



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Town Enhancement Working Group

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

Date: Friday 20th September 2024 at 10am

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

Also in attendance;
Mrs R Smith – Town Centre and Tourism Manager
Mrs M Morgan – Technician Manager (Projects and Community)
Mr D Williams – Marketing and Communications Officer (Minutes)
Mr D Gooch – Open Spaces Manager

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr G Mills (Technician Manager – HR and Health & Safety) and Mr T Marmo (Thanet District Council – Head of Coastal and Public Realm).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

REVIEW PREVIOUS MINUTES FOR ACTIONS

The Working Group reviewed the actions within the previous minutes. It was noted that the statement that the group met four times per year needed to be corrected to meeting twice a year.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION WITH GUESTS FROM THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL

Below are a list of questions and answers that Mr D Gooch was asked by the Working Group:

Can the bench being donated by Mrs M Morgan be placed in boundary park to encourage a friendly area for teens?

Mr D Gooch stated that Thanet District Council (TDC) have received the bench and intend it install it in an appropriate location. Further works are in the pipeline to help develop a teen friendly area close to the MUGA (Multi-use Games Area), particularly to attract more girls as at present the MUGA is male dominated.

The Beach Hut is looking to be removed, can TDC remove it from the promenade?

Mr D Gooch to speak to Miss L Collingwood (Beach Manager) to request for the Beach Hut to be removed from the promenade.

Regarding the Madeira Waterfall, when is the waterfall due to be repaired and working and can the buddleia and sycamore be cut back or taken out?

The waterfall is being dealt with by an engineer, they are working on what needs to be done to the waterfall. The fencing has been repaired and Mr D Gooch will check on the schedule of works for the waterfall. There will be a new budget for these works starting from next financial year, so the waterfall should be operational in Summer 2025, once the new budget is agreed and work can commence. In the meantime, Mr D Gooch will look at the waterfall gardens and get Open Spaces to do a cut back.

When are the palms in the arches and graffiti being removed from Royal Parade?

A lane closure has been submitted to Kent County Council (KCC) and TDC are awaiting approval. RTC will be moving the palms, and Mr D Gooch will liaise with Mrs R Smith, Mrs M Morgan, Town Clerk and Young's Nursery on a suitable date that all aspects can be completed on the same day.

Mr D Gooch stated that since he has started the Open Spaces Team has been reviewed and audited and the function of the team has changed for the better.

Can graffiti be removed or reported to TDC?

Graffiti can be reported using the online reporting form on TDC's website. This now includes action on private households.

Can graffiti be removed from signposts or would that be KCC?

Depending on the signpost would determine the authority, however TDC are working with KCC on certain signs. As part of the review there will be a dedicated liaison officer to do this in future.

The Eastcliff promenade and steps, can they be repaired?

Mr D Gooch will look into repairs for the Eastcliff steps and promenade, if possible.

PROGRESS UPDATE

Mrs M Morgan detailed a progress update on the areas that are maintained by the Technicians, this includes the Eastcliff flower beds, Broad Street seating area, St Lawrence beds and Prestedge Avenue (Thanet District Council Housing land). As well as the raised beds along the Westcliff, Station Approach Road roundabout and the viaduct area on St. Luke's Avenue. The issue of licences from TDC remains unresolved. Mr D Gooch said he will raise this with Estates.

Mrs R Smith detailed that the Town Team has spent £900.00 on plants for the Ramsgate Station planters.

ENGAGING VOLUNTEER GROUPS

It was reported at the previous meeting that some volunteer gardeners had said a thank you lunch twice a year was too much. During further discussion in this meeting, it was suggested that there are lots of thank you lunches organised by other councillors and if we are going to hold events for gardeners we should include litter pickers as well.

The chair clarified that the intention of the volunteer gardeners' meetings was not a "thank you lunch", as other councillors have been organising wider thank you lunches for all volunteers across Ramsgate. Rather it was intended to be a networking opportunity, for an exchange of ideas specific to gardening, with the possibility of speakers on seasonal specific topics. On that basis two meetings per year, at the key seasonal times at the beginning and end of the main growing / flowering seasons.

Mrs R Smith said that the Ramsgate Horticultural Society, which was set up by one of the gardening volunteers, Linda Miller, who first introduced the idea at a volunteer gardeners meeting, has now grown to a membership of 100 and is now the Thanet Horticultural Society.

At the request of the chair the volunteer gardeners networking events would be brought back to twice a year, to coincide with seasonal shifts. This would set up an event for October 2024 and February 2025. Feedback would be gathered from these events.

Following on from this, it was also agreed that a thank you event for litter pickers was a good idea and this would be referred to the Litter Pickers Forum for further comment. Councillor Crittenden to liaise with Councillors Young and Ara as to their plans for thank you events this year.

ACTIONS

- **Mr D Gooch to speak to Miss L Collingwood (Beach Manager) to request for the Beach Hut to be removed from the promenade.**
- **Mr D Gooch to liaise with Estates in reference to licences for pocket parks.**
- **Mr D Gooch will look at the waterfall and get Open Spaces to do a cut back, as well as check the schedule on the waterfall repairs.**
- **Mr D Gooch will liaise with Mrs R Smith, Mrs M Morgan, Town Clerk and Young's Nursery on a suitable date that the palms can be moved and graffiti can be removed on the same day.**
- **Mr D Gooch will look into repairs for the Eastcliff steps and promenade, if possible.**
- **Mrs R Smith to setup a Volunteer Gardeners' Networking Event for October 2024.**
- **Councillor Crittenden to follow up with Councillors Young, Ara and Austin, regarding volunteer thank you events, as discussed above.**

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 21st March 2025 at 10am.

It was agreed that having a member of TDC's Open Spaces present had been very useful and that TDC Open Spaces will be invited to future meetings. Invitations should be sent to Mr T Marmo and Mr D Gooch for either them or their representative to attend.

The Chair closed the meeting at 11:38am