

# Deal Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Deal, Kent, CT14 6TR. 01304 361999 - deal.town.council@deal.gov.uk - www.deal.gov.uk

**To all Committee Members**: You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Environment Committee at the Town Hall on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024** at 7.15pm to transact the business shown on the agenda below.

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend.

Any member of the public may submit a written statement of no more than 500 words relating to any item on this agenda. These must be received by 10am on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024 by email to <a href="mailto:deal.town.council@deal.gov.uk">deal.town.council@deal.gov.uk</a> or post to the above address. These statements will be circulated to all present at the meeting and become part of the public record of the meeting, names will be redacted.

**Laura Marney – Committee Clerk** 

Date: 15th February 2024

### **AGENDA**

	AGENDA	
1	Chairperson's opening remarks	Chairperson
2	Apologies for absence	Committee Clerk
3	<b>Declarations of interest</b> : To receive any declarations of interest from Members in respect of business to be transacted on the agenda.	Attach 1
4	<b>Public Participation</b> : Members of the public may make representations, answer questions and give evidence at the meeting in respect of the business on the agenda. This shall not exceed 15 minutes.	
5	The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 for approval and signing: Decision required.	Attach 2
6	Councillor Project Proposals Received: Decisions required.	Attach 3
7	Action on Litter Project Update: Information to note.	Attach 4
8	Committee Clerk Report: Information to note.	Attach 5
	Date of next meeting: 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2024.	

Filming and audio recording of Town Council meetings, by representatives of the media and also by members of the public using small media tools, is permitted. Please refer to the council's protocol for recording of meetings for guidance, available to download on <a href="https://www.deal.gov.uk">www.deal.gov.uk</a> or on request.

Committee members: Cllr Beer, Cllr M Cronk, Cllr D Cronk, Cllr M Eddy, Cllr Bano, Cllr Cullen, Cllr Brookfield, Cllr Findley, Cllr Craggs, Mr D Carey and Ms B Brooks.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

#### **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)**

Where a Member has a new or registered DPI in a matter under consideration they must disclose that they have an interest and, unless the Monitoring Officer has agreed in advance that the DPI is a 'Sensitive Interest', explain the nature of that interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a DPI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation permitting them to do so. If during the consideration of any item a Member becomes aware that they have a DPI in the matter they should declare the interest immediately and, subject to any dispensations, withdraw from the meeting.

#### Other Significant Interest (OSI)

Where a Member is declaring an OSI they must also disclose the interest and explain the nature of the interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a OSI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation to do so or the meeting is one at which members of the public are permitted to speak for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter. In the latter case, the Member may only participate on the same basis as a member of the public and cannot participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter and must withdraw from the meeting in accordance with the Council's procedure rules.

### Voluntary Announcement of Other Interests (VAOI)

Where a Member does not have either a DPI or OSI but is of the opinion that for transparency reasons alone s/he should make an announcement in respect of a matter under consideration, they can make a VAOI. A Member declaring a VAOI may still remain at the meeting and vote on the matter under consideration.

#### Note to the Code:

Situations in which a Member may wish to make a VAOI include membership of outside bodies that have made representations on agenda items; where a Member knows a person involved, but does not have a close association with that person; or where an item would affect the well-being of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc. but not his/her financial position. It should be emphasised that an effect on the financial position of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc OR an application made by a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc would both probably constitute either an OSI or in some cases a DPI.

# Deal Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Deal, Kent CT14 6TR Tel: 01304 361999. Email: deal.town.council@deal.gov.uk

The Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 13th December 2023 at Deal Town Hall at 7.15pm.

Present:

Cllr S Beer (Chairperson)

Cllr M Cronk (Vice Chairperson)

Cllr D Cronk Cllr B Bano

Mr D Carey (Co-opted Member)

Officers:

Paul Bone (R.F.O)

