



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group

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

Date: Wednesday 6 December 2023, 5:30pm

Present: Councillors: Tricia Austin (Chair), David Green, Jane Hetherington, Corinna Huxley and Anne-Marie Nixey.

Residents; Phil Shotton (Representative from The Ramsgate Society).

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Steve Albon, Pat Makinson, Laurie Hudson, Jim Driver, Helen Crittenden and Resident Michael Foley. 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 25 October 2023 were received and considered.

RESOLUTION: The Minutes were noted as accurate.

REVIEW PREVIOUS MINUTES FOR ACTIONS

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 contact Councillor Heather Keen at Thanet District Council to invite a representative from the Youth Council to speak to the group.**
- **Tricia to order 100 copies of the poster at the cost of £30 from her ward allowance, subject to the advice from the Town Clerk and Paul Valek.**
- **Tricia to email Councillor Rob Yates to request the 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.**

ENERGY SAVING TRIALS

An article has been put in the Community Ad Magazine requesting volunteers for the energy saving trials. The Group is awaiting responses before proceeding.

ACTION PLAN

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

Energy Saving Trials: Further articles will be put in each issue of the Community Ad Magazine as detailed at previous meetings, with the intention of having a Climate focussed Magazine in March-April 2024.

Food growing: Anne-Marie stated that she had contacts for the Incredible Edible Hop growing. Tricia also stated she had a contact for the Broadstairs 'Tasty Planters' project.

Tree planting: David informed the group of the costings of planting trees in Ramsgate from KCC Street Trees. For soft ground planting it was £350 and would be looked after for 3 years by KCC. For hard ground planting it would be £500, with no upkeep. David is keen to get some trees planted in Nethercourt and will be using his Ward Allowance to do this, subject to resident consultation.

Energy support: Dean gave an update on the Energy Winter Support Schemes available and stated that the TDC website would be updated from 11th December 2023. From January 2024 statistics would be available to highlight households in fuel poverty. Statistics for Ramsgate have been requested from TDC.

Repair Cafe/ Town Shed: The possibility of setting up a Ramsgate Town Shed, possibly linked with a 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. Another suggestion would be to ask Addington Street Group if we might borrow Cozi-Van Tutti as a popup Town Shed. Tricia has visited Broadstairs Shed who have plenty of spare hand tools which they would be willing to donate if we got something going in Ramsgate. She has also heard from a GP Practice in Ramsgate which would be interested in working with us to help them support isolated older male patients to socialise more.

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. Jane will contact Ian.

Transport options: Tricia stated that pre-Covid there was an electric car club in Ramsgate. This would allow the hire of electric vehicles in Ramsgate and be easily accessible. This could be an idea that is revived in the background.

The group are keen to publicise and encourage carpooling in Ramsgate. A resident has recently started a Facebook group called 'Travel Share from Thanet' ([Travel share from Thanet | Facebook](#)). This might potentially be a service that could help make hospital appointments etc accessible for elderly residents. Tricia will contact the resident and see if she would be happy to publicise this in the Community Ad Mag.

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. She is awaiting a response to get Ramsgate registered, hopefully via the Town Team.

Funding: Tricia pointed out that funding for tree planting and establishing minibus services is available, however they have short deadlines to adhere to. Consultation would be needed for a resident minibus service, but it would help fill in the gaps of the reduced services of the Number 34 and Number 9 buses. We will revisit this at a future meeting.

Rainwater harvesting: David attend 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.

RESOLUTION:

- **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.**
- **Tricia to contact Addington Street Group and Suzy Humphries to look at options for a pop-up Town Shed.**
- **Jane to contact Ian, to see if he would be interested in lending his expertise to a Repair Shop for bicycle repairs.**
- **Tricia to chase Refill re-registering for the free scheme.**
- **Details of the Travel Share from Thanet carpooling to be placed in the Community Ad Magazine subject to approval from the resident who set it up.**
- **David to follow up with more details on working with Southern Water for harvesting rainwater at Radford House.**

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is 31st January 2024, 6pm – 6:45pm.

RESOLUTION:

- **The date of the following meeting will be Wednesday 28th February 2024 at 6pm. The dates for the meetings thereafter will be decided close to the time, depending on actions and activities that need to be discussed or completed during the spring.**

Tricia closed the meeting at 6:25pm.