



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Open Public Spaces Strategy Group

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

Date: Friday 12th April 2024 at 10am

Present: Councillors: Huxley (Vice-Chair and Minutes).

Also in attendance;
Mrs R Smith – Town Centre and Tourism Manager
Mrs M Morgan – Technician Manager (Projects Manager)
C Gibson – Community Representative

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Albon and Crittenden. D Green had resigned from the group.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

REVIEW PREVIOUS MINUTES FOR ACTIONS

Councillor Huxley noted that Tony Marmo (Director of Thanet District Council Open Spaces) to action resurfacing of Eastcliff Promenade as requested. Budget for the new financial year, 2024/25, to carry out this work is now available.

The new Thanet District Council Tree Officer is Simon Fielder, simon.fielder@thanet.gov.uk, who replaces Phoebe Cullingworth.

Discussion about the ongoing gardening work by the Ramsgate Town Council technicians at the four green spaces. Mrs M Morgan said that this work is going well and the technicians are coping with the workload. The four areas are Eastcliff flower beds, Broad Street seating area, St Lawrence beds and Prestedge Avenue (Thanet District Council Housing land).

The Prestedge Avenue site was added at the last meeting. Mrs M Morgan said that the grass cutting work at Prestedge Avenue was going well and had transformed the area. She said that the local residents and shop owners were very pleased with the results. Councillor Huxley thanked Mrs M Morgan and the technicians, Mr S Pengilly and Mr C Quint, for all their work at the four sites.

PROGRESS UPDATE - DISCUSSION

Mrs M Morgan raised the issue of the amount of green waste being produced by Ramsgate Town Council and how it is collected by the Thanet District Council Open Spaces team. The group discussed the possibility of a Ramsgate Town Council green waste licence to help cope with the amount held at Radford House. Following on from the discussion of this issue, Mrs M Morgan contacted Dan Gooch (Thanet District Council Open Spaces manager) on 15th April 2024, and he has agreed that Thanet District Council will pick up Ramsgate Town Council's green waste from Radford House once a week. This is not a permanent arrangement but will solve the problem of a build-up of green waste at Radford House in the short term.

Surplus palms to be planted out in October.

Mrs R Smith commented that the Town Team had commissioned Young's Nurseries to replant the 14 planters at the front of Ramsgate station.

ENGAGING VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Mrs R Smith said that the last volunteers lunch held at Radford House in March 2024 had been very successful. However, only 35 volunteers attended (down from about 42 at the first meeting in 2023). Due to the cost of the lunches (which come out of the Town Promotion expenses budget) and the large amount of work involved in organising this event, it was agreed that the lunches would be held once a year rather than twice a year.

Mrs R Smith said that the Ramsgate Horticultural Society set up by one of the gardening volunteers, Linda Miller, now has a membership of 100.

ACTIONS

- The group agreed that it would meet two times a year (previously it met twice a year). Mrs R Smith suggested that the group meets in March and September from now on.
- The Terms of Reference for the group will need revising – Councillor Crittenden to liaise with the Clerk of Town Promotion and the Town Clerk re membership of the group following change in membership of the Town Promotion Committee and other Ramsgate Town Council committees. Councillor Huxley noted that both Councillors Green and Wing do not attend the Open Spaces Strategy Group meetings anymore.
- Councillor Crittenden to liaise with the Town Clerk to bring all green spaces/gardening works carried out by Ramsgate Town Council technicians under Open Spaces Strategy Group remit.
- Councillor Huxley to ask Steve Powell and Emma Penny (Thanet District Council Open Spaces managers) to the next meeting.
- Mrs R Smith to set up the next volunteers' lunch to be held in February 2025. Cost: £500 (40 volunteers). Clara Gibson suggested a gift of a pair of gardening gloves to all the volunteers which was agreed by the group. Mrs R Smith to investigate the cost and supplier.

- Progress report from Councillor Albon and Town Clerk regarding obtaining licences from Thanet District Council for Ramsgate Town Council technicians to carry out gardening on the Eastcliff Promenade; and future lease for taking over the maintenance of the clifftop shelters on the Eastcliff and Westcliff (The Ramsgate Society lease has expired).
- Mrs R Smith to contact local window cleaners to see if they would like to clean all the clifftop shelters and in return have their company advertising details displayed on the shelters.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Provisionally Friday 27th September 2024 at 10am. To be formally agreed at the next Town Promotion Committee meeting.

The Chair closed the meeting at 11:15am