Joanne Harper (Asst. to the Town Clerk) Nadine Miller Climate Change Officer

Cllr S Brookfield

Cllr P Findley Cllr L Craggs

Cllr M Eddy

Other: 1

**MINUTES** 

1	<b>Chairperson's opening remarks:</b> The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised of the fire evacuation instructions.	Chairperson
2	Apologies for absence: Cllr S Cullen. Cllr Eddy noted that Co-opted Member Ms B Brooks was on holiday.	R.F.O
3	Declarations of interest: None received.	
4	<b>Public Participation</b> : A member of public gave in-depth information about the different sources of litter in reference to item 9.	
5	The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 for approval and signing: Members RESOLVED: To accept the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 as a true and accurate record. Cllr D Cronk thanked the Vice-Chair for chairing the last meeting and doing an excellent job. (P) Cllr D Cronk (S) Cllr P Findley. All Agreed. The Chairperson duly signed the minutes.	Chairperson
6	Climate Action Plan 2024: Following lengthy discussion Cllr D Cronk thanked officers for the report. Members RESOLVED: To accept an amendment for the Community Garden Project to start in Autumn.  (P) Cllr S Beer (S) Cllr M Eddy. All Agreed.  Members considered and agreed with the content of the Climate Action Plan 2024 with no additions or amendments and then further RESOLVED: To recommend that Full Council agree and adopt the Climate Action Plan 2024. (P) Cllr D Cronk (S) Cllr M Eddy. All Agreed.	Committee Clerk
7	<b>Declaration of Ecological Emergency:</b> Following a discussion, Members RESOLVED: To accept the recommendation for Members to submit their project plans to the February Environment Committee. (P) Cllr P Findley (S) Cllr M Eddy. All Agreed.	Committee Clerk
8	The Sea Link Project – Statutory Consultation: Following discussion Members RESOLVED: To accept the following recommendation:  2. Members to complete the consultation questions on the National Grid Sealink feedback form individually. (P) Cllr D Cronk (S) Cllr L Craggs. All Agreed.	

9	Action on Litter Project Update: Members RESOLVED: To note the report. (P)Cllr M Eddy (S)Cllr D Cronk. All Agreed.	
10	Cowdray Square Play Area- Damaged Trees: Co-opted member Mr D Carey informed members that although the trees had been vandalised the DDC Contractors had not planted the trees correctly. Members RESOLVED: To note the report. (P) Cllr S Beer (S) Cllr L Craggs.	
	Date of next meeting: 21st February 2024	
	Chairperson closed the meeting at 20.35.	

# DEAL TOWN COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

To:

Councillor S Beer - Chairperson of the Environment Committee, Committee members

From:

Mrs L Marney – Committee Clerk

Date:

2nd February 2024

**Subject: Councillor Project Proposals Received** 

As members will be aware, the Environment Committee are working on Town Plan priorities and the Declaration of Ecological Emergency.

At the Committee meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 it was decided that committee members submit project proposals to the next meeting.

The Committee Clerk has received the following proposed project plans from various Councillors:

#### **Deal Tree Guardians Project**

Deal Town Council will recruit and support of group of volunteer tree guardians who will take responsibility for either one or a small number of trees near their homes. DTC will work with the Tree Guardians to take care of existing trees and to get new trees planted. This will lead to increased tree cover in Deal. (Full project plan attached).

#### **Hedgehog Friendly Deal Project**

The aim of the project is to make Deal a hedgehog friendly Town, raise awareness with local residents and distribute hedgehog friendly fencing to households in Deal. Hedgehogs help balance insect populations that would normally damage crops and garden plants. Since 2002 hedgehog numbers have been in decline in the UK by more than 30%. (Full project plan attached).

#### **Hedge Pledge 2 Project**

This project aims to lead of the success of Hedge Pledge, which was part of the Climate Action Plan 2024 which was accepted at January's Full Council. The aim of Hedge Pledge 2 is to increase the number of hedgerows and trees across the town, which can also provide safe corridors for birds and other wildlife. Many residents remain unaware of the ecological crisis and the decline in wildlife. (Full project plan attached).

If agreed by this Committee and Full Council, the above projects will become part of the Climate Action Plan for 2025.

There is also a Bat Project in the pipeline that needs more exploration, this will be bought back to a future Environment Committee meeting.

**Decision required:** Members to consider which projects to take to Full Council.

#### PROJECT PROPOSAL

**Project Title: Deal Tree Guardians** 

**1 PROJECT AIM** (A short statement - What changes do you want to see? What will the wider impact be?)

Deal Town Council will recruit and support a group of volunteer tree guardians who will take responsibility for either one or a small number of trees near their homes. We will work with the tree guardians to get new trees planted and to take care of the trees, leading to increased tree cover in the town.

2. LEAD BODY: Deal Town Council

**LEAD PERSON:** Climate Change Officer

POTENTIAL PARTNERS: Deal TC members, Tree Wardens, KCC, DDC, and Walmer TC.

