



# **Climate and Nature Forum**

**25th February 2026**



# Agenda

- Apologies - To receive any apologies for absence
- Minutes and actions from previous meeting
- Kent Sustainable Communities Network
- Sustainable Gardens – Dover Town Council
- Dover in Bloom – Future Foundry
- Warm Homes Local update for year one - Dover district Council
- Dover Pride in Place – Dover District Council
- Members Updates
- AOB



Apologies from Cllr Vinson DDC, Nadine Miller DTC, Ashley Taylor DDC, Gill Gray STC, Kate Robinson APC, Cllr Fleck APC

### **Previous meeting actions:**

#### **DDC to look at large projects – to work with Kent community energy**

KCE are reviewing opportunities at two sites – further updates at the next meeting

#### **DDC to contact Southern Water for water saving schemes**

[How Can You And Your Community Get Involved?](#)

[Pathfinder Projects - Southern Water](#)

[Water Butts Enhanced Rain Water Storage Scheme terms and conditions | Get in touch | Severn Trent Water](#)

#### **Car Sharing options**

Zip Car close UK operations [Zipcar, world's biggest car-sharing company, to close UK operation | Automotive industry | The Guardian](#)

Exploring COMoUK membership [Membership](#)

[Kent set for 10,000 new on street electric vehicle chargers - News & Features - Kent County Council](#)



[Home](#) / [Kent Sustainable Communities Network](#)

## Kent Sustainable Communities Network

The **Kent Sustainable Communities Network (SCN)** aims to enable more coordinated and impactful climate action through a hub of grassroots groups across Kent.

By creating strong partnerships and meaningful collaboration amongst community groups, the Network aims to:

- ♥ increase and improve **public awareness** of, and engagement with, climate change mitigation and adaptation

### Meet our member groups

[Active Kent & Medway](#)

[Amplifi - Tunbridge Wells](#)

# Climate Resilient Gardens



Feedback

[Building a resilient garden for a changing climate / RHS Gardening](#)

# Dover in Bloom



**doverinbloom** ⋮

Dover In Bloom

23 posts 151 followers 642 following

Environmental conservation organisation

Town-wide greening project

Youth-led

... more



## 2025 Gold Award, Large Coastal Town & Biodiversity

Judges commented “What is notable is that all of the concerned parties are using both the preservation and enhancement of the environment to bring community groups together to further social cohesion and economic development in the town.”



# Warm Homes Local

- Original target of 28 properties for year one across Dartford and Dover
- Additional funding enabled 15 extra homes to be completed
- Year two funding currently enables 53 properties
- Year three funding enables 52 properties

We are looking for a passionate and enthusiastic Chair and Board Members to lead Dover's new 'Pride in Place' programme which will bring up to **£20 million** of investment to St Radigunds and Buckland wards over the next 10 years. The board will bring residents, local businesses and community leaders together to:

- Identify the projects that matter most to local people
- Create a plan for delivery

We are looking for:

- A Chair who is a strong and positive leader (the Chair is a voluntary role and cannot be an elected representative)
- A Board of people who:
  - Care deeply about the area and know the local community
  - Want to make sure the money makes a real difference for our residents

## How to apply

Job specifications and 'how to apply' instructions are available on our jobs page:

- [Apply to be the Chair »](#)
- [Apply to be a Board Member »](#)
  - **Deadline for applications:**
  - Chair: 12pm, Thursday 5 March 2026
  - Board: 12pm, Friday 13 March



# Members updates

## Deal Town Council

- [Seeds for Spring 2026](#) is now open for Deal residents to register and collect a free pack of native flowers to fuel our pollinators.
- We welcomed the new Deal Castle bathing water classification to 'good' but are aware of and working on more that can be done
- Climate Action Day - More than 170 people visited Deal Town Council's second Climate Action Day on Saturday 15th November 2025 which coincided with COP 30 (Conference of the Parties - UN Climate Change Conference). The event took place at Deal Town Hall and focused on the town's proximity and relationship with the sea and led with our recently adopted Ocean and Coastal Recovery Strategy and Declaration. The Climate Action Day was a gathering of local groups engaged in different types of climate action, sharing what they do and how people could get involved. Southern Water representatives were also in attendance. Deal Town Council's Climate Action Day received a lot of positive feedback from participating local groups and visitors to the event.



