



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

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

**Date:** Wednesday 28th February 2024, 6pm

**Present:** Councillors: Tricia Austin (Chair), Helen Crittenden (joined at Item 7), David Green, Corinna Huxley, Anne-Marie Nixey and Tony Ovenden.  
Residents; Michael Foley and Eddie Gadd.  
Also in attendance: Eileen Richford (Deputy Town Clerk & FO - Minutes)  
Laura Fidler (Town Clerk & RFO – joined the meeting at Item 7).

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Driver, Makinson and Wing and resident 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 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 were received and considered.

**RESOLUTION: The Minutes were noted as accurate.**

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

### **UPDATE ON ACTIONS:**

- Tricia to email Councillor Heather Keen at Thanet District Council (TDC) to invite a representative from the Youth Council to speak to the group. **Heather Keen is in talks with the Youth Council.**
- Tricia to email Councillor Rob Yates to request the Kent County Council (KCC) Statistics for cycling and walking and road safety. **The road safety statistics have been received. Action: Dean to circulate.**
- Tricia to message Councillor Rob Yates regarding possible funding from the windfarms regarding free drinking water stations in Ramsgate. **We have applied jointly with the Ramsgate Society for funding for a water station on the seafront.**
- David to continue in talks with KCC on the cost of tree planting. **David has been in touch with KCC and waiting for a response.**

- Tricia to talk to TDC regarding the Big Green Week and how we can get involved. **Tricia will try to ensure that RTC/Ramsgate is involved in the Big Green Week.**
- Tricia to check with Iain Livingstone at TDC on the changes to the TDC website. **There is nothing to report to date.**
- Tricia to hear from KCC on methods of slowing drivers down in Ramsgate via signage. **RTC has been discouraged from distributing 20's Plenty signage; however, some community groups have got stickers and are displaying them.**
- Tricia to report back at the next meeting on the Repair Café in Maidstone. **Tricia reported that good progress is being made. A written report on her visit to Maidstone is available on request.**
- Tricia to speak to Rob Yates on TDC signing up to the Refill scheme. **Ramsgate is now signed up as a community project.**
- David to contact and invite Nicki Hildesley from Discovery Planet to a Climate Change Task Group meeting to speak on the science behind climate. **David has contacted Nicki and is waiting for a response.**
- David to follow up with more details on working with Southern Water for harvesting rainwater at Radford House. **David reported that there has been no response to date.**

### **RECYCLING SCHEME**

The Town Clerk & RFO, Laura Fidler reported the following in relation to recycling by RTC:

- **Soft Plastics** – as these are not accepted in the general/plastics recycling collections a way of recycling is being looked into.
- **Allotments** – still not chemical free but looking into this.
- **RTC uses Amazon for purchase (also Viking) but trying to find local businesses is difficult. This is being looked into.**
- **Greener Working Policy** – RTC uses 100% recycled paper, does not use throw away cups and crockery and has some ecological cleaning materials.

**RESOLUTION:** Town Clerk to send her report to all Group members.

### **MONTEFIORE WOODLAND MATERIALS**

Tony advised the Group that there are building materials in the Montefiore Woodland that may be reclaimed. They are from the demolition of the Lady Judith Montefiore College in 1964. It is a pile of knapped flints and Victorian bricks that can be reused for architectural restoration. No decision has been made on what to do with them or the rest of the recyclable material available in the woodland.

**RESOLUTION:** Tony to talk to the Montefiore Woodland Group about removal of the materials for future storage, potentially in the container on site. Technicians to be asked about potential storage in their container at Radford House.

Michael offered to visit with a flint mason to speak with Tony which was accepted.

Michael also offered to bring a training package for the trades and interested amateurs locally which was accepted. To be explored further.

## **THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL HOME ENERGY SERVICE UPDATE**

Tricia updated the Group advising that TDC Councillors had been provided with a pack with reference to energy loss from homes tailored to their wards from TDC's Home Energy Advice service. The pack also contains information on grants residents and landlords can apply for. It was noted that the contact for this is Lucy Rivers.

### **RESOLUTION:**

**Add to Action Plan and monitor.**

### **ACTION PLAN**

Updates were received as follows and will be fed into the Action Plan;

**Section 1.** Actions within the Council's own remit – the RTC Green Procurement Policy has been adopted by Council. Dean to circulate to the group.

Trees: A tree audit has been undertaken. The Town Clerk suggested we might try to recruit a Tree Warden – Dean to promote within the Community Ad magazine. Technicians to be asked to water the tree opposite the Queens Head at the entrance to Pier Yard.

Food Growing: There will be herbs grown in containers outside Radford House and others (see Action Plan update).

**Section 2.** Work with Ramsgate's Community

Community Projects: the Repair Café will be set up at Radford House in April, May and June with woodworking, sewing and skateboard repairs being undertaken amongst others.

**Section 3.** Maximising local resources for climate action – it was noted that the Group will have a budget of £7,500.00 for 2024-25.

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

The date of the next meeting is 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024, 6pm – 6:45pm.

Tricia closed the meeting at 7pm.