



Deal Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Deal, Kent, CT14 6TR.
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To all Committee Members: You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Environment Committee at the Town Hall on **Wednesday 18th December 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 17th December 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: 12th December 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 16th October 2024 for approval and signing: Decision required. | Attach 2 |
| 6 | Climate Emergency - Our journey to net zero: Decision required. | Attach 3 |
| 7 | Deal Sea Water Quality: Decision required. | Attach 4 |
| 8 | Government Consultation - Reforms to the Bathing Water Regulations 2013: Decision required. | Attach 5 |
| 9 | Correspondence rec'd - Pesticides used by DDC: Decision required. | Attach 6 |
| 10 | Action on Litter Project Update: Information to note. | Attach 7 |
| 11 | Committee Clerk Report: Information to note. | Attach 8 |
| | Date of next meeting: 12th February 2025. | |
| 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 S Brookfield, Cllr M Eddy, Cllr D Cronk, Cllr M Cronk, Cllr B Bano, Cllr L Craggs, Cllr P Findley, Cllr S Cullen, Mr D Carey and Ms H Charlton. | | |

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

The Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held at the Town Hall on
Wednesday 16th October 2024 at 7.15pm.

Present: Cllr S Brookfield (Chairperson) from 7:39pm Cllr L Craggs
Cllr M Eddy (Vice-Chairperson) Cllr B Bano
Cllr S Cullen Cllr P Findley

Officers: Mrs L Marney - Committee Clerk Others: None present
Miss P Read - Clerical Officer

| | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Chairperson's opening remarks: Cllr M Eddy (Vice-Chairperson) advised that as Vice-Chairperson he would be chairing the meeting in the absence of Cllr S Brookfield (Chairperson) who would be arriving late due to a delayed train. The Vice-Chairperson advised the committee that the order of the agenda should be changed to allow time for Cllr S Brookfield to respond upon his arrival, agenda items 8 and 9 would now become agenda items 6 and 7, and agenda items 6 and 7 would now become agenda items 8 and 9. The Vice-Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and read out the fire evacuation procedures and advised Councillors to put their mobile phones on silent. | Vice-Chairperson |
| 2 | Apologies for absence: Cllr S Brookfield (Chairperson) advised he would be attending the meeting late due to a delayed train. Cllr D Cronk due to prior work commitment. Mr D Carey (Co-opted Member) and Ms H Charlton (Co-opted Member) due to prior commitments. Cllr M Cronk was absent. | Committee Clerk |
| 3 | Declarations of interest: None received. | |
| 4 | Public Participation: None received. | Committee Clerk |
| 5 | The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Wednesday 28th August 2024 for approval and signing: Members RESOLVED: To accept the minutes from the previous Environment Committee meeting on Wednesday 28 August 2024 as a true and accurate record. The Chairperson duly signed the minutes upon his arrival. (P) Cllr P Findley (S) Cllr L Craggs. All agreed. | Chairperson |
| 6 | Safety of Lithium-ion Batteries Bill Update: After discussion, Members RESOLVED: to adopt the Committee Clerk's recommendation: The Chairperson of the Environment Committee in liaison with the Committee Clerk writes to Baroness Jones, the Government Minister in charge of this Bill, and expresses Deal Town Council's support to the new clauses 4,5,& 6 of the Bill. With the amendment that it be an in-principal letter of support and that the nature of the Bill and new clauses' wording be attained by the Committee Clerk and circulated via email to all Councillors. (P) Cllr L Craggs (S) Cllr S Cullen. All agreed. | Chairperson/ Committee Clerk |
| 7 | Committee Clerk Report: The Committee Clerk discussed the report and after discussion, Members RESOLVED: That the DTC team be congratulated for the Best Foot Forward project and that the Committee Clerk email members the list of names of participants on the Action Litter Steering Group. (P) Cllr B Bano (S) Cllr L Craggs. All agreed. | Committee Clerk |
| | Cllr S Brookfield arrived for the meeting at 7.39pm | |

| | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 8 | <p>DDC Freedom of Information response – Deal Castle Bathing Water Enhancement Programme: Following a lengthy discussion, Members RESOLVED: That the Chairperson of the Environment Committee follows up on DDC’s response, by writing to DDC asking for further information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Deal Town Council request the details of Dover District Council’s contact at Southern Water to obtain further information regarding the spending of the £3.9 million allocated to Deal Castle Beach. 2) DTC be included in DDC stakeholder meetings with Southern Water and any other Bathing Water Quality meetings. 3) DTC obtain the exact sum of money given to DDC by Southern Water for Deal Castle Beach. <p>(P) Cllr M Eddy (S) Cllr P Findley. All agreed. Motion carried.</p> | Chairperson/ Committee Clerk |
| 9 | <p>Ocean and Coastal Recovery Declaration & Strategy Project: Following a lengthy discussion, Members RESOLVED: to proceed with Cllr P Findley’s recommendation: The Environment Committee agrees to support this project which is in line with Deal Town Council’s Carbon Reduction strategy and to recommend this project plan to the October Full Council meeting for approval. With an amendment to Item 5, Evidence of Need, point 1 of the project proposal – that the word ‘poor’ be changed to ‘sufficient’.</p> <p>(P) Cllr M Eddy (S) Cllr S Cullen. 5 For 1 Abstention. Motion carried.</p> | Committee Clerk |
| | <p>The Chairperson closed the meeting at 8:11pm.</p> | |

**DEAL TOWN COUNCIL
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Cllr S Brookfield, Chairperson of the Environment Committee,
All Committee members

FROM: Nadine Miller, Climate Change, Project & Communications Officer

SUBJECT: Journey to achieving Net Zero 2025

DATE: 6th December 2024

The Full Council declared a Climate Emergency on 26 June 2019:

“That Deal Town Council commits to becoming a carbon-neutral organisation by 2025 by creating a carbon audit and roadmap by March 2020 and will provide up to a £1,000 from this year’s contingency fund to cover the costs of producing the carbon audit and roadmap.

“To include environmental impact assessments in officers’ reports, highlighting in particular the impact on direct and indirect CO2 emissions. To seek means to assist other organisations in the town to reduce their direct and indirect CO2 emissions, in conjunction with specialist advice from Dover District and Kent County Council officers.”

In April 2024, external auditor, STEM Sustainability, confirmed Deal Town Council’s Net Zero Target was ‘effectively reached six months early’

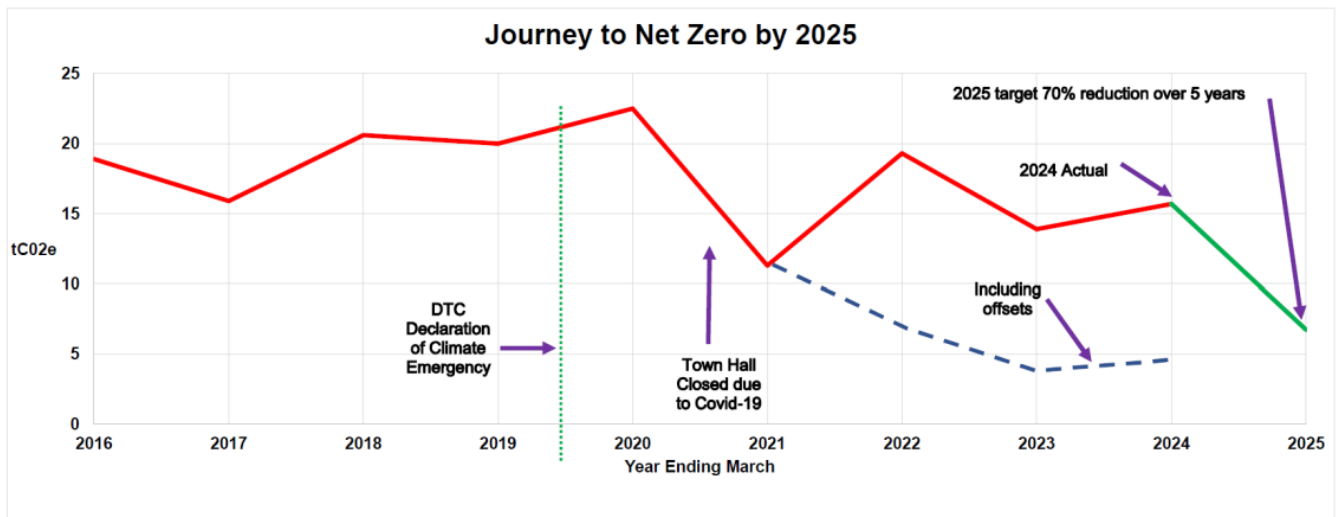
This was achieved by working through priority areas one to six as outlined in the roadmap that became the Carbon Reduction Strategy:

