



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE TASK GROUP: ACTION PLAN PROGRESS 2023/24

1) Actions within the Council's own remit		
Action	Responsibility	Progress in 2023/24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon policies: Draft and seek Council approval for carbon policies across all of Ramsgate Town Council's work. 	Climate Change Task Group Chair, Marketing and Communications Officer, Town Clerk	The Ramsgate Town Council Green Procurement and Greener Working Policy has been adopted by Council.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radford House / The Custom House: Plan schedule of works at Radford House and Custom House as recommended. 	Town Clerk, Mr Foley and Radford House Project Managers	Works underway; further updates available from Councillor Nixey and Green as required.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EV charging: Install EV charging points at Radford House at appropriate point in work schedule 	Mr Foley, Radford House Project Managers, Councillor Nixey and Green	On hold until development is underway.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycling: Improve recycling rates across Ramsgate Town Council's activities 	Ramsgate Town Council Staff	<p>The Technicians are collecting around 10 tonne bags of green waste a week in the winter and expect that to double in the summer.</p> <p>The Technicians are reporting that for every two bags of rubbish a week, one is recycling from The Custom House. There is a bin at Radford House which is used for recycling, including rubbish from events.</p> <p>Any glass is separated and taken to the glass bank at Staffordshire Street car park. Recycling of soft plastics at The Custom House is under consideration.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees: Undertake a tree audit on Ramsgate Town Council land with the view to TPOing important trees (and find ways to plant more). See Ramsgate Town Council Tree Management Policy. 	Town Clerk	<p>A Tree Management Policy has been adopted by Council. A Tree Audit has been undertaken by the Council.</p> <p>The Town Clerk recently suggested we would benefit from having a Tree Warden. The Marketing and Communications Officer has promoted this within the Community Ad Magazine.</p> <p>Technicians have been asked to water the tree opposite the Queens Head at the entrance to Pier Yard.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity: In line with the Government's "Complying with the biodiversity duty", consider what action to take for biodiversity by 1st January 2024 and agree policies and objectives as soon as possible thereafter. NB. Duty does not actually apply to town and parish councils. 	Town Clerk	Biodiversity is on the backburner for the time being. So the Climate Change Task Group can focus on Climate Change reduction initiatives.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pocket parks: Seek opportunities to create pocket parks to increase green space and maximise biodiversity 	Climate Change Task Group/ Ramsgate Town Council members and officers	The Town Clerk is in conversations with Thanet District Council regarding permission and licences for working on pockets of Thanet District Council land.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food growing: Consider possibility of introducing small food growing spaces in public areas. (Project examples: Broadstairs' 'Tasty Planters' Project, Todmorden 'Incredible Edible') 	Climate Change Task Group	<p>There will be herbs grown in containers outside Radford House. Councillor Austin and Crittenden have approached several churches and community organisations about food growing.</p> <p>St. Marks on Pysons Road already have cherry trees and may want more; St. George's Church and the Pie Factory are interested in getting involved.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramsgate Town Council fleet: Continue work on reducing diesel consumption and work towards fully electric fleet, when possible. 	Town Clerk, Technicians	The Technicians have been forward planning their trips in and around town, making use of areas to work on rather than drive all over Ramsgate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment: Maintain all equipment at optimum levels to minimise power use and extend life. When replacing, seek most sustainable options. 	Lead Technicians	Equipment is being maintained and an excel spreadsheet updated to keep track of equipment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT equipment: Report on low energy device options, recycling/refurbishing IT equipment/options for providing single-hatted members with tablets/Chromebooks for meetings etc 	Marketing and Communications Officer	<p>A report is being produced on devices and equipment for Councillors. Options need reviewing in terms of security for the Council.</p> <p>Ramsgate Town Council has started purchasing refurbishment equipment and donating old equipment to the Salvation Army to those that are in need of IT equipment.</p>

