

Dover District Climate and Nature Forum

Meeting: 16th October 2024

Members:

Dover District Council	Cllr Susan Beer	Chair
Dover District Council	Cllr Stacey Blair	Portfolio Holder for Climate and Environment
Dover District Council	Ashley Taylor	Planning Policy and Projects Manager
Dover District Council	James Traynor	Climate Change Officer
Walmer Town Council	Cllr Sarah Waite-Gleave	Councillor
Deal Town Council	Nadine Miller	Communications and Climate Officer
Aylesham Parish Council	David Fleck	Councillor
Transition Dover	Liz Hayes	Group Lead

Attendees:

Dover District Council	Cllr Susan Beer	Chair
Dover District Council	Ashley Taylor	Planning Policy and Projects Manager
Dover District Council	James Traynor	Climate Change Office
Dover District Council	Stefanie Bramley	Senior Natural Environment Officer
Dover District Council	Joanne Watson	Senior Planning Technical Officer
Transition Dover	Cllr Sarah Waite-Gleeve	Councillor
Deal Town Council	Nadine Miller	Communications and Climate Officer
Aylesham Parish Council	Cllr David Fleck	Councillor
Deal with It	Victoria Nicholls	Member
Deal with It	Jane Stubbington	Member
Sandwich Town Council	Cllr Simon Mallet	Councillor
Deal Town Council	Cllr Peter Findley	Councillor

Agenda

1. Apologies

Apologies received from – Kate Robinson Clerk from Aylesham, Cllr Chris Vinson, Liz Hayes from Transition Dover, Cllr Sam Brockfield from Deal TC, Gill Clerk from Sandwich Town Council,

2. Welcome

Cllr Beer welcomed everyone to the meeting, and all introduced themselves. It was asked if other Parish Councils could be invited to this meeting, but for the time being members will stay as are, but can develop in the future.

If a member from an organisation is unable to attend a meeting, then they are welcome to send a representative, not all Members have to attend all meetings.

3. Dates on 2025 Forum Meetings

JT asked if Members could advise if any of the following dates would be suitable: -

8th January – 6 pm

3rd April – 2 pm

8th July – 6 pm

9th October – 2 pm

Meetings can be in person or attendance virtually when at DDC offices.

SGW – Walmer Town Council Planning Committee meetings are held on 2nd Tuesday of each month, so would not be able to attend – 4th January or 8th July.

Any further clashes with dates then please let JT know and we try to rearrange.

4. Solar Together (See Slide from Meeting)

JT talked Members through data on slide. Awaiting updated figures as closing date for last scheme ended on 18th October 2024, another scheme will run in Spring 2025.

Solar Together is a KCC led programme delivered by Ichoosr, in which DDC has passed details to residents to join. The aim is that the more people joining together better deals are formed.

Cllr Beer and SGW both passed on their own positive experience with joining this scheme.

SGW mentioned that WTC will be putting details on their website and social media platforms.

5. Boxes and Cameras

DDC would like to purchase boxes containing draughtproof tape etc and Thermal Cameras (budget £5,00 for boxes and £1,00 for cameras) for the Community to help residents with heat loss in their homes.

Cllr Beer would like to hear from Members if this would be a useful service to provide and how many boxes DDC should purchase to distribute.

JT also looking at the cost for a company that provides a drone / car that drives around the area with a thermal image camera to show heat losses and therefore can-do a whole area at a time rather than needing a door to door service with individuals using a camera.

WTC already provide this service with a thermal image camera to local residents. WTC do not enter homes, do from roadside and gardens. Been doing for 4 years so will have data to show.

NM explained that it had been hard to provide such a scheme in Deal due to lack of man power to manage such a scheme. Also to look at bigger picture buildings themselves; loft installation.

Cllr Beer and JT reiterated that this scheme is low cost and little changes to draughtproof a home is a good starting point.

KCC are seeking support for employing an officer to do this type of work, a Retrofit Officer.

6. Visit to MERF and /or Incineration Plant

JT invited Members to attend a daytime tour to a MERF or Incineration Plant in either Canterbury or Maidstone. Max 2 x Parish / Group. Please let JT know if you would like to visit.

