



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Active Ramsgate Working Group

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

Date: Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 10:10am.

Present: Councillors: Albon, Crittenden (Chair) and Huxley.

Also in attendance:

Mr S Davis; Active Ramsgate Project Manager.

Mrs R Smith; Town Centre and Tourism Manager.

Mrs J Edwards; Senior Tourism Officer, Visit Thanet, Thanet District Council.

Ms L Collingwood; Coast and Beach Manager, Thanet District Council

Mr D Williams; Marketing and Communications Officer. (Minutes)

The meeting welcomed Ms L Collingwood. The Chair announced that before moving on to the agenda items the meeting would focus on the issues relating to why Ms L Collingwood was in attendance and asked Mr S Davis to open with an outline of the draft proposal for the use of the Ramsgate Community Beach Hut (which he will forward electronically to Ms Collingwood after this meeting).

This detailed a year trial, including maintenance by Ramsgate Town Council and an evaluation at the end of the year. The ensuing discussion covered a number of issues relating mainly to safety, insurance, signage and SLAs. It was agreed that ideally, we would like the Beach Hut to be available for use by the end of March 2024 in order to be available for use as part of Active Ramsgate Week at the beginning of May. This will require SLA (Ms L Collingwood advised that there are existing templates that may be amended for use, which she will check), assessment of current condition and work involved in by Thanet District Council (TDC) / Ramsgate Town Council (RTC) to ensure the Beach Hut is safe and secure for use.

See summary of actions below:

Ms L Collingwood confirmed that it is not possible to use mechanical cleaners on Ramsgate beach due to the quantity of flints which break the equipment (unlike Broadstairs, where it is possible to use mechanical cleaners)

Ms L Collingwood informed the group that the Thanet Coast Watch are holding training sessions on Thursday and Friday between 10am – 1pm from Ramsgate RNLI Station. Mr S Davis hopes to be able to attend but later confirmed that this was not possible due to the short notice and other commitments.

Ms L Collingwood updated the Group on the positive outcomes of actions taken by TDC last year to improve coastal safety relating to the use of Jet Skis, including through enforcement actions during 2023 season. It was noted that Jet Skis are not an activity promoted by RTC due to concerns from pollution, but that it is recognised that Jet Skiers are able to make use of our coastline. TDC are working with Broadstairs to have a safe and suitable area to use jet skis.

The Chair thanked Ms L Collingwood for her attendance before she left the meeting. The meeting then continued with the meeting agenda.

APOLOGIES

No apologies were received from the working group.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Active Ramsgate Working Group meeting held on Monday 13 November 2023 were received and noted.

RESOLUTION: The Minutes were noted as accurate.

REVIEW PREVIOUS MINUTES FOR ACTIONS

The working group reviewed the actions from the previous minutes.

- Active Ramsgate Project actions – see project update below.
- Visit Kent meeting dates / availability of TDC visitor information system – no response has been received from Visit Kent with meeting dates. Further discussion agreed that RTC are probably best to sit under TDC's visitor information systems, which they pay for. Mrs R Smith and Mrs J Edwards to continue to liaise regarding this (see Actions below).
- Pitch and putt have not been available to contact due to seasonal closure.

PROJECT UPDATE

The working group received an update from Mr S Davis, Active Ramsgate Project Manager. It was noted that:

- The survey is now live online and Mr S Davis will be sending councillors the link.
- Preparation for Active Ramsgate Week is now the main focus:
 - Including liaison with local businesses and suppliers, and
 - final timetabling of events will need to take into account tide times
 - Media coverage
- Post Active Ramsgate Week considerations include
 - School engagement for start of autumn term.
 - Consideration to be given for activities over the main summer months of July / August – general discussion mentioned coastal cooking, heritage walks, cycling, walking, swimming, etc
 - Key trend this year generally relates to Health & Wellbeing (noted new Health & Wellbeing business seeking support which Mrs R Smith will follow up).

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS:

- **BEACH HUT**
 - Mrs R Smith and Mr S Davis to liaise with RTC technicians and Ms L Collingwood in order to progress proposal and as discussed above.
 - Mrs R Smith to liaise with Councillors Crittenden and Albon to ensure any necessary approval of expenditure and SLA is met through the Town Promotion and Finance and General Purposes Committees.
- **ACTIVE RAMSGATE**
 - Active Ramsgate Week: Mr S Davis and Mrs R Smith to continue to progress planned activities as outlined in previous reports and presentations and report back to next Working Group.
 - General consideration to be given to activities post Active Ramsgate Week, eg schools engagement in September, feasibility of pitch and putt, etc, with update to next Working Group.
 - Mrs R Smith and Mrs J Edwards to continue to liaise to obtain best value for RTC visitor promotion and report back to next Working Group.

DATES AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

The date of the next meeting:

Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 10am

The Chair closed the meeting at 11:55am.