2) Work with other Councils		
Action	Responsibility	Progress in 2023/24
2.1 Information exchange		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network with neighbouring Councils to share and learn from each other on climate actions. 	Town Clerk/ Climate Change Task Group Chair/ Members/ Marketing and Communications Officer	Thanet District Council Councillor Yates was a speaker at one of the Climate Change Task Group meetings. Councillor Austin is in touch with him and relevant officers to share information.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make best use of information via national and regional networks, for example Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC), Local Government Association (LGA) and the Associations of Labour/Green Councillors. 	Town Clerk/ Climate Change Task Group Chair/ Members	Councillor Austin and Green have attended various information sessions and shared outcomes with the Task Group and Council.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanet District Council Councillors had been provided with a pack with reference to energy loss from homes tailored to their wards from Thanet District Council's Home Energy Advice service. The pack also contains information on grants residents and landlords can apply for. 	Chair/Climate Change Task Group/Thanet District Council	Monitor what happens with these packs provided by Thanet District Council and publicise the details, where possible.
2.2 Partnership and influence		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Thanet District Council and Kent County Council with climate and biodiversity initiatives as practicable. (For example No Mow May, Big Green Week) 	Council	Councillor Austin has liaised with Councillor Yates and relevant Thanet District Council officers on initiatives and events.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Thanet District Council and Kent County Council to minimise use of weedkiller in public areas in Ramsgate, actively explore alternatives and ensure residents have full and accurate information. 	Climate Change Task Group Chair/ Members/ Town Clerk/ Marketing and Communications Officer	Thanet District Council Cabinet has agreed to use only Foamstream from April. This will need to be supported by some hand weeding.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Thanet District Council to make sure all climate related information and advice is provided in clear, accessible forms. Some examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advice for residents and traders on reducing fuel bills and energy consumption. ○ Advice for residents, community groups and businesses on other ways to reduce their carbon footprint. ○ Advice for householders on permitted improvements for example Listed Buildings/In a Conservation Area. 	Climate Change Task Group Chair/ Members	<p>Articles have been published in the Community Ad Magazines, with a Special Climate Edition being published (Issue 48).</p> <p>The Town Clerk and Councillor Austin are in discussion with Thanet District Council Planning regarding the website information.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Thanet District Council to ensure Thanet permits/encourages all appropriate improvements to listed buildings that are allowed by other Councils and approved by Historic England. 	Climate Change Task Group Chair/ Members	Discussions are ongoing with Thanet District Council.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Thanet District Council and Kent County Council to support provision of public EV charging points in Ramsgate. 	Climate Change Task Group/ Council	The Climate Change Task Group continue to support the provision of public EV charging points.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be familiar with Thanet District Council and Kent County Council's existing air pollution testing and mitigation strategies, and advocate for increased testing, where necessary. 	Marketing and Communications Officer/ Climate Change Task Group Chair	Thanet District Council are considering fines against car idling. This has been presented to Thanet District Council's Cabinet.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby Kent County Council for Active Travel improvements in Ramsgate, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 20mph speed restrictions in the town centre. ○ More crossings/dropped kerbs. ○ More protected cycling/shared spaces. ○ Consideration of school/play streets. ○ Consideration of Low Traffic Neighbourhood schemes. 	Climate Change Task Group/ Council	<p>Councillor Austin continues to liaise with Access and Kent County Council Highways. Thanet District Council is considering some 20mph limits near schools. Currently there is no progress on speed limits in the town centre.</p> <p>Ramsgate Town Council's commitment to 15-minute neighbourhoods has been written into the draft Neighbourhood Plan.</p>