- Priority Area 1 – Deal Town Hall: Scopes 1 & 2
- Priority Area 2 – Working Practises: Scope 1 & 2
- Priority Area 3 – Transport: Scopes 2 & 3
- Priority Area 4 – External Activities Management: Scope 3
- Priority Area 5 – Carbon Emission Balancing
- Priority Area 6 – Helping Our Citizens and Businesses

Our target to 2025 from the 2019 declaration was a 70% decarbonization of our activities. As of April 2024, we reached 75% and the remaining 25% now residual emissions (emissions that we cannot currently reduce further as they are beyond our control).

| t CO2e | 15/16 (baseline) | 16/17 | 17/18 | 18/19 | 19/20 | 20/21 | 21/22 | 22/23 | 23/24 |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total inc. offset | 18.9 | 15.9 | 20.6 | 20 | 22.5 | 11.3 | 6.9 | 4.0 | 5.0* |
| Vs baseline | | -16% | 9% | 6% | 19% | -40% | -64% | -79% | -74% |

(* rise due to increased Town Hall use, staff commuting and the inclusion of waste data)



The offsets included in our analysis are based on our 100% REGO-backed gas and electricity (Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin) and 10,000 litres of water harvested on our allotments.

Our nature-based offsets (planting projects, additional water harvesting and support of similar schemes) are not calculated here and not yet included in our footprint.

Actions taken to reach this target have included:

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Roof space lagging | | Chamber window repairs |
| Heating Controls (zonal) | | Solar Panels on the Town Hall (ongoing) |
| The Committee Carbon Emission Checklists | | Tree planting |
| Secondary Glazing | | Paper Management review |
| Mayoral Transport Review | | Staff Carbon Literacy Training |
| Winter meeting programme explored | | Jan/Feb bookings of the town hall |
| New Energy Performance Certificate | | Great Big Green Week |
| Air Quality Monitor – community use | | Declaration of Ecological Emergency |
| Water Harvesting on the allotments | | Air quality monitoring |
| Green Grants | | Market review |
| Allotment review | | Action on litter |
| Hedge Pledge | | Cycle Friendly September |
| Compostable toilets at our three allotment sites | | Best foot forward |
| Deal Home Kitchen | | Community Garden at Park Avenue |
| Climate Action Day | | Tree guardian project |
| Hedgehog friendly Deal | | Ocean and Coastal Recovery Declaration & Strategy |

Our continuing efforts to reduce our consumption can be seen here in our yearly paper review:

| year | Paper used Kg | Kg CO2e |
|------|---------------|---------|
| 2019 | 204.55 | 188.1 |
| 2020 | 187.12 | 172.04 |
| 2021 | 129.74 | 119.28 |
| 2022 | 224.55 | 206.45 |
| 2023 | 117.5 | 108 |
| 2024 | 87.5 | 80.4 |

Working more efficiently at the Town Hall has led to a reduction in waste collections. The contractor's monthly average bill of £228 has now been reduced to £139 as waste is now collected fortnightly.

The Climate Action section of the website www.deal.gov.uk/climate gives extensive information about the council's work and future plans as well as the most recent audit from STEM.

An updated [DTC Environmental Policy](#) will be brought to Full Council in January 2025 for consideration, reflecting the achievement that DTC has become 'a net zero carbon emitter in our own operations by 2025.'

Work is underway to present an updated Climate Action strategy, detailing how we remain a carbon-neutral organization. This will be presented to the Environment Committee in February 2025 for consideration.

Recommendations:

- Members to note the report and agree to refer report to Full Council for information
- Members to consider how the council should celebrate the fulfillment of 2019 Declaration and recommend to Full Council

Decision Required:

Members to consider the above recommendations.