3.PROJECT SUMMARY (A longer explanation - What will happen? How will it be done? Who will benefit?)

One of the problems which arises with new tree planting is the extra care of the tree required in its first year. People who live near the trees are the best people to check if they need watering, watch for damage etc. I have anecdotal evidence that this is already happening on a small scale. A scaling up and regularisation of this activity will benefit the town.

The project will be led by the Climate Change Officer and a member working group. We will invite the volunteer tree wardens in the area to take part in the planning and operation, so we have their expertise from the beginning. We will engage with DDC green spaces officers and KCC tree officers to see what support they can offer in training and networking for the new guardians.

A social media communications campaign plus a mailout to local organisations will help create interest. Two information sessions will take place for interested persons and the launch will happen after this. Three events will be held to train and support the guardians followed by quarterly networking events. (this part will eventually be run by the guardians themselves.) Tree planting (native species only) and necessary equipment will be supported with project funds.

**4. PROJECT PERIOD (**How long will the project run? When do you want it to start?)

This project should run for a minimum of two years, starting Spring 2025. After this thought should be given to whether this could become a standalone group, eligible for grant funding.

**5. EVIDENCE OF NEED:** (Why is it needed? How do you know?)

The Tree survey carried out by councillors and volunteers in 2020/21 showed that Deal has insufficient tree cover. Deal Town Council's Town Plan includes an ambition to provide extra tree cover and our recent Biodiversity declaration is also served by this project. This project could support provision of trees in public spaces or could include private property, with the right risk assessments and safeguards.

**6. TARGETS** (What will have happened by the end? NB your targets must be measurable.)

At least five tree guardians will be recruited and supported as a team by December 2025. There will be at least ten new trees in the town as a result of this project. A communications campaign will promote the team and stimulate further volunteer action on trees and hedges in Deal.

**7. SUSTAINABILITY** (Will the actions carry on after the project closes? Will it end and close down?)

Thought should be given to whether this could become a standalone group, eligible for grant funding. The impact will be long term, as the trees will grow even if the group did not continue.

**8. ESTIMATED BUDGET** (How much do you think it will cost? Where will this come from?)

Trees £2000, Trainer fees £500, Events £250, Equipment such as water barrels & hoses £250.

Total = £3000 from Deal TC Project fund.

**OTHER RESOURCES** (Will it need staff time? Volunteer support?)

Staff time – about one day a week in the recruitment stage, over 3 months, minimal after this.

#### **EXTRA INFORMATION**

See similar projects below:

https://www.charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk/tree-guardians

https://www.colchester.gov.uk/better-colchester/colchesterwoodlandbiodiversity/?page=become--a-tree--guardian

https://saveourstreettrees.org/northampton-tree-guardians/

Please complete the ACTION PLAN below if a detailed plan is available.						
9. PROJECT ACTION PLAN: wardens.	To be completed as	fter initial discussi	on with members and t	ree		
ACTION REQUIRED	WHEN BY	WHO	NOTES			
				_		

**PROJECT PROPOSAL TEMPLATE** (Sections 1-8 must be completed. Section 9, over, is to be completed if a detailed plan is available.)

# **Project Title: Hedgehog Friendly Deal**

1. PROJECT AIM (A short statement - What changes do you want to see? What will the wider impact be?)

Project aims to make Deal a hedgehog friendly town by raising awareness amongst residents and distributing hedgehog-friendly fence gravel boards to households.

2. LEAD BODY: Deal Town Council

LEAD PERSON: Climate Change Officer in liaison with Cllr Craggs and Cllr Brookfield.

**OTHERS:** Committee Clerk

**POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** East Kent Climate Action, Kent Wildlife Trust, Peoples Trust for Endangered Species, Hedgehog Street, Hedgehog Rescue Deal and Ash.

- **3. PROJECT SUMMARY** (A longer explanation What will happen? How will it be done? Who will benefit?)
  - 1. This project aims to distribute hedgehog friendly gravel boards to residents in order to establish 'hedgehog highways' throughout the town. Residents register to receive one of 100 free hedgehog friendly gravel board, funded by Deal Town Council.
  - 2. Interested residents found via initial stall at the Deal Saturday Market in partnership with a group that campaigns for wildlife, but mostly through a rolling communications campaign on council ran social media. The Campaign will highlight population decline, the ecological importance of hedgehogs, what residents can do to help them in their gardens, and signpost to local hedgehog rescues.

