



## RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE TASK GROUP: ACTION PLAN PROGRESS 2024/25

NB See Appendix on Page 5, detailing tasks that are ongoing, progressing or have been achieved.

<b>1) Actions within the Council's own remit</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Progress in 2024/25</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Carbon policies: Draft and seek Council approval for carbon policies across all of Ramsgate Town Council's work (as in Cornwall document)</li></ul>	Climate Change Task Group Chair, Marketing and Communications Officer, Town Clerk	An Environmental Policy has been created and adopted.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recycling: Improve recycling rates across Ramsgate Town Council's activities</li></ul>	Ramsgate Town Council Staff	Ramsgate Town Council has registered part of the CleanUp UK scheme to help recycle and monitor waste.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pocket parks and Food Growing: Seek opportunities to create pocket parks to increase green space and maximise biodiversity and consider the possibility of introducing small food growing spaces in public areas (as in eg Broadstairs' 'Tasty Planters' project/ Todmorden 'Incredible Edible' etc)</li></ul>	Climate Change Task Group/ Ramsgate Town Council members and officers	Outside Radford House three planters are used to grow herbs and spices as part of the Food Growing project in community spaces.

**Ramsgate Town Council's Climate Change Task Group was nominated and won The Ramsgate Society Community Champion Award 2024 for Heritage and Environment. This honoured the continued work to improve Ramsgate's carbon footprint and for introducing relevant initiatives such as The Repair Café, The Town Shed and Food Growing Projects.**

<b>2) Work with other Councils</b>
See Appendix for details.

<b>3) Work with Ramsgate's community</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Progress in 2024/25</b>
<b>3.1 Information exchange and awareness raising</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure local resident and business involvement in the Group, encourage new members to join and seek input from local experts (on regular or occasional basis)</li> </ul>	Climate Change Task Group Chair/ Members/ Officers	There are four members of the public now on the Task Group. They represent different groups in Ramsgate, as well as local business.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide regular information for residents on reducing their carbon footprint, highlighting cost savings etc (eg via website, social media, Ad Mag, book loans and other means)</li> </ul>	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"> <li>• Explore other ways to share information with the community and develop joint plans eg public meetings, community assemblies, one-off events, online networks</li> </ul>	Climate Change Task Group Chair/ Marketing and Communications Officer/ Members	This is currently under discussion and dependent on budget.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider running/ supporting events promoting planet-friendly lifestyles– eg veggie food festival, cycling festival, second-hand clothing catwalk show etc</li> </ul>	Task Group/ Council	The Task Group supported the Regular Refill Van at Radford House regular events: eco market, clothes and plant swap etc.
<b>3.2 Community projects</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with residents, community groups and businesses (with particular focus on young people) to research impact of practical actions - eg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Energy saving trials working with local volunteers</li> <li>○ Trials of rewilded/ drought-proof gardens</li> <li>○ Car-free weeks</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Climate Change Task Group/ Council	<p>The Energy saving trials were postponed for a lack of interest but will restart in Autumn 2025.</p> <p>A local councillor has started a pilot project to repair and refurbish domestic bins. This is being looked into as a project that could be continued alongside Thanet District Council. The Task Group is working with Thanet District Council on a suitable location for bicycle lock ups at Ramsgate Train Station.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore community carbon-reduction project options (with particular focus on young people) – eg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community toolbank</li> <li>○ Repair café</li> <li>○ Tree planting in residents’ gardens</li> <li>○ ‘Refill’ scheme with local cafes and bars</li> <li>○ Crowdsourced walking/ cycling/ wheeling maps</li> <li>○ Community minibus scheme</li> <li>○ Electric car club</li> <li>○ ‘Last mile’ cargo bike delivery scheme</li> <li>○ Community heat networks</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Climate Change Task Group/ Council	<p>The Repair Café continued at Radford House and will be moved to the Pie Factory in Summer of 2025.</p> <p>Ramsgate Town Shed: New premises have been identified for the relocation of the Town Shed, while Radford House undergoes refurbishments.</p> <p>Fruit Trees Planting Initiative: The Task Group purchased 75 fruit trees to offer to residents for their front gardens to help reduce street pollution and share fruit.</p> <p>Refill scheme: Ramsgate has signed up as a ‘community’ scheme with Refill. There is a water fountain on the Main Sands.</p>
---	------------------------------------	---

<b>4) Maximising local resources for climate action</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Progress in 2024/25</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish budget lines for Working Group plans as required via Finance and General Purposes Committee</li> </ul>	Climate Change Task Group Chair/ Finance and General Purposes Committee Chair/ Council	For 2025-26 the Climate Change Task Group have a budget of £7,500.00.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor available funding for public climate projects and seek additional/ external funds as appropriate</li> </ul>	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"> <li>• Monitor available funding for residents and businesses to reduce their carbon footprint and publicise widely</li> </ul>	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"> <li>• Make the most of local expertise to assist the Group</li> </ul>	Climate Change Task Group/ Members/ Town Clerk/ Marketing and Communications Officer	There is an open invite to the Task Group regarding ideas for speakers/expert witnesses for future meetings.

## RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE TASK GROUP: ACTION PLAN APPENDIX

The tasks below are ongoing, progressing or have been achieved.

