



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group

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

Date: Wednesday 31 January 2024, 6pm

Present: Councillors: Tricia Austin (Chair), David Green (joined during Item 4), Jane Hetherington, Corinna Huxley, Anne-Marie Nixey and Tony Ovenden.

Residents; Michael Foley

Also in attendance: Dean Williams (Marketing and Communications Officer - Minutes)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Helen Crittenden, Laurie Hudson and Residents Phil Shotton and Eddie Gadd. 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 6 December 2023 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.

Tricia will be following up the previous actions via email.

RESOLUTION:

- **Tricia to email Councillor Heather Keen at Thanet District Council (TDC) to invite a representative from the Youth Council to speak to the group.**
- **Tricia to email Councillor Rob Yates to request the Kent County Council (KCC) Statistics for cycling and walking and road safety.**
- **Tricia to message Councillor Rob Yates regarding possible funding from the windfarms regarding free drinking water stations in Ramsgate.**
- **Anne-Marie to share contact details with Tricia and Dean regarding the Incredible Edible Project.**

- **Details of Hop growing to be put in the next edition of the Community Ad Magazine to advertise the project.**

ACTION PLAN

Section 1: Council Actions: Dean went through section one of the draft Action Plan detailing updates surrounding the Council's remit.

Radford House: Radford House is preparing to go into Stage 4 of development, with the hope of works starting in mid-August. The new planning application is awaiting approval, and the council has been advised to reapply to the Community Ownership Fund to help with the project.

Repair Cafe/ Town Shed: The possibility of setting up a Ramsgate Town Shed, possibly linked with our proposed Repair Cafe, was discussed, with location being the main issue. A popup may be possible, perhaps at Radford House to start with to gauge interest and when works start to possibly move to Newington Community Centre, who have expressed interest.

The Town Shed would require interested people with relevant skills to act as shed leaders to get it setup up, just like the process for Minster's and Broadstairs' Sheds.

For the Repair Shop and/or Town Shed, Jane stated she had a contact, Ian, who may be interested in helping with Bicycle Repairs. Ian is keen to get involved, however it is finding the time to help.

Around 20 residents have shown an interest in the Repair Café, Town Shed and Toolbank from the articles that have been put in the Community Ad Magazine.

Tricia will be visiting the Maidstone Repair Café and will report back on how successful it is.

Recycling: It was made known that TDC has had problems with processing green waste and now needs a new licence, which may take a few months to come through. Tricia mentioned at Cabinet the possibility of creating compost and mulch with the green waste in and around Thanet, which could be sold to residents for gardens and allotments. The Head of Public Realm has agreed to look at this. TDC's overall recycling rate is currently at 35%, the new Head of Cleansing, Matt Elmer, is aiming to reach 40% by the end of the year.

Tree planting: David informed the group of the costings of planting street trees in Ramsgate from KCC. KCC are willing to consider the costs, but David is waiting to hear back.

Tricia stated that KCC are against having 20mph signs in Ramsgate, where the speed limit is 30mph, however Tricia is waiting to hear back on the potential of slowing drivers down with other appropriate signage.

Books: The Carbon Library cannot be viable at The Custom House or the Ramsgate Library, however it may be possible for it to be linked in with the Chat Time at Radford House. This is under consideration and Tricia will report back.

Pocket Parks: RTC are requesting a licence from TDC to work on green areas in Ramsgate.

Tricia will be contacting TDC regarding the Big Green Week, to find out how we can help promote and publicise this.

Tricia stated that from the new financial year, TDC will be using foam stream as weedkiller. This is great for ordinary weeds, and for graffiti and gum, but not for deep roots. We will have to wait until April to see how this works fully.

Food growing: Anne-Marie stated that she had contacts for the Incredible Edible Hop growing. Tricia and Dean stated that they had met Barbara from the Broadstairs 'Tasty Planters' project and saw how they developed the project. Tricia is meeting Helen Crittenden next week to discuss possibilities for food growing spaces in Ramsgate.

IT Equipment: Dean stated that RTC are upgrading to hotdesking with laptops. The refurbished laptops that have been purchased are a third of the cost of a new laptop and are sold by a carbon neutral company.

Tricia will check with Iain Livingstone whether the changes to TDC website have been made, making information easily available for the residents to find.

Community Ad Magazine: The next magazine will be a full feature for Climate Change, with over 10 to 15 articles provided by residents.

Funding: Tricia stated that the Community Wellbeing Fund is available to apply for, deadline the end of February. This fund helps engage older residents with improving their physical and mental health and could be appropriate for a Town Shed. Tricia will investigate further and submit a bid if appropriate.

Refill Scheme: Tricia has contacted the Refill Scheme team and established that registering as a Community Group is free but registering as a Council costs £5k. Ramsgate Town Team will be registering to proceed with the local version, however in the meantime we will be encouraging TDC to take on the scheme next year as it would be beneficial to the Isle.

World Refill Day is in June and the Refill scheme would like us to launch our scheme then. Tricia will speak to Helen, Rebekah and Simon to work this together with Active Ramsgate Week which is happening at the end of May.

Rainwater harvesting: David attended an event by Southern Water, where they detailed their plans for the next 10 years. He enquired about harvesting rainwater and potentially promoting its use at Radford House, as part of its redevelopment. This was something that Southern Water were interested in. David to follow up with more details.

David suggested that Nikki Hildesley from Discovery Planet could be a guest speaker to talk about the science behind climate.

RESOLUTION:

- **David to continue in talks with KCC on the cost of tree planting.**
- **Tricia to talk to TDC regarding the Big Green Week and how we can get involved.**
- **Tricia to check with Iain Livingstone at TDC on the changes to the TDC website.**
- **Tricia to hear from KCC on methods of slowing drivers down in Ramsgate via signage.**
- **Jane to contact Ian, to find out his availability of lending his expertise to a Repair Shop for bicycle repairs, he is keen to be involved and will report back at the next meeting.**
- **Tricia to report back at the next meeting on the Repair Café in Maidstone.**
- **Tricia to speak to Rob Yates on TDC signing up to the Refill scheme.**
- **Tricia to speak to Helen, Rebekah and Simon regarding World Refill Day in June, to take place after Active Ramsgate Week.**
- **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 to follow up with more details on working with Southern Water for harvesting rainwater at Radford House.**

ENERGY SAVING TRIALS

Only one resident has come forward to participate in the Energy Saving Trails, the Group agreed to readvertise in the summer to gather interest ready for Winter 2024.

RESOLUTION:

- **To readvertise in the Community Ad for participants in the Energy Saving Trials, ready for Winter 2024.**
- **Dean to contact Eve Lockton-Goddard to ask if she knows of potential participants for the Trials.**

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is 28th February 2024, 6pm – 6:45pm.

RESOLUTION:

- **The dates for the meetings thereafter will be decided at the next meeting, depending on actions and activities that need to be discussed or completed during the spring.**

Tricia closed the meeting at 6:45pm.