



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group

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

Date: Wednesday 29th October 2025, 6pm

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

Also in attendance:

Dean Williams (Marketing and Communications Officer – Minutes)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor 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 30th July 2025 were received and considered.

RESOLUTION:

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

CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE

- 1) Dean informed the group of the response received from Kent County Council to the letter on glyphosate use in Ramsgate. It refers to a previous study that supports Kent County Council's decision. Tricia has had a copy previously; this will be forwarded to the group.

David asked whether printed notices could be made for residents, advising Kent County Council not to spray outside their house. Tricia will contact the Soft Landscapes team about this.

- 2) Dean informed the group of the response received from Stagecoach on plans for the Number 34 bus. Jim informed the group of the route's changes and how Stagecoach are looking to make it financially viable. A meeting had been arranged for today but was cancelled at short notice. It was agreed that a list of concerns would be drafted and a request for a new meeting sent to Joel Mitchell and Katharine Jones at Stagecoach.

The group agreed to invite Jenny Matterface to the next group meeting to discuss bus routes and options for residents.

3) Jim suggested creating a WhatsApp group for the task group, so that non-council members were kept in the loop with information. This was agreed.

RESOLUTION:

- **Tricia to circulate the Kent County Council study to the group.**
- **A list of concerns to be drafted ref the Number 34 bus and other bus travel issues.**
- **Tricia to invite Jenny Matterface to the next group meeting.**
- **Dean to create a WhatsApp group for the Climate Change Task Group.**

FRUIT TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE

Dean gave an update on the Spring Fruit Tree initiative, stating that all 75 trees had been planted in all Ramsgate wards. Unfortunately, four of the trees perished due to the long exposure of trying to find suitable applicants.

Due to personal circumstances at Youngs Nurseries, the Autumn Fruit Tree initiative has not progressed. It was suggested that publicity would continue until the end of the year, ready for Spring 2026. We already have significant numbers of residents interested, plus some of the community gardening groups.

Jim suggested that the final figure for trees should have a 10% contingency in case some perish.

RESOLUTION:

- **The group noted the feedback on the Spring 2025 initiative.**
- **The groups agreed to advertise until the end of the year, ready for Spring 2026 and to arrange for a 10% contingency.**
- **The group agreed that delivery of the trees would be made upon payment.**
- **The group agreed to consider applicants outside of Ramsgate if we have spare trees, but they would be required to pay the full cost for a tree.**

KENT'S NEW WALKING & CYCLING ITINERARIES

Tricia updated the group of the request for new walking and cycling itineraries for Kent. This email was circulated to the group for further ideas.

Corinna stated that, once in post, the Visit Ramsgate Project Manager should be involved with route suggestions.

The group agreed that the information provided in the previous document was too much to wade through, and suggested this was feedback that should be given, to streamline the information into an easy-to-read document or provide a summary.

David highlighted that it is key for the route from Ramsgate Station to the Seafront to be considered.

RESOLUTION:

- **Any suggestions regarding routes for walking and cycling should be emailed to Dean.**
- **Dean and Tricia to draft a response once suggestions are in, including mention of an easier-to read document.**

CYCLING FACILITIES

Tricia updated the group on discussions around bike storage in Ramsgate. Tricia has spoken with Penny Button to continue discussions regarding the possible pilot of cycling hangars in Ramsgate. Penny is keen to discuss this idea and has offered a meeting, Tricia is waiting for a response.

SouthEastern have advised that they cannot engage with new bike storage facilities on their premises at present as they are waiting for a larger plan to be developed as part of Great British Railways. However, station manager Eddie Goddard has offered a meeting which Eddie Gadd and Tricia will take up.

RESOLUTION:

- **Await for a response from Penny Button on bike storage hubs.**
- **Arrange meeting with Eddie Goddard at SouthEastern.**

ACTION PLAN

The group reviewed the Action Plan and received updates on growing schemes, Town Shed, Repair Café, Carbon Audit.

Growing Schemes: Tricia suggested a new idea for the spring, hoping to help people who don't have front gardens for fruit trees, but to supply those with window boxes for flats, either with food growing or other plants, such as bulbs. Youngs are supportive and a meeting will be arranged shortly.

David informed the group that the Nethercourt Tree planting would take place mid-December as part of Thanet District Councils planting scheme. He is in touch with TDC about possible further planting in Nethercourt Park.

Repair Café: The Repair Café is working well at its new base at the Pie Factory. Pop-up sessions for specialist repairs are planned – eg for November, a specialist sewing machine repairer is attending.

Town Shed: The Council has now signed the contract at 12 School Lane for the Shed, and volunteers are installing benches etc, with a view to opening to the public soon.

The Town Shed are creating 8 new planters for Spencer Square Alley, as they received some award prize money for their area which they will use to pay for them

Carbon Audit: Dean informed that group that the Carbon Audit will hopefully be covered by the Project Manager proposal at the Council meeting later on. David expressed disappointment that the information is not being used to impact decision making, especially toward refurbishment. It was suggested that this goes to Finance or Full Council to be considered.

Dean stated that Maxine has registered for the CleanUp UK scheme, which logs recycling and waste collected from the community. Other recycling ideas for the Council are being considered and sought.

There are ongoing discussions with Harbour Bikes around e-bike trials.

Tricia thanked Eddie for his regular attendance and suggested the group try to recruit new resident members. This was agreed.

RESOLUTION:

- **Tricia to meet with Youngs Nursery regarding window boxes for flats and potential plant options.**
- **The Carbon Audit to be taken to Finance and General Purposes Committee or Full Council for consideration in its impact with Council decisions.**
- **A recruitment drive to take place for new members to the group.**

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

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

Tricia closed the meeting at 6:50pm.