



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group

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

Date: Wednesday 6 September 2023, 5:30pm

Present: Councillors; Albon (joined during Item 7), Austin (Chair), Green, Hetherington (joined during Item 7), Huxley and Nixey (joined during Item 5).

Residents; M. Foley.

Also in attendance; Mr D Williams (Marketing and Communications Officer - Minutes)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Driver (Personal Commitment), Councillors Dark and Hudson (Unwell), Councillor Young (Family Matter) and A. Stevens (Work Commitment). There were no other apologies.

RESOLUTION: To approve the apologies received.

Councillor Hudson joined the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Climate Change Task Group meeting held on Tuesday 1 August 2023 were received and considered.

RESOLUTION: The Minute 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.

Councillor Nixey joined the meeting.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The group received the amended Terms of Reference from the Chair. This was adapted to include greater clarity on the group's intentions and its achievable targets.

Under the membership section of the Terms of Reference it should be added that public membership will be at the discretion of the Chair. This will read as follows:

“Open to all Councillors and member of the public (at the discretion of the chair).”

RECOMMENDED TO THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

- **The Terms of Reference to be formally approved by the Finance and General Purposes Committee following the agreement by the task group to adopt the reviewed amendments made by the Chair.**

ENERGY SAVING TRIALS

The Marketing and Communications Officer went through the Energy Saving Trial document created by the Town Clerk. This gave the groups ideas on Who, What, Why, When, Where and How these trials could take place.

Ramsgate Town Council would be used as a controlled example showing to people the changes that can be made and how much it can save over a period of time. It was highlighted that the trial would need to last for 1 year.

M Foley highlighted that for larger projects the building control term is :

‘Technical Feasibility’, which is effectively financial payback within a 15-year period. He stated that the energy saving trials should be able to show a financial saving over the course of the trial.

There is an existing article for the Community Ad Magazine inviting the public to join the Climate Change Task Group. This will be amended to also let members of the public know we are looking for people to participate in these trials and detail what is coming up in the next issue.

RESOLUTION:

- **The Chair and the Marketing and Communications Officer to draft an article for the Community Ad Magazine and send it to the group ready for the next magazine. This will include an outline invitation to participate in the trials and let the public know they can expect further details in the next issue of the magazine.**

M. Foley to produce a list of possible things that Ramsgate Town Council might be able to fund to help people try during the trial e.g. infrared heaters, draught proofing, water butts, light bulbs etc.

Councillor Albon joined the meeting.

ACTION PLAN

The Chair and the Marketing and Communications Officer went through the draft action plan that was created.

This action plan was broken down into four sections:

1. Council's own remit
2. Work with other Councils
3. Work with Ramsgate's Community
4. Maximising local resources

Section one

The group agreed that these actions were suitable for the Council's remit.

M. Foley stated that he has an idea for a pocket park in Charlotte Court that he would like to run past the group, which was positively received.

RESOLUTION:

- **M. Foley to work up a proposal on Charlotte Court being a possible pocket park, this is dependant on costings. M. Foley should liaise with the Open Public Spaces Strategy Group on the work they have already undertaken on pocket parks.**

Councillor Austin apologised to Councillor Nixey for not including her suggestion at the last meeting of funding residents to plant trees, which she believed should be added to the Action Plan: members approved this.

Councillor Hetherington joined the meeting.

Section two

The group highlighted that the sharing of information from Thanet District Council and other Councils is an important priority, as this information can be used to influence and help residents.

Weedkiller was discussed: it was suggested that Kent County Council may not do this in future due to cost pressures. Councillor Austin stated that the Town Team had discussed the possibility of holding Weeding Weeks where residents and businesses were encouraged to weed around their own properties at appropriate times of year *e.g. after flowering). The Group was interested in taking this idea further, working with Kent County Council to understand their spraying schedules.

It was suggested that the Town Clerk is to invite Councillor Rob Yates and Kent County Council to the next meeting to discuss and inform the group on the various Climate Change projects that may be coming up.

RESOLUTION:

- **The Town Clerk to invite Councillor Rob Yates and Kent County Council to the next meeting to discuss and inform council of various climate change projects that may be coming up.**
- **The Chair and the Marketing and Communications Officer to fill the remaining sections in and recirculate to the group for comment.**

Section three

The group agreed to include in the first bullet point about involving younger people, this could be achieved through schools and the Youth Council run by Thanet District Council.

The group agreed to include in the second bullet point, businesses as well as residents, stating the green handbook that businesses can read.

The group agreed to invite the Active Ramsgate Manager to a future meeting to discuss ideas on cycling festivals.

Councillor Green stated there was an open drop in session on 18th September 2023, 2:30pm and 6:30pm at Minster Parish Hall organised by Thanet District Council to discuss a Walking and Cycling Plan.

RESOLUTION:

- **To amend the first bullet point to include Younger People.**
- **To amend the second bullet point by including Businesses and Community Groups and deleting the next 2 bullets.**
- **To invite the Active Ramsgate Manager to a future meeting to discuss cycling festivals.**

The group agreed to pursue the following projects for this year:

- Energy Saving Trials
- Community Toolbank
- Repair Café
- Tree planting scheme with residents

Radford House was suggested as a possible venue for the Repair Café. Councillor Hetherington would contact Ian Venables who has experience of this work to see if this was something he would be interested in helping with. Councillor Austin also has contacts running these in Dover and Chesterfield who can advise. To liaise with Suzy on the use of Radford House.

Section four

The group suggested that one event could be held to promote all the Climate Change projects and ideas. National Big Green Week, 8th – 16th June 2024, would offer an opportunity – Thanet District Council now runs events during Big Green Week, for example - but we may wish to do something before then too. (<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/>). This is something to discuss with Councillor Rob Yates when he attends the next meeting.

RECOMMENDED TO THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

- **The group requests that the Finance and General Purposes Committee allocated a budget for the three projects: Energy Saving Trials, Community Toolbank, Repair Café, Tree Planting with Residents.**

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed at the previous meeting to hold the group meetings every six weeks. The date of the next meeting is 25th October 2023, 5:30pm – 6:30pm.

Dates for future meetings will be:

Wednesday 6th December 2023, 5:30pm – 6:30pm

Wednesday 31st January 2024, 5:30pm – 6:30pm

Wednesday 6th March 2024, 5:30pm – 6:30pm

Wednesday 24th April 2024, 5:30pm – 6:30pm

The Chair closed the meeting at 6:40pm.