RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Town Enhancement Working Group

Venue: Custom House
Date: Thursday 17th September 2026 at 12:41pm
Present: Councillors Crittenden, Huxley, Ara and Ovenden.

Also in attendance:
Mrs R Smith – Town Centre and Tourism Manager
Mrs M Morgan – Projects and Community Manager
Mr D Nurse – TDC Enforcement Manager
Mr D Gooch – TDC Open Spaces Manager

Ms E Penny – TDC Community and Playgrounds Manager
Ms L Fidler – Town Clerk

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Tony Marmo.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were recorded.

REVIEW PREVIOUS MINUTES FOR ACTIONS

- The East Cliff bandstand licence remains with TDC Assets pending minor amendments and an electricity supply.
- East Cliff weeding is complete; the Albion Gardens sycamore remains under review.
- Granville retaining-wall and Kent Steps land issues remain outstanding; actions are listed below.

PROGRESS UPDATE

- A Service Level Agreement is being developed for twice-yearly maintenance of the worst-affected car parks from the next financial year.
- Overgrowth and damaged posts were reported, particularly at Cavendish.
- Historic registration errors are delaying maintenance of TDC-owned land and trees at Kent Steps.
- Volunteer and technician support continued, with the work undertaken by volunteers at the Sea Garden praised.
- Vine and ivy damage at the St Laurence Seating Area requires an estimated £8,000 wall repair.

TOWN CENTRE CLEANLINESS

Pride in Place Survey feedback showed continued concern about cleanliness despite substantial technician and volunteer work.

Mrs M Morgan noted that the recently cleaned area was already beginning to blend in with its surroundings. The Group questioned the long-term value of a one-off deep clean without regular maintenance. An indicative quotation would still be obtained, alongside exploring machinery for regular cleaning and possible Pride in Place funding, subject to staffing and storage requirements.

Mrs M Morgan also queried the location and condition of cleaning machinery previously intended for storage at Cavendish Street car park. It was suggested that the equipment might be held at the TDC depot or be out of service.

A broader vision combining cleanliness and traffic measures was discussed. Pedestrianisation was suggested as potentially more effective than a standalone 20mph scheme.

- Businesses need clearer guidance on waste, licensing, shopfronts and frontage cleaning.
- Volunteer litter pickers have collected more than 5,000 bags; publicity and a Pride in Place response were proposed.
- Affordable daily waste collections are needed for businesses without storage.
- Repainting street furniture and repairing pavements could improve the town centre.

Car-park improvements, bottle-bank removal and defective recycling-bin designs were noted.

Surplus parking revenue may offer funding for improvements.

REVIEW OF SUMMER TOWN ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Technicians completed seasonal weeding, planting and tidying across key sites. The Youngs Nursery partnership reduced planter costs, and the new brush machine improved efficiency.

FUTURE PLANNING AND PRIORITIES

Priorities discussed included a town-centre cleanliness action plan, potential October and March cleans, and repainting street furniture and bollards.

ENGAGING VOLUNTEER GROUPS

A thank-you lunch for volunteer gardeners and litter pickers was proposed but an alternative venue needed to be identified.

ACTIONS

- **Mrs M Morgan and the technicians to photograph the Granville retaining wall and send the photographs to Open Spaces for assessment.**
- **Mr D Gooch to progress the proposed twice-yearly car-park maintenance agreement from the next financial year.**
- **Mrs M Morgan and Mr D Nurse to refer the damaged and rusty posts at Cavendish Street car park to the Car Parks Team for repair.**
- **Cllr Crittenden to follow up with Andreea Plant in Estates on progress with registering the land at the top of Kent Steps, copying Mr D Gooch and Natalie Belding.**

- **Mrs M Morgan to photograph the overgrowth and five trees at Kent Steps and send the images to Open Spaces for assessment.**
- **Ms L Fidler to obtain the requested indicative quotation for a professional deep clean of the TRO area. Councillor Green to present the quotation to the Pride in Place Board, and Councillor Albon to raise the proposed deep clean with TDC.**
- **Mr D Nurse to establish the location and condition of the existing TDC cleaning machinery and report back to the Working Group.**
- **Mrs R Smith and Mrs M Morgan to explore New Year publicity celebrating the 5,000+ bags collected by volunteer litter pickers.**
- **Ms L Fidler to draft a Pride in Place response covering current activity, constraints and education priorities.**
- **The Working Group to shape a cleanliness action plan, including consideration of October and March cleans.**
- **Mr D Nurse to seek affordable daily waste collections from Harvey's, Biffa and Veolia for businesses without storage.**
- **Mrs R Smith to explore tendering the repainting of street furniture black and bollards teal, subject to funding.**
- **Mrs M Morgan to prepare a business leaflet; Mr D Nurse to provide waste and cleaning guidance.**
- **Mrs M Morgan and Mr D Nurse to include shop tidiness checks in monthly town walks.**
- **Mrs R Smith and Mrs M Morgan to explore arrangements for a volunteer thank-you lunch.**

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 4th March 2027 at 10am in the Council Chamber, The Custom House.