**DEAL TOWN COUNCIL
MEMORANDUM**

To: Councillor S Brookfield, Chairperson of the Environment Committee, All committee members
From: Mrs L Marney, Committee Clerk & Nadine Miller, Climate Change Officer
Date: 5th December 2024
Subject: **Deal Sea Water Quality**

As committee members will be aware, the bathing waters off Deal Castle Beach have been designated "Poor" by the Environment Agency and an "Advice against bathing" notice has been put up along the seafront.

We are already seeing the immediate impact of this with the cancellation of the popular Boxing Day Dip.

This is a blow for our town, as we have a vast amount of regular sea bathing residents that swim all year round. This could also have a detrimental effect on local businesses and tourism in the town.

As a matter of urgency, we need answers and will ask representatives from the Environment Agency, Southern Water and Dover District Council to attend our next Environment Committee meeting on Wednesday 12th February to explain the reasons for the "poor" sea water quality and possible solutions that they have going forward to tackle the poor sea bathing water quality on Deal Castle Beach.

Recommendation: Chairperson in liaison with the Committee Clerk and Climate Change Officer writes to Southern Water, Environment Agency and DDC to ask them to come to the February Environment Committee to explain the reasons for this situation.

Decision required: Members to consider the above recommendation.

**DEAL TOWN COUNCIL
MEMORANDUM**

To: Cllr S Brookfield – Chairperson of the Environment Committee, Committee members
From: Mrs L Marney – Committee Clerk
Date: 25th November 2024
Subject: Government Consultation – Reforms to the Bathing Water Regulations 2013

The Government are seeking views on proposed reforms and technical amendments to the Bathing Water Regulations 2013.

This consultation is significant as the poor quality of the sea bathing water at Deal Castle beach is the next item on the agenda.

Bathing waters are currently managed under the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 (hereafter, 'the Regulations') which apply to both England and Wales. The Regulations transposed the 2006 EU Bathing Water Directive into domestic law and were assimilated into UK law under the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023.

Following final designation as bathing waters, coastal and inland waters are monitored by the Environment Agency (EA) in England and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in Wales respectively. Water quality sampling and testing is used by local authorities to inform public health messaging on the health risks associated with bathing and identify where improvements are necessary.

There have been changes in how and where people use bathing waters since the Regulations were introduced. In their current form, the Regulations take a generally 'one-size-fits-all' approach to bathing water designations, water quality monitoring and the de-designation process. There may be advantages to reforming the Regulations to allow for greater consideration of site-specific factors in these processes. The purpose of the Regulations is to ensure the protection of public health through the use of monitoring and classifications. It is the government's intention to pursue an increase in the designation of safe bathing water sites.

For these reasons, Defra and the Welsh Government are consulting on potential reform measures to improve the current Regulations and increase flexibility. This consultation seeks views on 3 proposed reforms as well as 9 technical amendments to improve the use of EA and NRW resources and bring the Regulations in line with modern sampling practices. It also seeks views on two wider reforms that may form part of future phases of regulatory reform. This is a joint consultation from Defra and the Welsh Government.

The decisions on whether legislation should be made to introduce reforms will be taken independently by relevant Ministers with respect to their own national jurisdictions. Regulations are currently shared, but the EA & NRW independently manage bathing waters within their own national jurisdiction.

Proposed reforms

Core reform 1: Remove the automatic de-designation provision from the Regulations. Currently, bathing waters are automatically de-designated following five consecutive years of 'poor' classification. This is often too short a time for investments and improvements to be made. De-designations would instead be based on review and recommendation by the EA and NRW.

Core reform 2: Include the feasibility of improving a site's water quality to at least 'sufficient' as a criterion for final designation. This would avoid poor value for money, by limiting expenditure where water quality improvement is not feasible or proportionate.

Core reform 3: Remove the fixed dates of the monitored bathing season from the Regulations. Season dates would be moved into guidance allowing the EA and NRW to adapt the dates to better suit local needs in the future.

