



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

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

**Date:** Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 5:45pm

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

Also in attendance:

Dean Williams (Marketing and Communications Officer – Minutes)

Simon Davis (Active Ramsgate Project Manager)

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Hudson and Wing, and residents Eddie Gadd, Michael Foley and Phil Shotton. 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 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were received and considered.

**RESOLUTION:**

- **The Minutes were noted as accurate.**

**FRUIT TREES INITIATIVE**

Dean gave an update on the Fruit Tree Initiative, stating that there had been 26 applicants from all Ramsgate wards.

It was suggested to offer the existing applicants the opportunity to have another tree for their back gardens, before offering the option to all residents.

It was noted that community groups had been in touch and could possibly take up to five trees each.

Tricia suggested to contact Rebekah regarding School contacts.

**RESOLUTION:**

- **The group agreed to offer existing applicants the opportunity to have another tree for their back garden, before offering to the wider Ramsgate audience.**

## **CYCLING FACILITIES**

Eddie Gadd and Tricia met with Eddie Goddard, Ramsgate Station Manager, to discuss storage facilities for bicycles. Tricia informed the group that Ramsgate Station aims to declutter the platforms, so storage could not be used there. In a further meeting, South Eastern's regional community lead confirmed that the secure cycle hubs at Margate, Westgate and Canterbury were funded through a Department of Transport initiative with Train operating Companies, which was no longer available. Some of this funding had been passed to local authorities. Tricia had chased this with Adrian Verrall and with the Parking team, but with no success. Members suggested trying Morgan Sproates or Rob Yates and Tricia agreed to do so.

Simon, Eddie and Tricia have spoken to Natasha at Thanet District Council about CyclingUK funding. Simon clarified that this can be used to put on several events: Fix your Bike, Learn to Fix, Community Rides and Learn to Lead a Community Ride.

Natasha is planning to put events on in Ramsgate, working with local groups and businesses. She has reached out to the Pie Factory and Harbour Bikes. Simon is attending a meeting with Natasha and Toby at Harbour Bikes to discuss how these activities can come together. Tricia urged Simon to press Natasha to ensure the Pie Factory are involved and passed on Luis Dawber's contact details.

Tricia will follow up with Penny Button at Thanet District Council on the cycling hangars that could take over parking spaces in car parks or on streets.

### **RESOLUTION:**

- **Tricia to contact Morgan Sproates and Rob Yates to follow up on funding for cycling initiatives.**
- **Simon to ask Luis Dawber about working with TDC on the Cycling UK funding.**
- **Tricia to follow up with Penny Button at Thanet District Council on the cycling hangars.**

## **THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL TREE PLANTING**

The group have been approached by Thanet District Council on suggestions for Tree and Hedge planting in Ramsgate. This work would start between 26 November and 6 March.

Possible areas considered could be Boundary Park and Arklow Square. An email is to be sent round to all Councillors asking for suggestions.

Disappointingly, we have been unable to fund more street trees on the Nethercourt Estate from this year's Climate Change budget, as David has received no firm response from KCC. David has now escalated the KCC Street Trees issue to Paul Valek, who should respond soon.

### **RESOLUTION:**

- **Dean to send an email to all Councillors asking for suggestions of tree and hedge planting in Ramsgate.**

## **ACTION PLAN**

The group reviewed the Action Plan and received updates on food growing, Town Shed, Repair Café, Carbon Audit and domestic bin lids.

Dean stated that he hopes to have an up-to-date Carbon Audit completed by the Summer to share with the Council.

The Town Shed are refurbishing three large planters that will be used around Ramsgate, helping to expand the food growing offer, including at Nursery Close.

Tricia informed the group that a pallet of 50 bin lids will be stored at TDC depot to help with refurbishment and repairs of domestic bins. This will be trialled by the Repair café volunteers. TDC are sceptical about how well the scheme will work because bins often go out of shape with use, so the lids may not fit well, but they are willing for us to try it. Residents who have complained about broken bins will be the first to trial before offering to all Ramsgate residents.

David stated that there should be a future plan for Radford House regarding ways to reduce carbon, not necessarily during refurbishment stages but after it is established.

The Town Shed will be moved in April to 12 School Lane and the Repair Café will move to the Pie Factory once refurbishment starts at Radford House.

Tricia is finalising a report on the SEK grant and will circulate to Dean, Laura and Steve before sending on to the group.

For future reference, the group noted that any requests for spending should be recommended in detail to Finance and General Purposes Committee, specifying the exact amount and made a resolution, so that it can be taken forward.

### **RESOLUTION:**

- **Dean to work on the Carbon Audit prior to the Summer.**
- **The group to consider and create a future carbon plan for Radford House.**
- **Tricia to circulate the SEK grant report to Dean, Laura and Steve, before sending onto the group.**

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

The date of the next meeting is provisionally Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025, 5:45pm – 6:45pm. This date is to be decided by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Tricia closed the meeting at 6:35pm.