondence and action plan updates.

RESOLUTION: The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE

The group noted that some Stagecoach routes had been retained and that a campaign was continuing to protect the 34 service. No further update had been received from Jim Driver and this would be followed up.

The group considered a request from Ramsgate Space towards the community-facing Future is Green event on 24th October. The programme would include a green careers fair, information on the proposed green campus, discussions on green jobs, skills and community energy, and a participatory Ramsgate Green Loop activity. The total cost presented was £850.00. Members agreed to contribute £425.00 from the Task Group budget, subject to Council recognition in the publicity, and to suggest that the organisers apply to the Council's Small Grants Scheme for the remaining balance.

RESOLUTION:

- **Ramsgate Space to receive a contribution of £425.00 towards the Future is Green event, with the organisers encouraged to apply separately to the Small Grants Scheme.**
- **The event press release and supporting information to be circulated to members.**

TREE PLANTING

i) Future tree planting

The group reviewed the successful fruit tree initiative, which had been capped at 100 trees for the current year and had already received approximately 45 applications.

Members supported developing a three-to-five-year tree planting plan as a major climate initiative, recognising the benefits of additional shade, biodiversity and improved public spaces.

It was agreed that future planting must include realistic arrangements for watering, maintenance and protection from damage. Opportunities could include Thanet District Council land, pocket parks, hedging and selected allotment boundaries, alongside discussion with Kent County Council about further street trees.

Members also wished to understand where planting was possible and whether existing tree mapping could support the plan.

ii) Tesco Fruit and Veg Grant Scheme

Dean reported that the Council was eligible to apply to Tesco's Fruit and Veg Grant Scheme. Six schools had expressed interest in receiving fruit trees, and any award would be used to provide fruit trees for participating schools.

Members supported submission of an application before the end-of-October deadline.

RESOLUTION:

- **Tricia to contact Phoebe Cullingworth regarding Thanet District Council's tree planting plans and invite her to the next meeting in November.**
- **Tricia to write to the relevant County Councillors seeking support for further street tree planting in Ramsgate.**
- **Dean to investigate tree mapping and possible planting opportunities, including the pocket park initiative.**
- **Dean to submit an application to the Tesco Fruit and Veg Grant Scheme to provide fruit trees for local schools.**

ACTION PLAN

Dean would contact Maxine regarding the pocket park initiative and possible tree planting.

On active travel, the secure bike hangers proposed for the seafront, Staffordshire Street car park and Ramsgate Station remained with Thanet District Council, and Tricia would continue to seek progress. The Harbour Bikes e-bike trial would be revisited in spring.

Following discussions on a safer walking route from Ramsgate Station, locations requiring dropped kerbs had also been submitted to Kent County Council for consideration.

Members were reminded to comment on the draft Environmental Policy by 14th October. The Asset Management Committee had approved a trial of solar-powered CCTV at the allotments, and Southern Water would be contacted regarding possible support for water butts or other water-saving measures.

Updated recycling arrangements were noted: food and drink cartons can now be placed in the blue bin or mixed recycling bag, with clearer leaflets and larger rolls of bags expected shortly.

Dean confirmed that the carbon audit was nearing completion and would be ready for the next meeting.

At Nethercourt Park, grass raking and wildflower sowing had been postponed, while 420 whips had been accepted by Thanet District Council for planting in November. It was suggested that Phoebe Cullingworth be invited to the next meeting to discuss future tree planting and related opportunities.

The Repair Café would continue at the Pie Factory on the second Sunday of each month. The October session would include Amanda's clothes swap, and additional publicity would be arranged through the Council's website and social media. The Town Shed and other energy-saving initiatives remained in progress.

The proposed refill station at Government Acre remained delayed because of difficulties establishing the required connection with Southern Water. The matter would be referred back to Thanet District Council's surveyors, with the Town Council meeting the reasonable connection costs.

Members were also asked to begin considering priorities for the Task Group's next budget, with a fuller discussion to take place at the November meeting.

RESOLUTION:

- **Members to submit Environmental Policy comments by 14th October to Dean.**
- **Tricia to continue pursuing progress on the bike hanger scheme, revisit the e-bike trial with Harbour Bikes in spring and contact Southern Water regarding water-saving support for the allotments.**
- **Dean to contact Maxine regarding the pocket park initiative and possible tree planting.**
- **The October Repair Café clothes swap to be publicised through Council channels.**
- **Dean to refer the Government Acre refill station connection back to Thanet District Council's surveyors.**
- **Budget priorities to be considered at the next meeting, with members invited to submit ideas in advance.**

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 25th November 2026 at 6pm.

Tricia closed the meeting at 6:45pm.