



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL **Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group**

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

Date: Wednesday 25 October 2023, 5:30pm

Present: Councillors; Tricia Austin (Chair), Jim Driver, David Green (joined during Item 4) and Corinna Huxley.

Speaker; Councillor Rob Yates, Thanet District Council Cabinet Member for Corporate Services including Climate Change.

Residents; Michael Foley.

Also in attendance; Mr Dean Williams (Marketing and Communications Officer - Minutes)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Kay Dark and Barbara Young (Unwell), Councillors Raushan Ara, Jane Hetherington, Laurie Hudson, Becky Wing and Andy Stevens (Work Commitment), Councillors Anne-Marie Nixey (Personal Commitment). 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 6 September 2023 were received and considered.

RESOLUTION: The Minutes were noted as accurate.

David joined the meeting.

UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR ROB YATES

Rob gave an update detailing some of the upcoming discussions to be had at Thanet District Council (TDC) on Climate Change.

TDC has a Cabinet Advisory Group which meets every two months. Meetings are open to anyone to attend. The next meeting is Monday 27th November at 10am. On the agenda are EV charging points (Tony Marmo, new head of Open Spaces and Coastal, to speak), Biodiversity Net Gain and single use plastics legislation. On the agenda for January 2024 are Active Travel and Air Quality.

TDC have identified that 80% of their emissions are from their buildings and vehicles. They are budgeting for 2027/28 to decarbonise their waste vehicles. The leisure centres are not outside the scope of TDC's carbon emissions; they plan on installing solar panels, if they can obtain external funding.

The EPC Scale is being readjusted by the Government as it is no longer fit for purpose in relation to further advancements i.e. Air Source Heat Pumps.

The Harbour was not included in the statistics for the Carbon Audit; however Rob wants it included in future. He hopes we will have electric boats in the harbour in five years' time.

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TDC have received the Manston emissions report briefing. This was taken to a CAG meeting on 7th August and can be found on their website. They have received a sustainability presentation and a cycling and walking strategy from Kent County Council (KCC). Rob will share the statistics that have been received, which show that Thanet has the most dangerous roads in Kent.

Biodiversity was discussed at a meeting on 9th October and is being brought back to a meeting in January as the issue needs to be taken seriously. Rob mentioned the new water fountain in Margate, established in partnership with community group #RiseUpCleanUp. TDC will be promoting this and other climate initiatives via a new Climate Change Communications Facebook page, including a new logo.

Rob stated that he might be able to help with potential funding from the Windfarms for free water fountains in Ramsgate.

Rob is concerned to ensure that the current parking review will include the use of cycling spaces within car parks and elsewhere. He would like to see parklets established in some unused parking spaces but this may take a while to secure!

RESOLUTION:

- **Councillor Rob Yates to send the KCC Statistics for cycling and walking and road safety.**
- **Councillor David Green to email Councillor Rob Yates enquiring about the lack of statistics surrounding Ramsgate Train Station.**
- **Chair to message Councillor Rob Yates regarding possible funding from the windfarms regarding free drinking water stations in Ramsgate.**

REVIEW PREVIOUS MINUTES FOR ACTIONS

The Group reviewed the list of actions set out in the minutes. The majority of actions are ongoing and being considered at the meeting.

Michael gave an update regarding the possible Pocket Park in Charlotte Court, detailing potential ideas and mock ups. The group felt that as long as there was space for the businesses to have tables and chairs this may be an idea that TDC are willing to accept.

RESOLUTION:

- **Chair to write to Councillor Helen Crittenden, Chair of Open Public Spaces Strategy Group, to add an item to the agenda inviting Michael Foley to present the idea at the next meeting. The Chair and Open Public Spaces Strategy Group will then work together with the Town Clerk to look at how to proceed.**

ENERGY SAVING TRIALS

An article has been put in the Community Ad Magazine requesting volunteers for the energy saving trials. The Group is awaiting responses before proceeding.

The group is keen to invite the Thanet District Youth Council to speak at a future meeting.

RESOLUTION:

- **The Chair to contact Councillor Heather Keen at Thanet District Council to invite a representative from the Youth Council to speak to the group.**

ACTION PLAN

Dean went through section one of the draft action plan detailing updates surrounding the Council's remit.

Further articles will be put in each issue of the Community Ad Magazine as detailed at previous meetings, with the intention of having a Climate focussed Magazine in March-April 2024.

The Chair showed the group a 20mph advisory poster from the '20's Plenty For Us' organisation which she would be interested in ordering from her ward allowance, subject to the advice of the Town Clerk and Paul Valek from KCC.

RESOLUTION:

- **The Final version of the Action Plan to be recommended to the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting for formal adoption.**
- **The Chair to order 100 copies of the poster at the cost of £30 from her ward allowance, subject to the advice from the Town Clerk and Paul Valek.**

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is 6th December 2023, 5:30pm – 6:30pm.

RESOLUTION:

- **The Chair will email members suggesting the group's meetings move to 6pm – 6:50pm. It is hoped this will be more convenient for members with daytime commitments, and will allow time for setup before the next meeting.**

The Chair closed the meeting at 6:40pm.