#### **4.PROJECT PERIOD** (How long will the project run? When do you want it to start?)

Preparation should start in autumn 2024, with project going public in Spring 2025 with the distribution of fences concluding by August 2025, and communications campaign ending at the end of September 2025.

How to gather baseline information of hedgehog numbers/extent of existing Hedgehog Highway will be explored.

**5. EVIDENCE OF NEED: (Why is it needed? How do you know?)** 

**Town Plan:** Deal Town Council to work with local groups on a campaign to promote planting and maintaining hedges, keeping front gardens green, rewilding etc.

### CARBON REDUCTION STRATEGY: Priority Area 5 – Carbon Emission Balancing

• Green the urban area to improve the environment for people, birds, animals and insects.

**DTC Declaration of Ecological Emergency** - implementing actions on local nature protection and recovery, including community engagement and partnership working.

Since 2002, Hedgehog numbers across the UK have declined by more than 30%, and number fewer than a million This decline is uneven, and population losses are more severe in rural regions than in cities (up to 75%)- National Biodiversity Network. 37% of British children have never seen a living hedgehog, and so we risk shrinking awareness and general interest in the wellbeing of the species. Hedgehogs aren't just an iconic British species but are insectivores helping to balance insect populations that would otherwise damage agricultural crops and garden plants.

- **6. TARGETS** (What will have happened by the end? NB your targets must be measurable.)
- a) By the end of the project 100 hedgehog friendly fences will have been distributed amongst residents.
- b) To raise awareness of our local wildlife and what we can do to protect and encourage it. Residents will become more engaged on the issue (can clicks on our social media pages be monitored over time)?
- c) To bring this and other DTC and local projects together for an ecological summit at the Town Hall in November 2025, underlying our Declaration of Ecological Emergency.
- 7. SUSTAINABILITY (Will the actions carry on after the project closes? Will it end and close down?)

Typical fences can remain in place for between 10-15 years, and so the provision of hedgehog friendly gravel boards will provide a long term legacy that will benefit the species for years to come. Alongside a communications campaign with our community partners, this has the potential to bring awareness amongst residents about the decline of hedgehogs and arm them with the knowledge to enact minor changes that can have a significant impact.

# **8. ESTIMATED BUDGET** (How much do you think it will cost? Where will this come from?)

#### £1450

100 Hedgehog friendly gravel boards at roughly £12-£14 each.

Resources for stall = £50.

**OTHER RESOURCES** (Will it need staff time? Volunteer support?)

- Officer Time as part of the 2025 Climate Action Plan.
- Volunteer Time from Councilor time, community group 30 days.

### Please complete the ACTION PLAN below if a detailed plan is available.

### 9. PROJECT ACTION PLAN

ACTION REQUIRED	WHEN BY	WHO	NOTES		
Foster links with local community partners +	Ongoing and strengthened throughout	Cllr Project Leads	Create links with local and national groups		
maintain these.	the project period.	Climate Change & Comms Officer	and businesses		
Submit Hedgehog Friendly Town Project to	To be advised	Cllr Project Leads	Funding needs to be agreed before the		
Full Council to approve		Climate Change &	project can be		
budget.		Comms Officer	launched.		

Source educational material in preparation for communications campaign, including a presence at the Saturday Market.	Spring 2025	Climate Change & Comms Officer	Ongoing - local and national online resources will be shared on social media in line with our Declaration of Ecological Emergency.
Quotations from local or national companies on Hedgehog gravel boards.	Supplies needed from Spring 2025	Committee Clerk	Hedgehog streets has a list of suppliers in each region, found here.
Project publicised to public, beginning of communications campaign.	Spring 2025	Climate Change & Comms Officer  Councillors	Project opens via social media announcement and a stall at deal Saturday market alongside EKCA or KWT, providing register of interest for gravel boards, registration to be a Hedgehog Champion (via Hedgehog Street).  Regular Posts made on social media.
Residents sign up for hedgehog gravel boards. (Sourcing and delivery of the boards to be explored further).	Spring/Summer 2025	Climate Change & Comms Officer  Committee Clerk	Registration and delivery to be confirmed. Residents send pictures of installed panels for publicisation.

#### PROJECT PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

Project Title: Hedge Pledge 2 and Tree Jamboree

**1. PROJECT AIM** (A short statement - What changes do you want to see? What will the wider impact be?)

An increase in the number of hedgerows and trees across the town and possibly beyond, which will in turn provide safe corridors for birds and other wildlife.

