



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 17th April 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 16th April 2024 by email to deal.town.council@deal.gov.uk 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: 11th April 2024

AGENDA

1	Chairperson's opening remarks	Chairperson
2	Apologies for absence	Committee Clerk
3	Declarations of interest: To receive any declarations of interest from Members in respect of business to be transacted on the agenda.	Attach 1
4	Public Participation: 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 21st February 2024 for approval and signing: Decision required.	Attach 2
6	Recommendation for Alternative Council Search Engine: Decision required.	Attach 3
7	Hedge Pledge Update: Information to note.	Attach 4
8	Action on Litter Project Update: Information to note.	Attach 5
9	Committee Clerk Report: Information to note.	Attach 6
	Date of next meeting: 19th June 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 www.deal.gov.uk 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.

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The Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 21st
February 2024 at 7.15pm.

Present: Cllr S Beer (Chairperson) Cllr B Bano
Cllr S Brookfield Cllr M Eddy
Cllr P Findley Cllr L Craggs
Ms B Brookes (Co-opted) Mr D Carey (Co-opted)

Officers: Mrs L Marney (Committee Clerk) Others: 3 Members of Public
Miss J Harper (Asst. to the Town Clerk)

1	Chairperson's opening remarks: The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting, read the fire evacuation procedures.	Chairperson
2	Apologies for absence received: Apologies were received from Cllr D Cronk due to illness and Cllr M Cronk due to work commitments. Cllr S Cullen was absent.	Committee Clerk
3	Declarations of interest: None received.	
4	Public participation and Statements received: A member of the public spoke about the Deal Tree Guardian Project and offered suggestions and support for the project.	
5	The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Wednesday 13th December 2023 for approval and signing: Members RESOLVED: To accept the minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 13 th December 2023 as a true and accurate record. (P) Cllr M Eddy (S) Cllr L Craggs. All agreed.	Chairperson
6	Councillor Project Proposals Received: Following lengthy discussion Members RESOLVED: To recommend the Deal Tree Guardians, Hedgehog Friendly Deal and Hedge Pledge 2 Projects to the next available Full Council meeting for approval. (P) Cllr M Eddy (S) Cllr L Craggs. All agreed.	Committee Clerk
7	Action on Litter Project Update: Members RESOLVED: To note the report and gave thanks to the Committee Clerk. (P) Cllr M Eddy (S) Cllr L Craggs. All agreed.	
8	Committee Clerk Report: The Committee Clerk gave an update to her report and informed members that the Hedgerow Packs for Hedge Pledge project have now been received and that she has a forthcoming meeting with Goodwin Academy regarding possible planting. The Chairperson thanked the Committee Clerk for all her work. Members RESOLVED: To note the report. (P) Cllr B Bano (S) Cllr L Craggs. All agreed.	Committee Clerk
	Date of next meeting: 17th April 2024.	
	The Chairperson closed the meeting at 8.05pm.	

**DEAL TOWN COUNCIL
MEMORANDUM**

To: Cllr S Beer, Chairperson of the Environment Committee; All Committee Members
From: Mrs L Marney – Committee Clerk
Date: 28th March 2024
Subject: Recommendation for Alternative Council Search Engine

The following request has been received from a Councillor to be considered: -

- *All councillors and clerks to set default search engine as 'Ecosia' - Ecosia is a search engine and performs the same role as Google etc.*
- *All councillors and clerks to install 'TreeTab' as a Chrome extension. -Treetab provides a nice picture every time a new tab is opened on Google Chrome.*
- *Both Ecosia and TreeTab use their advertising revenue to plant trees.*
- *Clerks to promote these changes on social media.*

The Responsible Finance Officer sent this request to the Council's IT support company ADM for their comment.

They have advised that it is there is no issue in using the Ecosia search engine, and Ecosia is reputable and uses the same data as Bing (and Google if they give consent). They also only allow connections over secured SSL/HTTPS.

However, they recommend against the use of Treetab as they do not have a wide user base (1,000 users) and their domain has been suspended so it's possible they don't actually plant trees. ADM have not been able to confirm what data Treetab collect and what sort of ads will be displayed.

The Climate Change Officer understands that Ecosia is widely recognised as an eco-friendly search engine option. Ecosia say "we have always campaigned for a fairer, more sustainable internet. We're the only search engine that gives all profits to the planet".

Ecosia have planting projects across the World, and they began a UK campaign in 2020, planting trees around NHS hospital sites in the #GrowYourLove campaign. (<https://blog.ecosia.org/growyourloveforthenhs/>).The Climate Change Officer has no objection to this recommendation however it will be kept under review.

