



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group

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

Date: Wednesday 25th September 2024, 6pm

Present: Councillors: Tricia Austin (Chair), Jim Driver, David Green, Corinna Huxley and Tony Ovenden.

Residents: Eddie Gadd, Michael Foley and Phil Shotton.

Also in attendance: Dean Williams (Marketing and Communications Officer – Minutes).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Crittenden, Hudson and Nixey. 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 31st July 2024 were received and considered.

RESOLUTION:

- **The Minutes were noted as accurate.**
- **Tricia will chase Adrian Verral at TDC to find out the timeline for the 20mph zones around schools, as this is going ahead.**

FUNDING BIDS

Tricia informed the group on potentially submitting funding bids for fruit trees, which would be offered to residents to plant, and hedging in areas around Ramsgate.

RESOLUTION:

- **Tricia to submit the funding bids for fruit trees and hedging.**

ACTION PLAN

Dean and Tricia gave updates on the Action Plan. The Action Plan has been reviewed and updated as per the new objectives and projects. Ongoing and completed actions will be separated to focus on the group's core actions.

Section 1 – Council remit

Dean updated the group that a couple of residents showed an interest in becoming Tree Wardens. These details have been passed onto the Kent Tree

and Pond Wardens, so they can register, however we have not heard anything since.

Dean has created a draft Environmental Policy for the Council.

Section 2 – Work with other Councils

The information on TDC's website regarding what changes can be undertaken to a building in a conservation area (e.g. re double glazing) is still listed under the Future High Streets Fund page and not under planning. Tricia is still requesting this to be moved.

Section 3 – Work with Ramsgate's Community

The task group will continue to support community groups and help them to reduce their carbon footprint or to reduce costs, where possible.

Dean informed the group that two residents have shown an interest and registered for the Energy Saving Trials. It was agreed that the main idea is to bring the energy cost down for the individuals. Various ideas were put forward that could be tried, such as:

- Turn off radiators in rooms that are not used.
- Replacement of light bulbs with energy efficient.
- Infrared Heaters
- Roof Insulation
- Automatic/Smart Timers on devices.
- Thermal Blinds
- Wearing a jumper indoors.
- Wearing thermal underwear.

More information would be gathered from the participants, in the meantime a recommendation to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to pay for EPC certificates to evaluate the resident's properties in preparation for the Energy Saving Trials, so adequate trials can be tailored to the properties.

Tricia informed the group that the Repair Café is going well, and volunteers are tackling a variety of repairs. At the Town Shed, volunteers are using their skills to make benches, bird boxes and planters.

Section 4 – Maximising local resources for climate action

Tricia will look again at the budget for the group regarding what new projects will be started. Both the Repair Cafe and Town Shed are looking for premises: the Repair Cafe for temporary premises during the Radford House refurbishment, but the Town Shed for longer term use as Radford House will not be suitable. Members agreed contributing to rental costs from this year's Climate Change budget and the funding from Social Enterprise Kent. Thereafter, however, the Shed would need to find ways to raise funds towards rent.

Advice from the Town Clerk is to recommend to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to actively look into a temporary location for the Town Shed, as it will have outgrown Radford House.

Eddie mentioned that the group may wish to work with Southeastern to encourage the use of secure cycling areas at Ramsgate Station. There are schemes that can be looked into that could help with areas around the town. Eddie suggested that Southeastern could possibly display a sign for CCTV, to deter theft at Ramsgate Station.

Michael raised the idea of running a flint course for contractors and builders. This would cover how you would rebuild a flint wall. Masterclasses are given where there is theory and practical, giving a wide range of context for the teaching process. It is suggested this could be a four-day course that is recognised by the Council.

RESOLUTION:

- **Dean and Tricia to review and revamp the action plan, to focus solely on core actions, moving ongoing and completed to the back of the document.**
- **Dean will publicise the Tree Warden information again, pointing people to the Kent Tree and Ponds Warden contact so they can register directly.**
- **Task Group members to review the draft Environmental Policy and to feedback to Dean, in preparation for the next meeting.**
- **Corinna Huxley to speak to Helen Crittenden regarding the inclusion of Coleman Crescent as a pocket park.**
- **Tricia to find out more information from the resident on potential area and land for food growing.**
- **Recommend to the Finance and General Purposes Committee that EPC certificates are purchased to evaluate the resident's properties in preparation for the Energy Saving Trials.**
- **Recommend to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to look into a temporary location for the Town Shed, as it will have outgrown Radford House. Potentially using money obtained from the SEK Group.**
- **Tricia to speak to Rebekah Smith, to liaise with Southeastern on possible development of a more secure cycling area at Ramsgate Station.**
- **Tricia to look into flint courses that could benefit local tradespeople and the Technicians.**

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 27th November 2024, 6pm – 6:45pm.

Tricia closed the meeting at 6:50pm.