The aim is to build on the success expected of the current and ongoing Deal Climate Action Project ("Hedge Pledge") wherein we seek to extend the hedgerows within and around the allotments and beyond.

NB Clearly a hedge can be of variable dimensions; its height has some legal definition in terms of causing nuisance by being too tall for abutting neighbours but a reasonable understanding of the width of a hedge is three feet. This project will operate with a degree of flexibility in determining how "big" a hedge should be.

2. LEAD BODY: Deal Town Council

LEAD PERSON: Climate Change Officer in liaison with Cllrs Brookfield and Craggs

OTHERS: Committee Clerk and R.F.O.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS: Tree Council, The Woodland Trust, Soil Association, East Kent

Climate Action, CPRE, DDC.

- **3. PROJECT SUMMARY** (A longer explanation What will happen? How will it be done? Who will benefit?)
- a) Awareness Raising: many residents remain unaware of the ecological crisis looming and the benefits of maintaining environments that will help combat the decline of wildlife that has been for so long part of the joy of living in Deal. A major programme of communication and education is needed.
- b) Given how finite resources are both to residents and to the Council itself **Partnership Working** will be the hall-mark of this project wherein the Council plays a <u>facilitative</u> role, levering in resources to the town and aiding collaboration between assorted parties.
- c) Leadership and Incentivisation: despite (b) above, the Council will play an important role in enabling those with limited understanding of what the issues are and how their actions can help relieve the crisis by setting up a number of small projects and events to bring residents and others on board, not least apropos the predicted success of the current Hedge Pledge project.

**4 PROJECT PERIOD** (How long will the project run? When do you want it to start?) Summer 2025/26 onwards

**5. EVIDENCE OF NEED:** (Why is it needed? How do you know?)

**DTC Declaration of Ecological Emergency -** implementing actions on local nature protection and recovery, including community engagement and partnership working.

#### **CARBON REDUCTION STRATEGY:**

Priority Area 4 – External Activities Management: Scope 3

- Continue to help allotment holders to minimise their environmental impact
   Priority Area 5 Carbon Emission Balancing
- Green the urban area to improve the environment for people, birds, animals and insects
- **6. TARGETS** (What will have happened by the end? NB your targets must be measurable.)
- a) By September 2026, our Partners (See above) will have formally recorded their appreciation of the initiative taken by DTC through this project.
- b) By September 2026, at least 100 new or replacement hedges will have been planted.
- c) By September 2026, via Surveymonkey consultation, Deal residents will have demonstrated their support for this project.
- **7 SUSTAINABILITY** (Will the actions carry on after the project closes? Will it end and close down?)
- a) Having met Target © above, it is hoped that the project will continue into a second year, extending hedgerows further and tree cover in and around Deal.
- b) Through the monitoring work of partners, we will see an increase in birdlife in Deal and of other wildlife, including data from events like the RSPB's "Big Count"

**8 ESTIMATED BUDGET** (How much do you think it will cost? Where will this come from?)

£1200 from the Environment Committee

**OTHER RESOURCES** (Will it need staff time? Volunteer support?)

- a) Officer Time 30 days
- b) Volunteer/Councillor Time 25 days

Please complete the ACTION PLAN below if a detailed plan is available.

#### 9 PROJECT ACTION PLAN

ACTION REQUIRED	WHEN BY	WHO	NOTES
Via website and local media, celebrate the success of the current "Hedge Pledge" Project	Summer 2025	Climate Change & Comms Officer	

Forge strong relationships with potential partners and be clear about the resources that might be thus called upon for hedge and tree planting.	Summer 2025	Cllr Project Leads Climate Change & Comms Officer	Tree Council, The Woodland Trust, Soil Association, East Kent Climate Action, CPRE, DDC.
Raise awareness of the need for planting additional trees and hedges in and around Deal by linking with:  * residents - eg Market stall and other comms  * builders engaged in major developments in Deal  * Nurseries and Garden Centres  * Local schools, scout and guide groups  * the Farming Community  * Neighbouring Councils	Summer 2025	Clir Project Leads Climate Change & Comms Officer  Committee Clerk	
To explore options to purchase 100 Hedgerow packs from eg the Woodland Trust and distribute these via the Saturday Market stall in return for a resident's own "Hedge Pledge"	Autumn 2025	Cllr Project Leads Climate Change & Comms Officer Committee Clerk	
Plan celebratory events that highlight the benefits for both wildlife and the environment, such as a photograph competition or hedgefund prize.	Autumn/Winter 2025	Cllr Project Leads Climate Change & Comms Officer	
Interim evaluation, through survey and using all extant data, consider the success and development points form the first year of this project	Spring 2026	Climate Change & Comms Officer  Committee Clerk	