Recommendation: Members to consider recommending to Full Council that the default search engine is set as 'Ecosia' on all DTC computer devices including the laptops issued to Cllrs.

Decision Required: Members to consider the above recommendation.

MEMORANDUM

To: Councillor S Beer – Chairperson of the Environment Committee, Committee members

From: Mrs L Marney – Committee Clerk

Date: 5th April 2024

Subject: Hedge Pledge Project Update

This project is part of the Climate Action Plan 2024 agreed by Full Council in January 2024. The project aim is to plant hedgerows 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.

Following on from the update provided at the February Environment Committee meeting, the Mayor came along to support the project and the DTC Officers doing the planting, see photos below. The hedgerows for Golf Road have now been planted, the Mill Road allotment site will be completed in the next week.

The Committee Clerk will bring a future update on the hedgerow planting to Committee when they are more established.





Decision required: Members to note the above information.

DEAL TOWN COUNCIL
MEMORANDUM

To: Councillor S Beer – Chairperson of the Environment Committee, Committee members
From: Mrs L Marney – Committee Clerk
Date: 28th March 2024
Subject: Action on Litter Project Update

At the October 2023 Environment Committee meeting members considered an Action on Litter project proposal and **RESOLVED:** *To accept the recommendation that the Environment Committee agrees to go ahead with this project and agreed to £3,000 being allocated from the Environment budget. To delegate authority to the Town Clerk to increase the budget if needed.*

Following this decision an Action Group was formed and the Committee Clerk has provided regular updates from this group to the Environment Committee. The final meeting of this group was held on 29th February 2024 at the Town Hall to put a definitive action plan in place.

The final meeting was attended by: Cllr Sue Beer (DTC), Laura Marney (DTC Committee Clerk) Andrzej Kluczynski (Dover District Council) Helen Charlton (Pick Deal Clean), Victoria Nicholls (Deal With It), Julie Kemp (Environment Lead - Deal Rotary Pirates)

Participants gave updates regarding their ongoing activities, Andrzej Kluczynski from Dover District Council who manages the Environment Protection & Crime Team, advised that DDC as part of the Great British Spring Clean Campaign (15th – 31st March) have a Litter Picking Tour at certain dates around the district. DDC also have the REACH Awards, where residents can nominate people, schools and businesses in the various categories, DDC also have a competition for young people to create a Poster **“to do the right thing and put litter in the bin”**. The winners' poster will go on the side of a Veolia Collection Vehicle.

Helen Charlton from Pick Deal Clean advised that a deep clean of Tar Path Alleyway which runs between Sutherland Road and The Grove had been actioned by Veolia following her contact with DDC regarding the state of this Alleyway.

The Action Group then discussed which task to take forward and a collective decision was made to focus on having Decals put at litter hotspot locations around the Town. Decals are decorative floor stickers made of a heavy-duty vinyl which can be placed on surfaces indoors and outdoors. Once the Decals are in place, they have a life span of 6 months and once used the plastic can be recycled.

The group did explore painted stencils on the pavements instead of Decals, however, stencils exposed to harsh weather conditions (sun, rain, snow) deteriorate faster, and areas with high footfall wear down the stencils more quickly, also stencils need regular cleaning and touch-ups every 3/4 weeks. It was therefore decided that the Decals would be the most viable solution to tackle the litter issue within Deal.

The Committee Clerk contacted KCC regarding relevant permissions and sent them all the information they requested.

The Committee Clerk has received a positive response from KCC stating that we have permission to install the Decals on the pavements at the 5 litter hotspots around Deal, she is currently liaising with the DTC Communications Officer regarding wording and design for the Decal and will be contacting local companies for quotations to produce them.

Decision required: Members to note the above information.

DEAL TOWN COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Councillor S Beer – Chairperson of the Environment Committee, Committee members

From: Mrs L Marney – Committee Clerk

Date: 8th April 2024

Subject: Committee Clerk Report

Please see below updates for information only.

Planting Update

Following on from the update given at the last Environment Committee meeting regarding the planting on privately owned sites project, I can advise that Archer's Low who maintain the DTC planters in Town and along the seafront, now have details/photos for all the sites.

Archers Low are aware of the remaining budget of £2,071.30 and they are currently assessing the most suitable sustainable plants for the above sites and will be providing DTC with details/quotations in the next few weeks.

I will provide an update to a future Environment Committee meeting.

Urban Planting Update

An ongoing initiative from the Town Plan is to explore additional urban areas of Deal and improve sustainable planting. Last year I contacted the Manager of Sainsburys, who advised that they had planted on parts of their site.