<b>1) Actions within the Council's own remit</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Progress in 2024/25</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Radford House/ Custom House: Plan schedule of works at Radford House and Custom House as recommended</li> </ul>	Town Clerk, Michael Foley and Radford House Project Managers	This is progressing with the development of Radford House.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EV charging: Install EV charging points at Radford House at appropriate point in work schedule</li> </ul>	Michael Foley, Radford House Project Managers, Councillors Nixey and Green	This is progressing with the development of Radford House.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trees: Undertake tree audit on Ramsgate Town Council land with view to TPOing important trees (and find ways to plant more) -see Ramsgate Town Council Tree Policy, approved August 2023</li> </ul>	Town Clerk	This is ongoing as the Council reviews areas of land and its tree management.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity: In line with the Government's "Complying with the biodiversity duty", consider what action to take for biodiversity by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 and agree policies and objectives as soon as possible thereafter. NB. Duty does not actually apply to town and parish councils.</li> </ul>	Town Clerk	This is ongoing as the Council reviews areas of land and policies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ramsgate Town Council fleet: Continue work on reducing diesel consumption and work towards fully electric fleet when possible</li> </ul>	Town Clerk, Technicians	This is ongoing as the Council will review the Ramsgate Town Council fleet requirements.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equipment: Maintain all equipment at optimum levels to minimise power use and extend life. When replacing, seek most sustainable options</li> </ul>	Lead Technicians	This is ongoing as officers will review equipment requirements.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IT equipment: Report on low energy device options, recycling/ refurbishing IT equipment/ providing single-hatted members with tablets/ Chromebooks for meetings.</li> </ul>	Marketing and Communications Officer	This is ongoing as officers will review equipment requirements.

<b>2) Work with other Councils</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Progress in 2024/25</b>
<b>2.1 Information exchange</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make best use of information via national and regional networks eg KALC, LGA, Ass'ns of Labour/ Green Cllrs etc</li> </ul>	Town Clerk/ Climate Change Task Group Chair/ Members	This is ongoing as information will be publicised and circulated as and when it is made available.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network with neighbouring Councils to share and learn from each other on climate actions</li> </ul>	Town Clerk/ Climate Change Task Group Chair/ Members/ Marketing and Communications Officer	Ongoing. Thanet District Council Home Energy Team spoke at the November CCTG meeting; Councillors are contacting residents re possible grant help for insulation, draught proofing etc
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>		
<b>2.2 Partnership and influence</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Thanet District Council and Kent County Council re climate and biodiversity initiatives as practicable (eg No Mow May, Big Green Week)</li> </ul>	Council	This is ongoing as information will be publicised and circulated as and when it is made available.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Thanet District Council to ensure Thanet permits / encourages all appropriate improvements to listed buildings etc allowed by other Councils and approved by Historic England</li> </ul>	Climate Change Task Group Chair/ Members	This is ongoing as information will be publicised and circulated as and when it is made available.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Thanet District Council and Kent County Council to support provision of public EV charging points in Ramsgate</li> </ul>	Climate Change Task Group/ Council	This is ongoing as information will be publicised and circulated as and when it is made available.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	Marketing and Communications Officer/ Climate Change Task Group Chair	This is ongoing, members will give updates to the task group, as and when information becomes available.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	Climate Change Task Group Chair/ Members/ Town Clerk/ Marketing and Communications Officer	Thanet District Council no longer using weedkiller; Kent County Council still spraying but now advise Ramsgate Town Council when they are doing so: discussions continue
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Thanet District Council to make sure all climate related information and advice is provided in clear, accessible forms – eg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Advice for residents and traders on reducing fuel bills and energy consumption</li> <li>○ Advice for residents, community groups and businesses on other ways to reduce their carbon footprint</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Advice for householders on permitted improvements eg for listed buildings/ in conservation areas</li> </ul>	Climate Change Task Group Chair/ Members	Articles in all recent Community Ad Mags; Climate Special March 2024 had good feedback.  Thanet District Council has made home improvement info on website more accessible.  Awaiting info from Thanet District Council for recycling table in future Community Ad Magazine. (where can I recycle x?)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby Kent County Council for Active Travel improvements in Ramsgate eg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 20mph speed restrictions in town centre</li> <li>○ More crossings/ dropped kerbs</li> <li>○ More protected cycling/ shared spaces</li> <li>○ Consideration of school/ play streets</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Consideration of Low Traffic Neighbourhood schemes</li> </ul>	Climate Change Task Group/ Council	New Highways Improvement subgroup now leading on this.

<b>3) Work with Ramsgate's community</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Progress in 2024/25</b>
<b>3.1 Information exchange and awareness raising</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider an advisory '20's plenty' campaign to raise awareness of road safety issues</li> </ul>	Council	This is ongoing, members will give updates to the task group, as and when information becomes available.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore ways to support Ramsgate's community groups and local businesses to reduce their own carbon footprint and publicise success</li> </ul>	Climate Change Task Group Chair/ Marketing and Communications Officer/ Members	Ongoing; grant information for voluntary organisations shared via Thanet Funding Forum FB group

<b>4) Maximising local resources for climate action</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Progress in 2024/25</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work in partnership with other Councils/ businesses/ community groups to achieve best value for money and access funding opportunities</li> </ul>	Council	This is ongoing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish effective partnerships with community/ volunteering groups to leverage volunteer time to help</li> </ul>	Climate Change Task Group/ Members	This is ongoing.