



RAMSGATE TOWN COUNCIL

OPEN PUBLIC SPACES STRATEGY GROUP

General

This strategy group's remit is to oversee and implement the motion passed at Full Council on 31st August 2022:

- The Council will develop and action a strategy to co-ordinate and support existing volunteer gardening groups, and undertake public spaces gardening works throughout Ramsgate, not only of the East and West cliff promenades, but also the town centre flower beds and through the creation of pocket parks elsewhere in Ramsgate. The development of such a strategy would be undertaken through the Town Promotion Committee (in conjunction with Finance and General Purposes Committee for staffing) and take into consideration the Neighbourhood Plan and Town Regeneration plans, recognising the role of TDC as primary stakeholder and landowner.

Membership, Chairmanship and Quorum

Membership	<p>2 elected members from Ramsgate Town Council (minimum)</p> <p>2 Members of the Community (maximum)</p> <p>Lead Technician (Mrs M Morgan or Mr G Mills)</p> <p>Town Centre and Tourism Manager (Mrs R Smith)</p> <p>Other representatives and experts may be invited to attend meetings as required.</p> <p>The Council will additionally provide a minute taker.</p>
Appointments/Removals from Office	By resolution of Town Promotion Committee (in conjunction with Finance and General Purposes Committee for staffing)
Restrictions on Appointment	None
Quorum	3
Number of ordinary meetings per Council Year	Originally meeting every month, to be reviewed after 6 months. Propose meeting 4x per year to be agreed by Strategy Group in accordance with need.
Chair	To be appointed by the Town Promotion Committee, the Chair should be either a town Councillor or an officer of the Council.
Terms of Reference	Once approved, can be amended as requested by the Group by the Town Promotion Committee.

Terms of Reference

The group will:

- 1) Undertake and maintain an audit of all open spaces including details of who owns and maintains those spaces.
- 2) Liaise with existing volunteer groups to identify where Ramsgate Town Council can provide support, including working with volunteer groups to develop a support network. Encourage the development of new volunteer gardening groups.
- 3) Identify areas, not covered by volunteer groups, where Ramsgate Town Council could take over the grounds maintenance and where appropriate undertake to commit to SLA or take over land ownership.
- 4) The overall aim is to improve the environmental aesthetics of Ramsgate, with sensitive consideration, biodiversity and appropriate maintenance of our open spaces.
- 5) It is anticipated that this will be a three years project during which Ramsgate Town Council will increase the amount of general grounds maintenance they provide through working in the areas not covered by volunteer groups. This will be a further development and more structured approach to services Ramsgate Town Council already provides.

Budget

- 6) Initial costs will be covered through staff time and resources. It is expected that there will be some costs for additional plants and equipment over time, as well as expert advice and volunteer events, which will be sought from the appropriate budget, as and when required.

Notes;

These Terms of Reference were approved by the Town Promotion Committee on the 21st June 2023.