

Dover District Climate and Nature Forum

Meeting: 8th January 2025

Attendees:

Dover District Council	Cllr Susan Beer	Chair
Dover District Council	Cllr Stacey Blair	Portfolio Holder for Climate and Environment
Dover District Council	Cllr Pam Brivio	Portfolio Holder for Housing, Skills and Education
Dover District Council	Ashley Taylor	Planning Policy and Projects Manager
Dover District Council	James Traynor	Climate Change Office
Dover District Council	Joanne Watson	Senior Planning Technical Officer
Walmer Town Council	Cllr Sarah Waite-Gleave	Councillor
Deal Town Council	Nadine Miller	Communications and Climate Officer
Sandwich Town Council	Cllr Paul Carter	Councillor
Transition Dover	Liz Hayes	Group Lead
KALC	Charmaine Keatley	Chief Executive
Deal With It/East Kent	Sonja Watsham	Group member
Climate Action Group		

Agenda

1. Apologies

Apologies received from – Cllr Chris Vinson, Cllr Sam Brockfield from Deal TC, Gill Clerk from Sandwich Town Council, Cllr David Fleck from Aylesham PC

2. Welcome

Cllr Beer welcomed everyone to the meeting, and all introduced themselves.

3. Idling Emissions

Charmaine Keatley, KALC discussed this motion that was raised at their AGM, she would like to see if members of this group would be interested in taking a project forward to educate / awareness in our District. *“Stationary idling is an offence under section 42 of the Road Traffic Act 1988”*. Not only is the effects harmful, [fuel](#) is also wasted. *“Also known as stationary idling, Section 42 of the [Road Traffic Act 1988](#) prohibits leaving your engine on when it is not needed. This act enforces Rule 123 of the Highway Code, which states “you must not leave a vehicle’s engine running unnecessarily while that vehicle is stationary on a public road”*.

If you do leave your engine idle, you could face a fine upwards of £20, or £80 in areas of London – as per the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) Regulations of 2002”.

It was proposed by Cllr Beer that this group would first target those stopping outside schools and at level crossings and also look at having a portable sign that could be used at temporary road works where vehicles are waiting.

A similar project had previously been run by Deal Town Council, but it was agreed that most of the signage was too small and some damaged or not in the correct locations and a new campaign was needed. Schools would be targeted, perhaps with another poster competition idea.

Liz Hayes suggested a campaign that she had seen where strong cut outs of children were put outside schools with message to turn off engines whilst waiting.

JT raised that there are already signs produced by railway companies that can be downloaded and used with this message and KCC Greener Kent and London boroughs already have information packs available that we could review.

Ashley Taylor suggested contacting Environment Protection at DDC for support / join with this working group. This group currently monitors “[Hotspots](#)” in the district.

Charmaine Keatley to discuss with KCC / Utilities to see if they would like to get involved with regard to a temporary sign at road works.

Cllr Carter asked how an area in Sandwich could be monitored for high emissions, Cllr Beer suggested contacting Deal Town Council as they have a monitoring device that could be used.

JT will put together a document with further information and circulate prior to the next meeting, that members can discuss with their groups to see if this would be a good project for members to take forward.

4. KALC Resilience Forum / Climate Change Resilience Briefing Points

Cllr Waite-Gleave gave members an update following attendance at this forum attended on 23rd October 2024. Parish (35 parish councils in district) level resilience plans need to be updated due to wider range of risks including risks of extreme weather events due to worsening climate change. A template to follow is available and David Parratt, KALC has agreed to hold a workshop to assist in completing this for Parishes that need further assistance.

KALC Conference, 5th November 2024 - a representative attended from Kent Fire and Rescue and discussed flood and wildfire prevention. They would like fire breakers on the edge of towns around new developments.

Southern Water also requesting flood wardens.

Following this advice and that contained within the Local Plan Policies for such measures to be in place reassurance was sought that these measures will be considered in the Planning process within DDC. Ashley Taylor responded that these will be taken into

consideration and that we are currently working on Design Codes/guidance which incorporate climate and will be sending a report to Cabinet in the next few months.