Wider reform 1: Clarification and expansion of the definition of 'bathers' to include other water users. 'Bathers' is currently understood by its common meaning as swimmers only. We are seeking views on whether a wider range of water users should be considered, and if so, what other types of users should be included and how their needs can be balanced against current users.

Wider reform 2: Use of multiple monitoring points at each bathing water site where useful to classify water quality. We are seeking views on whether additional monitoring to capture water quality variation across sites would be beneficial.

**The consultation can be found using the following link: [Respond online](#)
This consultation closes at 11:59pm on 23 December 2024.**

Recommendations:

1. Due to the vast number of questions included in this consultation, members to complete this consultation individually online using the link provided.
2. Due to the important nature of this consultation, send to all Deal Town Councillors to complete.

Decision required: Members to consider the above recommendations.

DEAL TOWN COUNCIL
MEMORANDUM

To: Cllr S Brookfield – Chairperson of the Environment Committee, Committee members
From: Mrs L Marney – Committee Clerk
Date: 3rd December 2024
Subject: Correspondence received – Pesticides used by DDC

The Committee Clerk at Deal Town Council has received the following correspondence from a resident of Deal:

“Over the summer I put out a sign in front of my front garden gate which I hoped would discourage council workers from spraying pesticides on the path outside my house.

I have seen a number of occasions where workers are spraying paths (even with no weeds). My front garden is a herb garden - and I garden organically.

Furthermore, there are young children obviously using the paths as well as pets.

Do we really need to be spraying in residential areas?

The paths are pretty weed free, and I wonder if these areas will ever get overcrowded with weeds anyway!? It is a pretty hostile environment to grow.

Please would you consider these points in making any more decisions to use pesticides in residential areas.

It also seems counter intuitive in a time where the government is promoting a green agenda.”

The Climate Change Officer is currently looking at the use of pesticides at the DTC allotments and the environment committee will be updated on this in the future.

Recommendation: Chairperson to write to DDC to ask for information on their pesticide usage.

Decision required: Members to consider the above recommendation.

DEAL TOWN COUNCIL
MEMORANDUM

To: Cllr S Brookfield – Chairperson of the Environment Committee, Committee members
From: Mrs L Marney – Committee Clerk
Date: 5th December 2024
Subject: Action on Litter Project Update

At the October 2023 Environment Committee meeting members agreed to go ahead with this project and to a £3,000 budget, this was delegated to the Committee Clerk.

A Steering group was then formed which included representatives from volunteer groups such as Deal With it, Pick Deal Clean, Deal Pirates along with DTC Officers and Dover District Council Officers, the aim was to bring together ideas and concepts on how to tackle litter in the town. This group met three times; in February, March & April 2024 and it was decided that plastic decals (pavement stickers) would be a way to combat litter within Deal.

At the Committee meeting held on the 28th August 2024, the Committee Clerk advised members that this project had stalled due to problems with the 5 plastic decals (floor stickers) not adhering to the pavement surfaces around the Town Centre. Following a discussion, Members **RESOLVED:** *To accept the recommendation that Committee Clerk meets with the original steering group to explore alternative ideas for pavement decals/raising awareness with an amendment that the Chairperson and Climate Change Officer be included in the group and then submit a report to the Committee.*

The Steering Group met again on the 21st October at the Town Hall Chambers with the inclusion of the Chairperson of the Environment Committee and the Climate Change Officer and a discussion took place on how we can move forward with this project, DTC Officers presented a proposal for pavement stencils using environmentally based chalk spray, this idea and the project timeline was unanimously agreed by the group. **(see attached timeline).**

The Committee Clerk then contacted KCC Highways and advised that the original project had stalled and asked permission for 10 stencil designs to be placed on pavements at hotspot locations around Deal Town Centre. Permission has been granted.

It was also agreed at the Steering Group meeting that the Action on Litter campaign would start at the Deal Town Council Climate Action Day on the 16th November along with a press release. Residents were supplied with 3 stencil designs **(see attached)** and asked for their favourite. This is also currently being rolled out online on the Deal Town Council website, where residents can participate and choose their favoured design.

