

Dover District Climate and Nature Forum

Meeting: 8th July 2025

Attendees:

Dover District Council	Cllr Susan Beer	Chair
Dover District Council	Cllr Michael Nee	Portfolio Holder for Climate & 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	Cllr Vinson	Shadow Portfolio –Climate Change
Walmer Town Council	Cllr Sarah Waite-Gleave	Councillor
Deal Town Council	Nadine Miller	Communications and Climate Officer
Sandwich Town Council	Cllr Paul Carter	Councillor
Aylesham Parish Council	Cllr David Fleck	Councillor
Transition Dover	Liz Hayes	Group Lead
Deal With It/East Kent	Sonja Watsham	Group member
ClimateAG		

Agenda

1. Apologies

Cllr Pam Brivio, Cllr Peter Findley

2. Welcome

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

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held 8 January 2025 were approved.

4. Warm Homes – John Underwood

John Underwood Energy Officer for DDC and leading the delivery partnership between Dover and Dartford Councils for the DESNZ funded Warm Homes scheme following on from the successful delivery of the HUG2 scheme. Targeted at Low-income owner occupier and private rented households. Property heated by all fuel types with an EPC rating of D-G.

Some eligible measures include – loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, solar panels and ASHP. **Pathways 1** Postcode and Income - The household lives in a validated postcode and falls within income deciles of 1-2 on the indices of multiple deprivation (IMD:ID 1-2) **Pathways 2** Means Tested Benefits – Households in receipt of a specified means-tested benefit. **Pathways 3** Low Income Threshold – The households gross annual income is below the schemes household income threshold (£36,000).

Households only need to meet one criteria pathways to be eligible. **JU** discussed the pathways in more detail, see slides. On applying, self referral via the government website, email, or calling John directly. All details on the slides.

Noting that fabric first approach is taken, insulation etc before installation of renewables technology.

Q1 Cllr Beer DDC– Further information regarding the scheme? Has the linked been tested? – JU It is an evidence based approach, Yes links tested and program is active.

Q2 Cllr Mallet STC– Do you have enough applicants so far? JU Funding is limited in year 1 and expands in Year 2 and 3 as project deliver ramps up. Funding for around 14 residents is expected in year 1 but this may increase depending on measures funding at each property.

Q3 Cllr Vinson DDC- What signposting is there for other residents? JU Newsletters, Parish booklets, DDC website and comms, and word of mouth.

Q4 Cllr Nee DDC– Do you think EPC rating are successful? JU EPCs are a snapshot of a property and are generally updated at point of sale or due to regulations. They provide an overall view of a property to support measures being discussed with owners and renters.

Q5 Cllr Nee DDC- Fabric first is that Doors and Windows? JU Insulation and upgrades if surveys are completed anything required is noted.

5. Future Foundry – Lisa Oulton

Future Foundry runs the youth festival in Dover, People, Place, Nature and Climate are the themes.

Weekly engagements and connections with 49 partners. They are Youth led, working with hard to reach communities. They provide minibuses and pizza to engage young people and enable access to projects. They have engaged over 500 young people in a consultation process asking – What do you think of Dover – Responses included, “think its dirty”, “neglected” and ”run down”.

To address concerns Future Foundry have spear headed the Dover in Bloom bid for 2025. Perception the youth are not interested in culture, yet Dover is full of opportunities to explore youth culture. Working with a host of local delivery partners a brilliant Dover in Bloom judges guide was developed. With judging expected later in the year opportunities for 2026 and further youth and adult engagement to come.

6. Members updates:-

Transition Dover

- Market Square planting
- Coastal Action
- Celebrating 10th Birthday
- E waste Warriors is launching in Dover by KCC – participating school will recycling residential e-waste in pink bins.

Deal Town Council

- All Allotments Pesticide free
- February meeting regarding poor water quality
- Further testing of 8 sites for water quality all under <50 E.coli markers.

- Consultation and improvement for Ocean recovery.
- Hedgehog friendly gravel boards arriving.
- Winning Stencil design for Look After What you love.

Break – Cllr Beer and Ashley Taylor left the meeting – Cllr Nee takes over as Chair.

Sandwich TC

- Guided walks at Monk's Wall Nature Reserve
- A Sandwich Bay Wildlife Walk and Beach Clean with Kent Wildlife Trust
- Open session at Gazeen Salts Nature Reserve
- Bee Talk at St Clement's Churchyard apiary
- Weeding and tidying the flower beds on Ropewalk
- A free screening of inspiring documentary feature film 'Six Inches of Soil'
- Children's Story time with Craft Activity

Walmer TC

- Improving own estate
- Motion to the Ocean
- Keen to see progress on a DDC hosted resilience workshop after spending time at the parish focused climate resilience workshop.

Dover District Council

- Climate Neutrality project continues – ISO 14068 accreditation planned.
- LCWIP Consultation complete LCWIP to go to Cabinet in Autumn
- Officers attended Sustainable action group (SAG) delivered by the Local Government Association.
- Officers attended CCN meetings hosted by KCC, and building and retrofit meetings.
- Climate Neutrality project continues – ISO 14068 accreditation planned, second map in development.
- Supported feasibility study with sustainable energy with funding from Heat Network Delivery Unit (DESNZ Government department team)
- Tides Poolside is now closed with over 420t of Co2 gas emissions to reduce April 2025 report.
- Delivery of Anti-Littering campaign focused on the A2
- Launched love your beach campaign to reduce littering across the district's beaches
- New Kearsney Abbey ATV All Terrain Electric Vehicle has arrived.
- LASER energy have prepared an Area-wide emissions report for the district – to be published soon.

Aylesham

- The Community Hub battery power storage system is due to be installed at the end of July. Installation delayed by supply issues
- St Josephs Primary School Grant aided Air/Water Heat exchanger now running successfully. Head Teacher comments "Installation more intrusive than first thought but now showing power savings"
- New development in the Centre of Village nearing completion with majority of homes with solar panels but sadly not the apartments.
- Community allotments construction has now started this month.

- Detailed planning application has now been submitted to DDC for the major Solar Farm between Tilmanstone and Nonnington. This is on farmland within a landscape of significance and is not universally popular with local residents with many objections already submitted.
- A major controversy recently affected the village when the TPO on Spinney woods was arbitrarily removed by DDC. This coincided and was conflated erroneously with the detailed planning application for up to 800 homes to the south of the woods. It resulted in a petition to DDC. On review, it was found that the TPO should not have been removed without a full planning application to DDC.

Heat Network

- Feasibility phase completed, further funding request from government.

Idling

- Work continues to develop an idling campaign.

Energy Efficiency

- Boxes will be available this Autumn.

Actions

- Firm date for resilience workshop
- Post flooding resilience – DDC responsible for road debris (stones etc)

Meeting ended