



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning & Infrastructure Committee

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

Date: Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: Albon, Austin, Hetherington (Chair), Makinson, Nixey & Wing.

Also in attendance:

Miss E Richford, Deputy Town Clerk & FO

001/24

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Dark – unwell.

RESOLUTION: To approve the apologies for absence.

002/24

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest declared.

003/24

MINUTES

The Minutes of the ordinary Planning & Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on the 6th December 2023 (222/23 – 227/23) were received and considered.

RESOLUTION: The minutes were approved as a true record.

004/24

KENT CYCLING & WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN - CONSULTATION

Members considered the Consultation documents and Ramsgate Town Councils response.

RESOLUTION: The following response to be sent to KCC directly via email at the conclusion of the meeting in order to meet the deadline of midnight 10th January 2024;

In response to the “Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan” Public Consultation; please can the following response from Ramsgate Town Council be recorded:

Ramsgate Town Council is pleased to see the consultation but is disappointed that there is so little on offer in Thanet which is an area with many elderly residents and those with health inequalities.

- *The “primary walking areas” are unclear as to their boundaries; there doesn’t appear to be anywhere in Ramsgate that’s a primary walking route.*
- *The proposed Ramsgate routes should connect to the station and town centre.*
- *There should be a glossary, for example what does “primary cycle lane” mean.*
- *There needs to be more fine detail about what is proposed for each route. For example, we know that the condition of the road edges is not safe and cyclists need to pull out into the road to avoid recessed drain covers, will this be addressed in the proposed work?*
- *Better information is needed about how cycle routes that share the highway with all other vehicles will be shown and what measures will be put in place to keep these lanes free and/or slow traffic down, i.e. 20mph is plenty.*
- *Better signage for cyclists and other highway users is needed so all are aware that a cycle lane exists.*
- *The safety of children who cycle is a concern of the Town Council.*
- *Better cycle storage at key places; town centres, parks, beaches, stations, and even key bus-stops.*
- *Covered cycle racks provided within the town would encourage people to cycle in.*
- *A better indication of how wide cycle lanes will be in various contexts: as part of the highway, dedicated cycle lane, part of a footpath etc.*
- *Potholes and poor road conditions are an issue for cyclists with drain maintenance or seemingly lack of maintenance being of great concern - an overview of the whole district is required – flooding of roads is a major hazard for cyclists and pedestrians alike.*

Feedback from residents says that people in Ramsgate would walk/wheel more if they felt it was safer. The main things people say make them feel unsafe when walking in town are:

- *cars driving too fast.*

- *too few pedestrian crossings (and **far** too few dropped kerbs for people using wheelers/ mobility scooters/ pushing prams etc)*
- *pavement parking, so they have to walk into the road to get past obstacles.*
- *uneven & poorly maintained pavements.*
- *pedestrianised areas (Harbour St and lower High St) that aren't reliably pedestrianised.*
- *poor lighting when walking after dark.*

It's imperative that this plan (and others) should seek to address these concerns. With investment in some of these simple things we could have:

- *busier & more vibrant town centres*
- *more people using local shops & services instead of going to Westwood Cross*
- *fewer people using cars for short journeys, improving air quality & reducing congestion*
- *reduced parking problems*
- *a healthier population that walks & cycles more*

Ramsgate Town Council would like to invite KCC to work with its Active Ramsgate initiative as local knowledge is important.

The Town Clerk to contact KCC and request that an Officer visits RTC so Members can speak to them and share local knowledge.

005/24

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 7th February 2024 at 7pm.