



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group

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

Date: Wednesday 30th July 2025, 5:45pm

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

Also in attendance:

Dean Williams (Marketing and Communications Officer – Minutes)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Nixey 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 26th March 2025 were received and considered.

RESOLUTION:

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

LETTER TO KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – GLYPHOSATE USE IN RAMSGATE

Dean informed the group of concerns and complaints raised by residents regarding the spraying by Kent County Council of glyphosate in Ramsgate. One resident in particular reporting a loss of a bee colony.

A letter was drafted for the group to consider, raising issues on the grounds of the biodiversity impact in Ramsgate. The letter detailed the request for information on the use of glyphosate and the relevant evidence to support its justification.

The group agreed the letter to be sent with an amendment, stating that the councillor informed originally was 'a local County councillor'.

RESOLUTION:

- **The group agreed to recommend the draft letter to Kent County Council to be sent, with the amendment stating, 'a local County councillor'.**

FRUIT TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE

Dean gave an update on the 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.

It was suggested to run a second round of fruit trees for residents, with the following in mind:

- Publicity to start in the summer, advertising to register onto a waiting list for a fruit tree, to gather numbers ready for the autumn.
- Applicants from the first round would be exempt from the second round, to allow for more diversity and spread across Ramsgate.
- Feedback to be gathered from the first round of tree planting.
- Costs to be gathered from Youngs nurseries on fruit trees for the autumn.

The group agreed that this approach should remove the risk of further trees perishing.

Jim stated that St. Marks Church would be interested in planting fruit trees on their land.

RESOLUTION:

- **The group agreed to proceed with the above and report back to the next meeting with full details on the previous rounds' success and the cost for the next round.**
- **Jim would check with St. Marks Church as to whether they would be willing to plant fruit trees with the help of the technicians.**

THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL TREE AND HEDGE PLANTING

Dean updated the group that the list of suggestions for tree and hedge planting by Thanet District Council had been sent to Phoebe Cullingworth in principle. Phoebe agreed these areas can be added to the list for the November planting.

RESOLUTION:

- **The group agreed to confirm that these areas are added to the list for planting by TDC in November 2025.**
- **Tricia will check with Becky Wing and Barbara Young on hedging at Government Acre.**

CYCLING FACILITIES

Tricia has restarted a conversation regarding bike storage in Ramsgate with SouthEastern. The previous funding is no longer received by the railway, but is sent to TDC. Tricia followed this up with Adrian Verrall and Morgan Sproates and this money is used for the Cycling and Walking Infrastructure, which has been used to develop routes around Thanet.

There is currently a consultation for Cycling and Walking, this can be found here - <https://yourvoice.thanet.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/cycling-and-walking>

Tricia has spoken with Penny Button to continue discussions regarding the possible pilot of cycling hangers in Ramsgate. Penny is keen to discuss this idea and has offered a meeting, however she has requested suggested sites

to trial this.

RESOLUTION:

- **Staff and Councillors are encouraged to complete the Cycling and Walking Consultation provided by TDC. The deadline is 17th August.**
- **Dean to send an email to Councillors to gather suggestions on placements for potential cycle hangers in Ramsgate.**

ACTION PLAN

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

Dean stated that the Carbon Audit is underway, and an update will be brought back to the next meeting.

It was highlighted that a recruitment drive for the task group is needed. This would be advertised over the summer.

Tricia apologised that the SEK grant report had not been circulated. This would be circulated with the minutes.

The Repair Café has moved to Pie Factory and is working well. The Town Shed now has a move in date of 11 August to 12 School Lane. There will be some time needed for fitting the new location and the aim is to open to new members in September.

There have been discussions regarding e-bike trials, which we hope to start in the autumn. Susan Kennedy will write an article for the Community Magazine on trialling e-bikes.

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. Jim suggested the possibility of climbing roses. Options to be explored with Youngs Nursery.

Jim informed the group of the possibility of the number 34 bus being lost to lack of use. Jim suggested writing an article to promote and encourage residents to use the service, otherwise it will be lost. Jim would find out the name of the contact at Stagecoach, so a letter can be written from the Chair of Council urging to keep the number 34 running. David stated that this could be a project that could be run under the Plan for Neighbourhoods. David would raise this with Louise Askew.

RESOLUTION:

- **Dean to report back at the next meeting on the Carbon Audit.**
- **A recruitment drive to take place for new members to the group.**
- **The SEK grant report to be circulated with the minutes.**
- **Tricia to have a conversation with Young Nursery regarding window boxes for flats and potential plant options.**
- **Jim to write an article encouraging public transport use, specifically the number 34.**
- **Jim to find out the name of a contact at Stagecoach, so further**

action can be taken by the Chair of Council.

- David to raise the continuation of the number 34 with Thanet District Council's Regeneration Team under the Plan of Neighbourhoods.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to return the meeting start time to 6pm.

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 24th September 2025, 6pm – 6:45pm.

Tricia closed the meeting at 6:30pm.