The Steering group agreed that Tote bags **(see attached design)** be produced to promote the campaign, as they are a sustainable product that can be repeatedly re-used. Three printing companies were approached for costings and a local printer was chosen to produce 300 tote bags at a cost of £445. The tote bags were given out to residents at Climate Action Day when they chose their favourite stencil design to kick start the project. The Steering group and DTC Officers felt that the tote bags were a cost-effective way to promote the project, and any bags remaining can be given out to residents at other events that Deal Town Council participate in to continually promote tackling litter in Deal.

Looking after what you love – Action on Litter timeline

| ACTION REQUIRED | WHEN BY | WHO | NOTES |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Action plan to be presented to the Steering Group | 21/10/24 | Committee Clerk & Comms Officer | |
| Steering group to choose favourite three stencil designs | 21/10/24 | Steering group | |
| Order Tote bags for Climate Action Day | October 2024 | Committee Clerk | |
| Prepare news release to launch 'Looking after what you love' Action on Litter campaign | November 2024 | Committee Clerk & Comms Officer | To include the support of the steering group - DDC, Pick Deal Clean, Deal With It and Deal Pirates |
| Launch at Climate Action Day – engage with visitors and ask them to choose a favourite design, sign up and get a free bag | Saturday 16 November | Committee Clerk & Comms Officer | Collect information online: preference, email, and be contacted again |
| Online survey on 'Action on Litter' page – chose favourite design and be in with a chance to win a bag and beebomb | Monday 18 November onwards to spring | Committee Clerk & Comms Officer | Collect information online: preference, email, and be contacted again |
| Support engagement with online campaign to alert people on what to do with litter/bins/waste | November to Spring 2025 | Comms officer | Social media cards in the campaign style, with text signposting to DDC pages. |
| Compile survey results and create template | Spring 2025 | Committee Clerk & Comms Officer | Cardboard stencils to be used in first instance |
| Announce most popular design and begin using the stencils in town litter hot spots | Spring 2025 onwards | Comms Officer, Committee Clerk & Facilities Team | |
| Support campaign at events across the summer | Deal Pride, Picnic etc. | DTC team | Tote bags |

Stencil Designs



BIN IT!

Stencil A



BIN IT!

Stencil B

BIN

THIS WAY



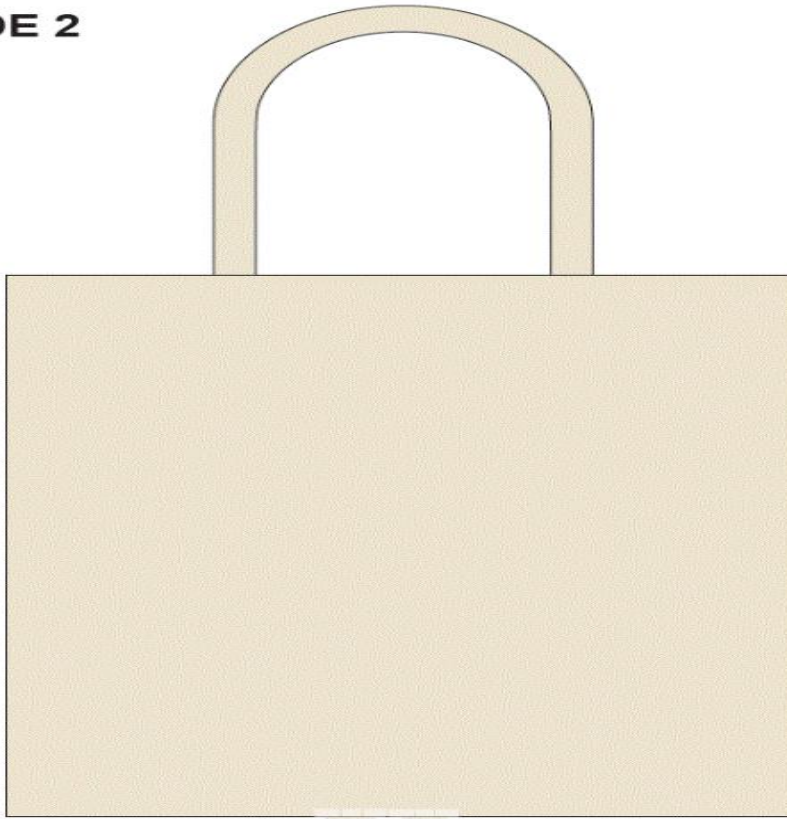
Stencil C

Tote bag design

SIDE 1



SIDE 2



Decision required: Members to note the above information.