7. Dover District Updates

- Dover District Local Plan has been Adopted.
- We continue to explore the AMP energy battery options – reviewing lease paperwork.
- Tides Leisure Centre approved for a £19m rebuild – possible 500t of gas emissions reduction if all electric heating is delivered.
- JT Attended Sustainable Action Group (SAG) delivered by the Local Government Association.
- JT Attended CCN meetings hosted by KCC.
- Climate Neutrality project continues – ISO 14068 accreditation planned.
- JT visit to Syntech biofuel refinery in north Kent.
- Met with Certas regarding HVO fuel options.
- Requested funding for a heat network review from Heat Network Delivery Unit (Government Department).
- JT attended Local Authority Net Zero Knowledge Sharing meetings
- Met with Drive Electric and Crowd charge about V2G and Electric Fleets
- Met with Giki Zero and Ecologi. Discussed staff and community engagement opportunities.

8. DDC Natural Environment

Biodiversity Duty

- Stefanie Bramley, Senior Natural Environment Officer gave a presentation to consider what can be done to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- [DDC Biodiversity Duty Objectives & Actions](#)

Biodiversity Net Gain

- Net gain is an approach to development (Householder and Self Build) that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand – SB explained mandatory requirements for planning applications (some exemptions) and the metric calculations tool used. BNG delivered onsite or offsite (does not need to be local) and secured in planning applications.

- The metric calculations are designed by National England and are science based taking into account many factors including habitat; condition of land; area of site.
- SWG and PF raised their concerns regarding wildlife loss since 1970 and how the metric calculations are calculated.

Green Infrastructure Strategy

- DDC Green Infrastructure Strategy was adopted 3rd June 2024 - [Dover District Green Infrastructure Strategy](#)
- Core Actions of this strategy are:
- Develop and implement Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
- Develop and implement Biodiversity Design Code for new development
- Develop, promote and implement Habitat Management Strategy for Biodiversity in public open spaces, including DDC land and property.
- SB discussed how DDC take ownership for this strategy but would like Members to help capture what is currently being done in Parishes / Rural Areas so that this can be monitored in a Map / Spreadsheet. Could Members send examples ie. Allotments; Green Spaces; Planters directly to JT or SB and we will capture altogether. (Kent Wildlife Trust – designate an area [What you need to know about Local Wildlife Sites | Kent Wildlife Trust](#))

9. Updates from group members

Aylesham PC

- Aylesham Parish Council have adopted a Biodiversity Policy

Sandwich Town Council

- Continuing with two projects with the support of our Volunteer Tree Warden and SECG, the biodiversity improvement for Donkey Paddock and the wildlife hedge project at Cow Leas Meadow. The projects will be added to the map for Making Space for Nature initiative.

Transition Dover

- Monthly Repair Cafe (Oct 30th, Nov 27th, no event in December).
- We attended the Sunday Funday event at Fort Burgoyne in August, to promote mending clothes/ Dover Repair Cafe.
- Attending the Dover Big Local Urban Fete in September - upcycling craft activities
- Garden trimming session planned for Autumn - to maintain Bridge Street wildflower garden
- We are aiming to recruit more volunteers by explaining what we do and how people can get practically involved (litter picks, gardening, community events, repair café helpers,

behind the scenes (e-newsletters/ social media) through social media/ attending events/ press release. We have over 1000 followers of Dover Repair Cafe on Facebook, just below that number on Transition Dover page, yet we struggle to find more than 5 volunteers at a time to come out on a litter pick or gardening session.

Deal TC

- Action on Litter steering group meets next week to discuss next steps in litter campaign
- Ocean and Coastal Recovery Declaration & Strategy Project will be discussed at the Environment Committee tonight
- Deal pledged almost 220 kilos of CO2e emission savings this summer through our Best Foot Forward project
- COP on the coast - Deal Climate Action Day is next month at the Town Hall
- Compost toilets installed at allotments
- Despite £31.5 million Bathing Water Enhancement Programme by Southern Water (£3.9 million allocated to Deal) we have gone from "excellent" in 2019 & 2020, "good" in 2021 & 2022 and "sufficient" in 2023 - one up from "poor" to be debated again tonight
- Committee Carbon Emission Check List supported again by Full Council
- Net Zero target reached six months early in July

10. Collaboration opportunities

S Beer - Thermal cameras used to help find out where they are losing heat.

