



## **RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of Town Enhancement Working Group**

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

**Date:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 2:05pm

**Present:** Councillors: Ara, Crittenden (Chair) and Huxley (Vice-Chair).

Also in attendance;

Mrs R Smith – Town Centre and Tourism Manager

Mrs M Morgan – Technician Manager (Projects and Community)

Mr D Williams – Marketing and Communications Officer (Minutes)

Mr D Gooch – TDC – Open Spaces Manager

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received by Mr T Marmo, who sent a substitute (Mr D Gooch).

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **REVIEW PREVIOUS MINUTES FOR ACTIONS**

The Working Group reviewed the actions within the previous minutes.

The repairs for the bandstand have now been completed by UKPN. It was detailed that the electricity meter was damaged so they were unable to connect the new cable to the meter and switch on the supply, this is awaiting reconnection.

The Community Payback Service is currently carrying out the weed and general maintenance around the bandstand, although the foam-based weed killer being used by TDC is not effectively killing the weeds. Mr D Gooch informed the group that two multi-use machines are now available, which can also be used for graffiti removal.

TDC will be trialling new options to improve weed control, including an electric-shock treatment system and a brush-cutter attachment. Councillor Crittenden also raised concerns about the weeds on Eastcliff near the railings and asked whether Ramsgate Town Council, Community Payback, or the Phoenix Group might be able to assist in that area.

Ms E Penny has been sent the details for the Open Spaces Management Agreements for pocket parks. She is currently on leave and will follow this up when she returns to the officer, the week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026.

The group noted Mrs R Smith report on the progress of the Madeira waterfall.

It was noted that Mrs R Smith's fountain report was considered by Full Council. Ramsgate Town Council agreed to place the matter on hold pending receipt of a list from TDC outlining which assets RTC may potentially take over. It is noted that TDC has not yet updated its website to include the fountain within its published asset list.

Mrs M Morgan had highlighted Meeting Street and Cavendish Street car parks as examples where general maintenance, weeding and the removal of invasive plants such as buddleia were needed, noting that two trees had been planted in Meeting Street and that posts in Cavendish Street car park require upgrading. Updates confirm that weeding and invasive plant removal at Cavendish Street have been reported, with technicians attending as and when they are able.

Mr D Gooch advised that responsibility for this work sits with the TDC Car Parks Team, who pass tasks to Open Spaces or external contractors depending on availability. Routine ongoing maintenance would require Service Level Agreements and associated funding.

The group noted the situation regarding the overgrown bushes and the five sycamore trees on land (which is part of the wider pulhamite) at the top of Kent Steps. This plot of land is unregistered it has not been possible to identify any paperwork to evidence that the land belongs to TDC. On that basis, as the adjacent footpath is owned by Kent County Council, the problem of the bushes overgrowing Kent Steps was reported to KCC who carried out the work to cut them back. However, the sycamore trees have not been dealt with. Councillor Crittenden stated, and it was noted, that prior to 1974 the pulhamite would have been owned by Ramsgate Borough Council and further work is needed to identify the inclusion of this plot in the property transfer in 1974.

Funding for the cleaning of the Destiny "Peace" statue has been co-funded by the Ramsgate Society and a Ramsgate Town Council grant, with John Walker liaising with TDC Estates.

Councillor Huxley also informed the committee that restoration works to Pugin's Head and the stone lions by the Granville Theatre are being undertaken as part of the nearby flat development.

Mr D Gooch informed the group that an inspection had been undertaken regarding the impact the sycamore tree in Albion Gardens may have on the Pulhamite, and concluded that currently there is no risk or problems occurring. However, TDC have added this to their ongoing monitoring process which occurs every 18 months.

### **PROGRESS UPDATE**

Mrs M Morgan detailed a progress update on the areas that are maintained by the Technicians in regard to Town Promotion, this includes:

- The planters in the town centre will be planted up for the summer.

Mrs M Morgan informed the group that the piece of land on Manston Road near Newington required a tidy up. She had asked Councillor Everitt about ownership and confirmed that the land belongs to TDC Housing. As a one off day project, the technicians are able to carry out the tidy up work.

### **ENGAGING VOLUNTEER GROUPS**

The networking events will continue with the next one being arranged for 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026. TDC officers are to be invited as well as a guest speaker and volunteers.

### **ACTIONS**

- **Mrs R Smith to contact UKPN to connect the new meter and have the supply switched on for the Bandstand.**
- **Mrs M Morgan to ask Community Payback and the Phoenix group, as to whether they can assist with the Eastcliff railing weeds.**
- **TDC Open Spaces to monitor the sycamore tree in Albion Gardens.**
- **Councillors Crittenden and Huxley to talk to Councillor Albon, as Cabinet Member, to find out should be responsible for weeding car parks – Open Spaces or Car Parks department.**
- **Mrs R Smith to contact Isaac at Ramsgate Tunnels and Laura Probert for possible archive documents in relation to the land at the top of Kent Steps.**
- **Further work needs to be undertaken in order to identify correct ownership of the pulhamite at the top of Kent Steps. Councillor Crittenden / TDC to follow up.**

### **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

To Be Confirmed by the Town Promotion Committee.

The Chair closed the meeting at 3:10pm