**DEAL TOWN COUNCIL
MEMORANDUM**

To: Cllr S Brookfield – Chairperson of the Environment Committee, Committee members
From: Mrs L Marney – Committee Clerk
Date: 6th December 2024
Subject: Committee Clerk Report

Please see below update for information only.

Climate Action Day Update

More than 200 people visited Deal Town Council's first ever Deal Climate Action Day on Saturday 16th November 2024.

The event took place at Deal Town Hall and was a gathering of local groups engaged in different types of climate action, sharing what they do and how people could get involved.

Deal Town Council hosted the event, and it was officially opened by the Mayor of Deal, Cllr Oliver Richardson. He said: *"It really was tremendous to see all that passion and hard work to improve our environment held in one place and so many people came to see and hear and share in that. When you look at the breadth of work and scope of what we are tackling, I have to take my hat off to the extraordinary people who are making it possible."*

Helen Charlton from Pick Deal Clean said: *"Climate Action Day gave a much-needed opportunity for many of our volunteer groups to showcase the efforts they are putting into the fighting environmental concerns - global concerns which impact all of us. There is no substitute for face-to-face communication about the complexity of the problems our planet is experiencing."*

More than 12 local groups were represented, and the entire event was broadcast live to the world via Deal Radio.

Sandown Castle Community Garden Group's Linda Ford said: *"It was wonderful talking to so many interested people and we are pleased the day was so well attended."*

Visitors were able to learn a range of issues including energy efficiency, getting involved in local projects such as gleaning or growing hops and also species that are in decline.

Vanessa Dent from Walmer and Deal Action for Swifts (WALDAS) said: *"Supported by Walmer and Deal Town Councils we have reached a large number of converts to the cause of halting the decline of Common Swifts here in the Deal area. Through the Climate Action Day, the message that the simple installation of a free nesting box can help this red-listed bird was received enthusiastically by many visitors. We will now follow up these eager new contacts with practical advice about receiving and installing a Swift box."*

Climate Action Day brought together the work of local authorities too with Dover District and Walmer Town exhibiting alongside Deal Town Council.

Cllr Sarah Waite-Gleave, Chair of Walmer Town Council Climate Emergency Working Group said: "A big thank you to Deal Town Council, Climate Action Day allowed the public to discover more about the many impressive community initiatives in our CT14 home.

"With the Kent Resilience Forum warning of what local groups need to do to protect Kent communities from expected extreme weather challenges, this work is important."

Deal Town Council's Climate Action Day received a lot of positive feedback from the local groups participating and residents/visitors to the event.

Safety on Lithium-ion Batteries Bill

The Committee Clerk received the following update from the Parliamentary Adviser dealing with this Bill.

"SAFETY OF LITHIUM-ION BATTERY CAMPAIGN - NOVEMBER 2024 UPDATE

Many apologies for the delay in sending this: I had been waiting to be able to report something more definite – but anyway it's good news.

We are on the way to success. The Government's own Bill, now called the Product Registration and Metrology Bill, is due for its next stage in the House of Lords on 25th November – and it has been indicated to us that it will contain many of the things in the Bill that you have helped with so much. So, many thanks your efforts have helped us to get where we are.

This means that our own Bill (i.e. the original Lord Foster Bill, taken up by Lord Redesdale) may be reduced considerably, as there is no point in campaigning for something that the Government has agreed to put in its own Bill. So the next stage (Committee Stage) of Lord Redesdale's Bill will be focused on the one thing the Government has not yet agreed to deal with in its own Bill – the issue of disposal.

We have no date yet for our Committee Stage, but it will certainly be after 25th November 2024. I will report back to you after that date on what the Government's Bill contains, and where we are at with our campaign. But, (slightly adapting an old saying) accepting that it is not finished until the thin man talks, it looks good. Your motions of support, your posters, your letters all helped. I have heard many positive comments about the lobbying by Local Councils."