## Walmer TC

# Members updates

Thanks to DDC for the box of energy saving fixes for residents. It has been useful in a cold January!

**To note : meeting Thurs 27 Nov took place :** Cllrs of Walmer TC and Deal TC were invited to hear the national policy officer of Pesticide Action Network UK on how to protect health of humans and wildlife, from poisonous pesticides. Advice on Process of going pesticide free.

- Costs : in short term some cost of equipment, but in medium to longer term costs fall as areas being managed in a more holistic way. Not an either /or, it is not messy weeds or poisonous pesticides. Public support where change made, even if compliments for councils a rare concept. Pesticides made from fossil fuels – so banning / reducing helps councils meet climate emergency action plans and nature recovery strategies.
- Benefits : improved soil health, ground water, wildlife - insects, fungi, bees, wasps, fresh water, urban public green spaces, (statutory obligation removing detritus) early season hand weeding can prevent ‘weeds’ becoming big, noticeable and self-seeding later in year.
- No simple replacement for pesticide / glyphosate. Team needs to learn the multi-disciplinary approach with clear shared objective with good repeated positive communication
- Include communication with public (written notices, celebratory), what they can expect to see, what the objectives are. Allowing meadow land ‘no-mow May, into June, into July.

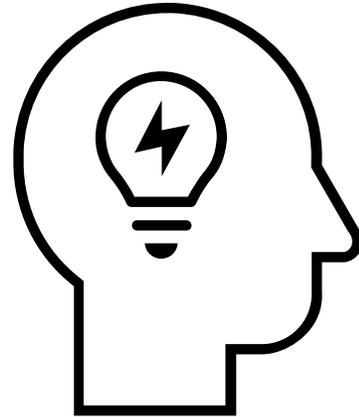
# Members updates

- Fix infrastructure (mistaken belief weeds damage infra-structure – actually worn-out infrastructure (walls / pavements) create niches for weeds) -
- Use membrane on paths – mulching
- cover planting – natives and perennials, hoeing /raking / hand weeding , community involvement > community cohesion. Spotting of good pavement plants <https://www.pan-uk.org/pavement-plants/> chalking pavements to show appreciation, also possible guided walks
- Hot water / hot foam , veg oil added to hold heat longer –
- Electric weed control – for invasive species. A new push along version.
- Brushing – very useful. Removing organic matter in Feb / March.
- Invasive species control . legal requirements / human health e.g. Japanese knotweed a minimal use of pesticide, not an excuse for not banning pesticides elsewhere.
- Example of Strasbourg went pesticide free in 2008. Diverse needs : lots of public outreach, not poisoning water, children. Changed planting regimes (not annual bedding plants that are bad for pollinators). Zero pesticide policy is part of UNESCO city Strasbourg. <https://interlace-hub.com/strasbourg-grows-community-based-agreement-strasbourg>

Pan-UK offers free advice, time to support councils and communities, and PAN-UK officer available to help with our local initiatives for free. On 15th January 2026 PAN-UK published this worrying report. <https://www.pan-uk.org/playgrounds/> Many thanks for the example of work of DealTC since resolution of their F&GP Jan 2025 to make its allotments pesticide-free (Attachment 4 page 18

here). [https://www.deal.gov.uk/UserFiles/Files/Agendas/190012-FGPAgenda\\_21\\_Jan\\_25\\_combined.pdf](https://www.deal.gov.uk/UserFiles/Files/Agendas/190012-FGPAgenda_21_Jan_25_combined.pdf)

# AOB & Networking



# Energy Efficiency boxes And Thermal Cameras

£5,000 budget for boxes £1,000 budget for cameras

