



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group

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

Date: Wednesday 29th January 2025, 5:45pm

Present: Councillors: Tricia Austin (Chair), Jim Driver, David Green, Corinna Huxley and Tony Ovenden.
Residents: Eddie Gadd and Michael Foley.

Also in attendance:

Dean Williams (Marketing and Communications Officer – Minutes)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Hudson and Young, 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 27th November 2024 were received and considered.

RESOLUTION:

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

FRUIT TREES INITIATIVE

Tricia has spoken to Jacquie Young at Youngs Nursery regarding the fruit trees. The trees provided will come with a stake and fertiliser plus full instructions for planting and aftercare. There will be a selection of small and medium trees as well as Apple, Pear and Plum trees.

These will be given to residents for a nominal fee of around £5, however if a resident cannot afford the full amount, a donation will be made instead. This will be advertised once approved.

Residents will use the newly created form to apply for the fruit trees. A disclaimer will be added to ensure residents are accountable for picking up fallen fruit. The council will acquire around 75 fruit trees (10 for each ward and a few left over for open spaces etc).

Staff and councillors can apply for a fruit tree; however, this will be dependent on the uptake of applicants for the fruit trees. If there is not enough interest, then staff and councillors will be considered.

The intention is for one fruit tree per resident and community groups can have multiple depending on the group and how many are left. Jacquie advised that the fruit trees will need to be planted by the second week of April.

RESOLUTION:

- **The group agreed to proceed with the fruit tree project and start advertising to residents.**

CYCLING FACILITIES

Tricia and Eddie are meeting the Ramsgate train station manager to discuss bike security and how the council can help create a sense of security at Ramsgate station to encourage people to cycle rather than drive there.

Eddie informed the group that he has been in touch with Cycling UK, who encourage cycle use for all. They promote the following:

- Bike maintenance
- Cycling safety
- Dedicated route finding
- Leisure cycling

Eddie is awaiting a response on local initiatives from Cycling UK.

Tricia informed the group that the revised Parking Strategy does incorporate cycling and cycle parking into the plan. It mentions cycling hangars, that could take over parking spaces in car parks or on streets, as seen in London and other cities. Tricia asked for the group's approval to offer to trial these in Ramsgate and the group approved this approach.

Tony mentioned that there is possibly space at Ramsgate station, on platforms 3 and 4 for bike storage. Eddie will provide a brief document prior to meeting with the Ramsgate station manager, which will outline the most secure storage units for bikes.

It was agreed to circulate the minutes to the Active Ramsgate Working Group, so they are aware of the developments for cycling in Ramsgate. Tricia would like to invite Simon Davis, Active Ramsgate Project Manager to the next group meeting.

RESOLUTION:

- **Minutes to be circulated to the Active Ramsgate Working Group.**
- **Simon Davis to be invited to the next group meeting.**
- **Tricia and Eddie to meet with the Ramsgate station manager.**
- **Tricia to talk to TDC Cabinet member and officers about piloting bike hangars in Ramsgate.**

DOMESTIC WASTE BINS

Tony informed the group that he has been repairing local brown bins in Sir Moses Montefiore Ward and elsewhere, due to the damage that has been caused by storms. This has caused a surge of interest from residents.

With the help of the Ramsgate Litter Forum, Technicians and Ramsgate Town Team, Tony was hoping to help repair and reuse existing bins and materials which could be a worthwhile project too.

It would require gathering a stock of replacement parts so that they could be restored and repaired quickly.

This mirrors work that has been happening through the Litter Forum to access a pilot set of bin lids from TDC and offer to replace them for residents.

RESOLUTION:

- **Tricia to talk with Matt Elmer, Thanet District Council Head of Cleansing to discuss the project.**

ACTION PLAN

The group reviewed the Action Plan and received updates on food growing, the green library, Refillable Van, Town Shed, Repair Café, street tree planting and potential for a car club.

The Town Shed will move to 12 School Lane, where it will be trialled for a period of 3 months. We will have sole use of the space. The Town Clerk is liaising with contract and payment and Tricia is gathering feedback from the Town Shed volunteers.

The Repair Café will hopefully be moving to the Pie Factory once refurbishment starts at Radford House.

£1,500.00 was put aside to help with the street trees in Nethercourt. David to pin Kent County Council down with costs, so this can start.

There was briefly an electric Car Club opposite Waitrose, but this unfortunately stopped when Covid started. Tricia mentioned this is something that we might want to consider bringing back. Tricia will raise this with Thanet District Council.

Michael raised the Fit 4 the Future scheme that the Council should be signed up to, it includes training courses and ideal building energy consumptions.

Michael raised the idea of running a flint wall building/repairs course at the Montefiore Woodland. This would potentially be a weekend/2-day course aimed at builders and others with existing skills but limited experience of flints and heritage materials. Michael and Tony to meet and discuss further.

RESOLUTION:

- **David to get costs from Kent County Council on planting street trees.**
- **Town Clerk to check if the council is signed up to the Fit 4 the Future Scheme, which was part of the Architectural Fund grant.**
- **Michael and Tony to liaise on a flint course at the Montefiore Woodland.**
- **Tricia to check with Broadstairs College for possible funding/support for this course and/or links with other building skills programmes.**

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 26th March 2025, 5:45pm – 6:45pm.

Tricia closed the meeting at 6:40pm.