3) Work with Ramsgate's community

Action	Responsibility	Progress in 2023/24
3.1 Information exchange and awareness raising		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure local resident and business involvement in the Task Group. Encourage new members to join and seek input from local experts (on regular or occasional basis). 	Climate Change Task Group Chair/ Members/ Officers	Regular articles are published in the Community Ad Magazine and requests are made on the website. Mr Shotton from The Ramsgate Society has joined the Task Group, as well as, Mr Gadd from Ramsgate Brewery.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide regular information for residents on reducing their carbon footprint, highlighting cost savings measures (via website, social media, Community Ad Magazine, book loans and other means). 	Climate Change Task Group Chair/ Marketing and Communications Officer/ Members	Regular articles are written for the Community Ad Magazine; 20 books from Thanet Green Party library have been passed to the Town Clerk for public access (arrangements being sorted out).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore ways to support Ramsgate's community groups and local businesses to reduce their own carbon footprint and publicise success. 	Climate Change Task Group Chair/ Marketing and Communications Officer/ Members	This is under discussion. Funding for Voluntary, Community or Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations to reduce their carbon footprint is advertised on the Thanet Funding Forum on Facebook and is advertised on the website.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore other ways to share information with the community and develop joint plans. (For example, public meetings, community assemblies, one-off events, online networks). 	Climate Change Task Group Chair/ Marketing and Communications Officer/ Members	This is currently under discussion and dependant on budget.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider running/supporting events promoting planet-friendly lifestyles (for example veggie food festival, cycling festival, second-hand clothing catwalk show). 	Climate Change Task Group/ Council	Radford House is now hosting the Refillable Van as well as hosting a Charity Shop clothing catwalk event. Active Ramsgate have run Active Ramsgate Week, focussing on free activities including walking and cycling.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider an advisory '20's plenty' campaign to raise awareness of road safety issues. 	Council	Still under discussion with Kent County Council. Some community groups now have advisory stickers.

3.2 Community projects (Projects highlighted in green approved by Climate Change Task Group for immediate implementation)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with residents, community groups and businesses (with particular focus on young people) to research impact of practical actions, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Energy saving trials working with local volunteers. ○ Trials of rewilded/drought-proof gardens. ○ Car-free weeks. 	Climate Change Task Group/ Council	Requests for volunteers have been made in the Community Ad Magazine. To start in Winter 2024. Thanet District Council Councillors have been given extensive information on energy saving/heat retention for dwellings in their wards and the details of the grants available.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore community carbon-reduction project options (with particular focus on young people) – such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community toolbank. ○ Repair café. ○ Tree planting in residents' gardens. ○ 'Refill' scheme with local cafes and bars. ○ Crowdsourced walking/cycling/wheeling maps . ○ Community minibus scheme. ○ Electric car club. ○ 'Last mile' cargo bike delivery scheme. ○ Community heat networks. 	Climate Change Task Group/ Council	<p>The Repair Café has been launched at Radford House. This is monthly from April, with woodworking, sewing, bike and skateboard repairs being undertaken.</p> <p>Toolbank/Town Shed: Requests for volunteers have had excellent response. The Technicians and Councillor Austin visited the Broadstairs Town Shed and plans are under discussion. Councillor Austin has submitted a bid for just under £4,000 to Social Enterprise Kent for Shed start-up costs.</p> <p>Tree/hedge planting: Possible funding bid, to be confirmed.</p> <p>Refill scheme: Ramsgate has signed up as a 'community' scheme with Refill; Councillor Austin and Mr Shotton have submitted a joint Sea-Changers funding bid for a water fountain on Ramsgate Main Sands for Ramsgate Town Council and The Ramsgate Society.</p>

4) Maximising local resources for climate action

Action	Responsibility	Progress in 2023/24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a budget for the Climate Change Task Group plans, as required, via the Finance and General Purposes Committee 	Climate Change Task Group Chair/ Finance and General Purposes Committee Chair/ Council	For 2024-25 the Climate Change Task Group have a budget of £7,500.00.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor available funding for public climate projects and seek additional/external funds, as appropriate. 	Climate Change Task Group Chair/ Members/ Town Clerk	This is ongoing, as and when funding becomes available.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor available funding for residents and businesses to reduce their carbon footprint and publicise widely. 	Climate Change Task Group Chair/ Members/ Town Clerk	Councillor Austin and the Town Clerk are monitoring weekly funding alerts; Councillor Austin posts all relevant funding and training on the Thanet Funding Forum Facebook group.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work in partnership with other Councils/businesses/community groups to achieve best value for money and to access funding opportunities. 	Council	Information to be shared in Community Ad Magazine and via the Ramsgate Town Team.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make the most of local expertise to assist the Task Group. 	Climate Change Task Group/ Members/ Town Clerk/ Mktg Officer	There is an open invite to the Task Group regarding ideas for speakers/expert witnesses for future meetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish effective partnerships with community/volunteering groups to leverage volunteer time to help. 	Climate Change Task Group/ Members	Requests for volunteers have been issued in the Community Ad Magazine and on the website.