S Beer - DDC considering purchasing the cameras for other TCs / PCs to share and follow WTCs lead. But to follow up with draught proofing. Want to know if you think that is a good idea.

JT - Other options, Drone or Thermal imaging car which does whole areas in an evening. S Blair - how much would that cost? JT Cost could be explored further.

S Beer - are all the TCs interested - help with the communications, DDC provide the kit, would be up to the towns to provide the officer time.

Draughtproofing is one of the best things you can do initially as per Energy Trust example.

NM - Deal TC have considered purchasing one (Thermal Camera), wasn't supported, concerns about officer time and safeguarding of staff/volunteers. Retrofitting talk - simple

things - thick curtains. Using the thermal imaging for inefficiency of wall insulation. Not sure the camera is worth it. Worry they can't do something about it.

S Beer – Offer to provide the insulation home packs for free from DDC via TCs/PCs then direct them to wider funding schemes to do other. Getting the information to them and support.

S Beer - Asked for feedback from TC, take it back to TCs and decide what to do. Would they be interested. Even if not as suggested - could do something along those lines. What else can we do together?

11. Climate Officer Updates

JT - Updated on battery box project from AMP energy. Small income for the Council and also reduction in carbon emissions for the grid. Looking at 3 potential sites to start with our of 8 sites proposed. Already PP for one in Aylesham for the Aylesham Community Trust. Dover Leisure centre, Monks Way, Elms way. Are there any other substations across the District owned by the parishes? Scheme offers £1,000 rent a year for 25 years. If Members would like to let JT know of any Community Groups that would like to learn more about this scheme.

SGW – mentioned that WTC had installed a community charger (a bank of four new EV Charge Points) off Canada Road, Walmer.

12. Funding opportunities

JT Updated on funding schemes as per the slide from [National Lottery Community Fund](#). Could **Members** please confirm by **1 November** if they would like to be part of a joint bid – this would be for projects that inspire more people to take climate action and your chosen project. Bid to be placed by late December 2024.

13. AOB

NEXT meeting – 8th January – 6 pm (TBC) Focus on one review and discussion points from TC and guest speaker.

Deal Town Council are holding a Climate Action Day on Saturday, 16th November 2024 - 10am to 2pm at Deal Town Hall [Climate Action Day - Deal Town Council](#)

Meeting closed.

Links to some of the topics discussed.

[A helpful guide to draught-proofing - Energy Saving Trust](#)

[Case study \(UK\): Electric vehicle-to-grid \(V2G\) charging | Ofgem](#)

[Battery Box for Renewable Energy Storage - AMP Clean Energy](#)

[What You Need to Know About Thermal Imaging Cameras | RS \(rs-online.com\)](#)

[Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin \(REGO\) | Ofgem](#)

[Library of Things | Borrow useful Things for your home, projects and adventures](#)

Please contact james.traynor@dover.gov.uk regarding:-

Project	Members Help	By
Battery Box Project from AMP energy	Looking for potential sites in your areas. Possibly one that would benefit a Community where they need to charge an 8 Seater?	Ongoing project
National Lottery Community Fund	Looking for projects that inspire more people to take climate action and your chosen project.	1 November 2024
Energy Efficiency Boxes	Looking for Parishes / Groups that would like these boxes. How many? Where for?	1 November 2024
Thermal Cameras	Looking for Parishes / Groups who would like one. Someone to do this?	1 November 2024
Visit to MERF and /or Incineration Plant	Please advice if you would like to attend a daytime visit.	4 November 2024
Green Infrastructure Strategy	What is being carried out in Parishes / Rural Areas so that this can be monitored in a Map / Spreadsheet. Could Members send examples ie. Allotments; Green Spaces; Planters directly to JT or SB and we will capture altogether.	December 2024