



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group

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

Date: Wednesday 31st July 2024, 6pm

Present: Councillors: Tricia Austin (Chair), Jim Driver, David Green, Corinna Huxley, Pat Makinson (joined at Item 4), Anne-Marie Nixey (joined at Item 4), and Barbara Young (joined at Item 4).
Resident: Michael Foley

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Hudson and residents Phil Shotton and Eddie Gadd. There were no other apologies.

RESOLUTION: To approve the apologies received.

Tricia informed the group that she had invited local resident Illana Adamson to join the group. Illana is a Climate and Sustainability Adviser for businesses. She could help with the local business section of the Action Plan.

RESOLUTION: The Task Group agreed for Illana Adamson to join the group.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group meeting held on Wednesday 29th May 2024 were received and considered.

RESOLUTION:

- **The Minutes were noted as accurate.**
- **The previous resolution ‘To recommend to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to consider the report with the recommendations for Carbon Saving Improvements at Radford House’ would be carried forward to the next meeting.**
- **The Highways Improvement Plan now has a sub-group consisting of Councillors Makinson, Shonk and Wing. Although the group reports to Full Council, the task group will continue to liaise with the new subgroup and maintain regular feedback on its progress.**

ACTION PLAN

Dean and Tricia gave updates on the Action Plan. The Action Plan has been reviewed and updated as per the new objectives and projects.

Section 1 – Council remit

Dean informed the group that while all previous actions have been brought forward, more focus would be put towards our buildings, recycling, Trees in Ramsgate, Pocket Parks and Food Growing.

Dean stated that he was still going through the Cornwall document. He would bring back an update to the next meeting on progress.

David informed the group that Radford House is entering Stage 3 (Design) and will then go to procurement. The group asked for green credentials to be taken into consideration. David also informed the group that the Council is looking to request funding from the Long-Term Plan for Towns.

Tricia stated that an update is needed from Laura on progress towards appointing a Tree Warden. This selected person would need to liaise with the Thanet District Council (TDC) Tree Officer. The question was asked whether any tree in Ramsgate can be TPO'd. Dean to find out and report back at the next meeting, and to check with the Town Clerk where we are with potential Tree Warden applicants.

To provide any work on small areas (pocket parks) the Council would require a licence from TDC. This would need to go to RTC Full Council to discuss. Jim mentioned that Coleman Crescent could be considered as a pocket park and will contact Helen Crittenden as to whether it can be included.

Section 2 – Work with other Councils

Kent County Council (KCC) will start using weedkiller in Thanet over a period of eight weeks, starting from 12th August. Officers have indicated that if residents weed their own areas, weedkiller will not be applied. David suggested that information should be gathered from KCC and publicised to the public prior to the weedkiller being used.

The information on TDC's website regarding what changes can be undertaken to a building in a conservation area (e.g. re double glazing) is still listed under the Future High Streets Fund page and not under planning. Tricia is still requesting this to be moved.

Michael offered to write a few bullet points on double-glazing and its effects on planning. This will be sent to councillors so they can consider it when making planning comments.

David stated that he has spoken to Hannah Thorpe at TDC and has successfully requested that for every Cabinet decision that a climate aspect is considered. Tricia thanked David for this action.

The task group will continue to chase for the provision of public EV Charging points in Ramsgate. The question was asked whether this is part of the Parking consultation. Tricia will write to the new Cabinet member for Parking, Councillor Kristian Bright, to find out.

Tricia would also write to Adrian Verral at TDC to enquire if 20mph zones are being actioned around schools.

Section 3 – Work with Ramsgate’s Community

The task group will continue to support community groups and help them to reduce their carbon footprint or to reduce costs, where possible.

The task group are looking to restart publicity for the Energy Saving Trials for Autumn 2024. If the uptake is not sufficient this will be stopped.

Councillor Anne-Marie Nixey joined the meeting.

Tricia informed the group that the Repair Café is going well, and volunteers are tackling a variety of repairs. At the Town Shed, volunteers are using their skills to make a bench for St. Luke’s Church.

Ramsgate has signed up to the Refill scheme and a water fountain should be installed on Ramsgate Main Sands on 1st August.

Section 4 – Maximising local resources for climate action

Tricia will look again at the budget for the group regarding what new projects will be started. The Town Shed will require a new space once Radford House development starts. This is something Laura and Tricia are looking into.

External funding is being considered for tree and hedge planting in Ramsgate.

Tricia agreed to invite the Sustainable Energy Project Lead from TDC, Lucy Rivers, to speak at the next meeting.

Councillors Makinson and Young joined the meeting.

RESOLUTION:

- **Dean to bring an update to the next meeting regarding progress on the Cornwall document.**
- **The Town Clerk to give an update on progress on a Tree Warden for Ramsgate.**
- **Dean to find out if any tree in Ramsgate can be TPO’d and report back at the next meeting.**
- **Jim Driver to contact Helen Crittenden regarding the inclusion of Coleman Crescent as a pocket park.**
- **Tricia to request further information from Kent County Council on the use of weedkiller, so it can be publicized prior to the 12th August.**
- **Michael to write a few bullet points on double-glazing in relation to planning.**
- **Tricia to write to Cabinet member for Parking, Councillor Kristain Bright, to ask if EV Charging points are being considered in the Parking Consultation.**
- **Tricia to write to Adrian Verral at TDC to enquire if 20mph zones are being actioned around schools.**
- **Tricia to invite the Sustainable Energy Project Lead from TDC, Lucy Rivers, to speak at the next meeting.**

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 25th September 2024, 6pm – 6:45pm.

Tricia closed the meeting at 6:45pm.