# DEAL TOWN COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

To:

Councillor S Beer - Chairperson of the Environment Committee, Committee members

From:

Mrs L Marney - Committee Clerk

Date:

29th January 2024

**Subject: Action on Litter Project Update** 

Following the update provided at the December Environment Committee stating the initial meeting of the Action of Litter Project group had taken place on 14<sup>th</sup> November. A further meeting was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at the Town Hall.

This meeting was attended by attended by: Cllr Sue Beer (DTC), Laura Marney (DTC Committee Clerk) Andrzej Kluczynski (Dover District Council) Helen Charlton (Pick Deal Clean), Linda Ford (Pick Deal Clean), Victoria Nicholls (Deal With It), Julie Kemp & Dave Lister (Environment Leads - Deal Rotary Pirates)

All participants gave updates regarding their ongoing activities, Andrzej Kluczynski from DDC who manages the Environment Protection & Crime Team, advised that DDC are currently doing educational campaigns and projects and are also enforcing fines on repeat litter offenders, he also stated that DDC were putting more signs on bins to signify the relevant waste that should be placed in bins. Helen Charlton from Pick Deal Clean produced statistics from 2021-2023, see below.

#### **Pick Deal Clean Stats**

	Volunteer Hours	Bags	Kilos	Individual Picks	Individual Logging
2023	1339	455.8	2051.1	300	29
2022	1061	633.6	2851.2	681	41
2021	1916.3	1105	4972.5	1015	59
Total	4316.3	2194.4	9874.8	1996	129

The following tasks will be taken forward to explore so that a definitive action plan can be put in place.

- 1. A reusable Deal Cup (work with businesses more investigation required).
- 2. Decals on pavements that can be moved to relevant litter hotspots in Deal.
- 3. Discuss with Chamber of Trade and relevant business how they might take back and recycle large volumes including take out cups discarded in the Town Centre.
- 4. Car Litter Bins/personal cigarette pouches.

**Decision required:** Members to note the above information.

# DEAL TOWN COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

To:

Councillor S Beer - Chairperson of the Environment Committee, Committee members

From:

Laura Marney – Committee Clerk

Date:

13<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Subject: Committee Clerk Report** 

# Please see below updates for information only.

# **Hedge Pledge Project**

This project is part of the Climate Action Plan 2024 and recently approved at Full Council. The aim is to plant hedgerow on our allotment sites and encourage residents to do the same.

Hedgerows are effective at storing significant amounts of carbon and provide benefits for wildlife. The target of this project is to create wildlife corridors in the town, capture carbon, enhance the environment in Deal and increase Bio-diversity.

I can advise that Kent County Council have approved the funding for the Golf Road Allotment site and the R.F.O. has signed and returned the grant form.

We have ordered our 150 metres and 180 metres of hedgerow respectively for the Golf Road and Mill Road from the Woodland Trust and expect delivery by end of February.

The Committee Clerk will provide regular updates on this project to Committee.

#### **Deal Climate Action Day**

This project which is also part of the Climate Action Plan 2024, aims to showcase an exhibition on the Climate Action work being undertaken in Deal, this will include a DTC stand displaying all the work that the Council has actioned.

The first initial meeting was held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and included the Climate Change Officer, Committee Clerk, Asst. to the Town Clerk and the Facilities Manager, where exhibition format, layout and potential attendees were discussed.

A further update on this project will be bought back to a future meeting.

# **Planting Update**

At the June Environment Committee 2023, the Committee Clerk was asked to investigate planting on privately owned sites in the Mill Hill area, as there was a remaining budget of £2,071.30 following the planting of trees agreed by KCC in the Mill Hill area.

The Committee Clerk has been to the Betteshanger Social Club and Bodyworks Gym sites based in Mill Hill and taken pictures of the sites. Archer's Low maintain the DTC planters in Town and along the seafront, are currently in the process of visiting/quoting for sustainable plants on these sites.

The Committee Clerk has now managed to contact Goodwin Academy as they have a vast amount of land on their site. The Assistant Head has agreed to meet with the Committee Clerk on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February.

The Committee Clerk will bring a more detailed update on this project to a future Environment Committee meeting.