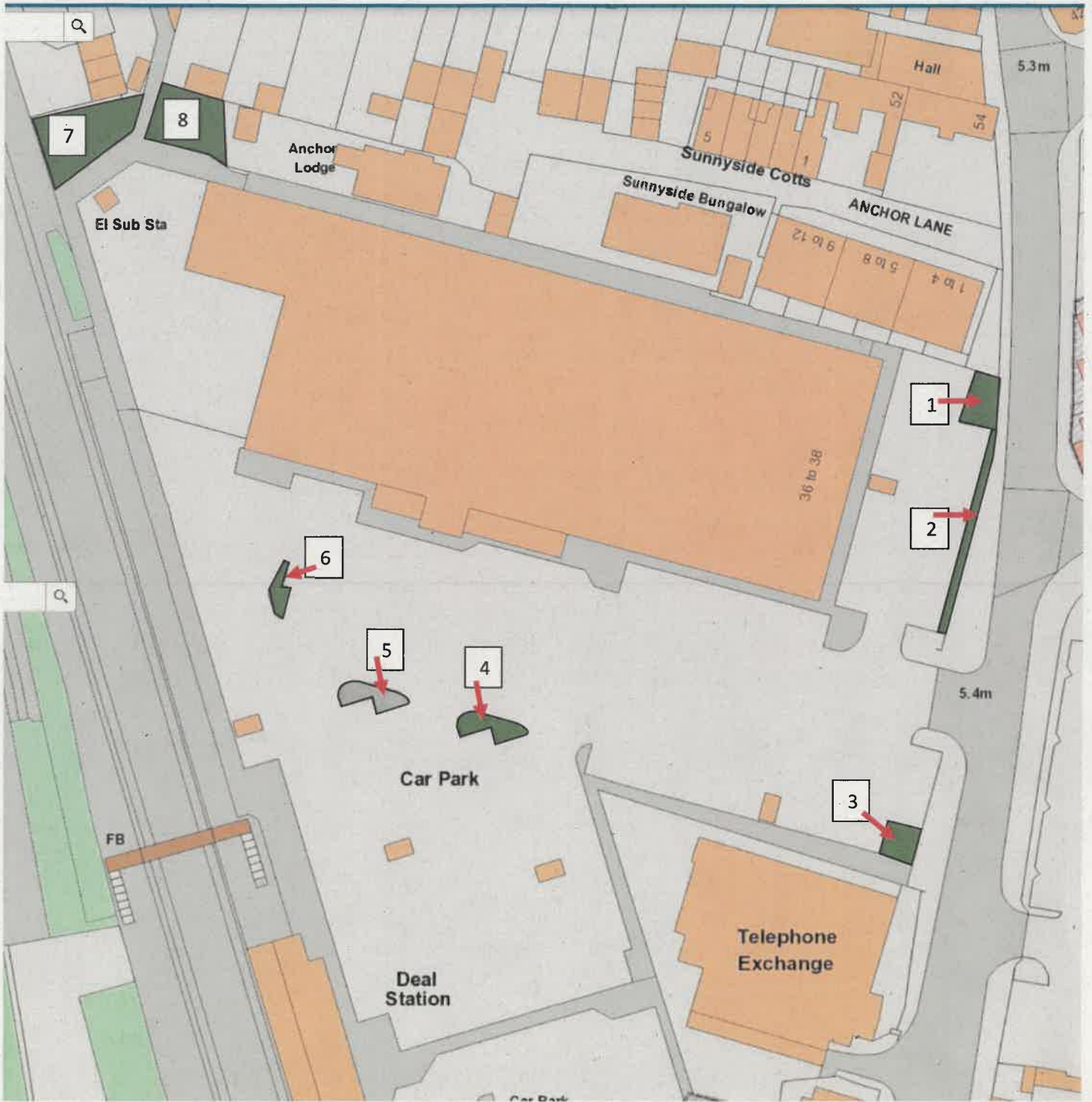
Going forward, visual improvements to the entrance/pavement/roadside of the Sainsbury's site (**areas 1,2, & 3 on the attached map**) will be investigated and I have arranged a meeting with the Manager of Sainsburys at the end of April to discuss these areas.

An update will be brought to the next meeting.

Compostable Toilets at the Allotment sites

This project, which is part of the Climate Action Plan 2024, was agreed by Full Council in January 2024, the aim of the project is to provide environmentally sustainable toilets for allotment holders at our allotment sites.

The compostable toilets are currently being manufactured for our 3 Allotment sites at Golf Road, Mill Road and Park Avenue. These should be received at DTC by the beginning of May, with installation scheduled for mid/end of May.



 Area identified that cannot be used.
  Green areas