5. Updates from group members

Updates by various members was given regarding the Environment Agency Annual report concerning the siting the water quality at Deal Castle as poor (Intestinal Enterococci (IE). The Environment Agency have met with various Councils and Community Groups to discuss further.

The decision by the Environment Agency of a poor reading was challenged by them taking it to the National Environment panel but the appeal was rejected.

Following a meeting held at DDC with the Environment Agency it was confirmed that a couple of older properties in Deal had been confirmed as having incorrect pipes fitted which had led to this pollution into the sea. Cllr Blair commented that normally 20 times a year samples are taken but in the last few years only 15 samples have been taken. A Freedom of Information request has been submitted, and we are awaiting response. Cllr Blair and Cllr Pout will continue to take the lead on this on behalf of DDC.

It was asked why they are stating that the water quality will remain poor until at least November 2025 - the reason for this is that rolling measurements throughout 2025 will need to be taken to confirm condition improved.

Deal TC

- [DTC's response to Environment Agency's annual report](#)
- [More than 200 people visited the first ever Deal Climate Action Day in November.](#)
- [Look after what you love - litter launch!](#) We launched our new anti-litter campaign 'Look after what you love' at Climate Action Day. People will choose their favorite stencil design that will be used to help stop littering at 'hot-spots' in the town.
- Work has begun on the **Ocean and Coastal Recovery Declaration & Strategy** - To make a declaration supporting the recovery of the Deal coastline and sea off Deal, to develop strategies to achieve this for the Town Council itself and to develop cooperative strategies with neighbors and interested parties
- Coming up in Spring 2025, to make Deal a **hedgehog friendly town** by raising awareness amongst residents and distributing hedgehog-friendly fence gravel boards to households and from the summer to recruit **Tree Guardians** and start the next phase of the **Hedge Pledge**

Walmer TC

- Funding has been approved by WTC for testing of sea water kits to be used in Walmer.
- WTC are running a scheme with local food/drink outlets with stickers for their doors praising them that what they are doing with regard to recycling is good. Highlighting the issue with plastics.
- [KCC Pensioner Missing Out Scheme](#).
- Land at Churchill Avenue – awaiting sign off from DDC, once agreed plan to plant an orchard here.
- Thermal imaging scheme continuing.

Sandwich Town Council

- Continuing with two projects with the support of our Volunteer Tree Warden and SECG, the biodiversity improvement for Donkey Paddock (working alongside community group from Canterbury clearing existing brambles etc. and renaturing). Applied for permission to have a noticeboard on site highlighting the species/nature here and the wildlife hedge project at Cow Leas Meadow.
- Cllr Carter mentioned that they would like further support regarding secondary double glazing in the conservation areas of Sandwich. Ashley Taylor mentioned that new guidance <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/adapting-historic-buildings-energy-carbon-efficiency-advice-note-18/> if available.
- A meeting with Sarah Platts and Cllr Briggs from DDC has been arranged for the 13th of January and double glazing will be one of the items to discuss.
- STC have been discussing with WTC use of the Thermal Imaging camera as would like to offer service to local residents.
- STC working with DDC/DEFRA/Environment Agency to improve the flow of man-made stream in Sandwich.

Deal With IT / East Kent Climate Action Group

Sonja Watsham gave an update on areas that she has been involved with in the district.

- MP Mike Tapp has been invited to attend the Climate and Nature Bill 2nd reading on 24th January.
- Launch of “[Save Our Seas Deal and Walmer](#)” on 3rd January.
- Repair Café continuing to run successfully.
- An exhibition is being held in Deal Library organised by Deal with IT and volunteers in attendance to give advice regarding energy savings/support available.
- Whale made from plastic has been to London. Continuing to get message out about damage plastics having on the environment.

Transition Dover

- Monthly Repair Café.
- Dover Swap Shop – toys and children's clothes, 18th January, Beacon Church.
- Continuing to tidy up green areas / litter picking around Bridge Street and will soon start on outside the Red Lion PH.
- Re-launch of the Dover Eco-Café (A virtual 'café' where Dover residents can meet to share ideas and ask questions about how to save money at the same time as 'saving the planet').
- MP Mike Tapp has been invited to attend the Climate and Nature Bill 2nd reading on 24th January.
- [Ash Wildflower Day](#)

6. Visit to MERF and /or Incineration Plant

JT suggested that this visit takes place during the morning of 3rd April in Rainham and meeting following at 2 pm. Please confirm if you would like to attend.

7. Thermal Cameras and Energy Efficient Boxes

JT confirmed that he has requested budget for £5,000 for boxes and £1,000 for a thermal image camera which they will purchase (no confirmed). The camera then can be loaned out to Parish/Town Councils to use. Following the survey conducted at homes information can be given to households stating what easy measures can be taken to improve insulation of home and that items are available to collect free of charge from your nearest Town Council office or Dover District Council will distribute via options like our Community bus at community events. Please confirm if you would like a box / use of camera. WTC confirmed they would like a box and STC confirmed they would like to use the camera and a box.

8. One Year Review

The format / content and membership of this group was reviewed, the following changes were suggested:

- Extend to 2 hour meetings (AGREED)
- Continue with quarterly meetings (AGREED)
- Aims / TOR (NO CHANGES)
- Membership (NO CHANGES)
- Minutes / Agendas available to Public via [DDC Website](#) (AGREED)

Cllr Beer asked if Cllr Carter to invite a Conservation group from Sandwich to attend meetings.

Charmaine Keatley, KALC agreed to distribute minutes to all Town / Parish Councils in the District when approved.

9. Climate Fund

JT updated members on a funding scheme from [National Lottery Community Fund](#) and will be working with other District Councils to put in a bid on behalf of DDC. If any groups interested in having funding for a project then please advise.

[Battery Box Project from AMP energy](#) - Looking for potential sites in our district. Possibly one that would benefit a Community, for example where they need to charge an 8 Seater.

10. Dover District Updates

- Local Plan has been adopted.
- Meeting with AMP energy battery in January.
- Attended Sustainable Action Group (SAG) delivered by the Local Government Association.
- Attended CCN meetings hosted by KCC.
- Climate Neutrality project continues – ISO 14068 accreditation planned.
- Attended the Sustainable Future Forum in Folkestone
- Preparing for the heat network feasibility study with the Heat Network Delivery Unit (Government Department).
- Attended Local Authority Net Zero Knowledge Sharing meetings
- Attended the Deal Town Council climate day
- Attended the community energy event, hosted in Walmer.
- Climate Change Strategy being produced by April 2025.

11. AOB

- Scheme run by [Kent Community Energy](#) asking for large roofs (possibly schools / care homes) that could take solar panels. SGW
- Cllr Brivio will update at next meeting regarding the River Dour project group. The Beacon Project will see improved areas with seating where the river runs past. Cllr Blair added that the Port of Dover select 15 parts of the river and regularly check its quality.
- Please contact [James Traynor](#) with any items you would like to be added to future agendas.

NEXT meeting – 8 July – 4 pm to 6 pm – DDC Brave Room

Meeting closed – 8 pm.

Links to some of the topics discussed.

[Adapting-historic-buildings-energy-carbon-efficiency-advice-note](#)

[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.	January 2025
Energy Efficiency Boxes	Looking for Parishes / Groups that would like these boxes. How many? Where for?	January 2025
Thermal Cameras	Looking for Parishes / Groups who would like one.	1 November 2024

	Someone to do this?	
Visit to MERF and /or Incineration Plant	Please advice if you would like to attend a daytime visit.	January 2025
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.	On-going
Idling Emissions Project	Discuss with your organisations – would you like to be involved in this project?	February 2025