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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 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025** 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 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025 by email to [deal.town.council@deal.gov.uk](mailto: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: 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025

### AGENDA

1	<b>Chairperson's opening remarks:</b>	Chairperson
2	<b>Apologies for absence:</b>	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	<b>The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February for approval and signing:</b> Decision required.	Attach 2
6	<b>Action on Litter Project Update:</b> Decision required.	Attach 3
7	<b>DDC Pesticide Usage Update:</b> Decision required.	Attach 4
8	<b>Hedgehog Friendly Deal Update:</b> Information to note.	Attach 5
9	<b>National Grid Sea Link Update:</b> Information to note.	Attach 6
10	<b>Committee Clerk Report:</b> Information to note.	Attach 7
	<b>Date of next meeting: 19th June 2025</b>	

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](http://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.

## Declaration of Interest

ATTACHMENT 1

### 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.



	<p>3) The Area Environment Manager for Kent and South London at The Environment Agency shared a slide presentation on the classification, identification, analysis, and sampling processes involved in protecting the Sea Water Quality in Deal from pollution. The EA also brought attention to their pollution reporting hotline.</p> <p>After a discussion, Members RESOLVED: That over the coming months, Southern Water, The Environment Agency, and Dover District Council send regular updates on their work on Deal Sea Water Quality to the Committee Clerk to be referred on to the Environment Committee. (P) Cllr M Eddy (S) Cllr D Cronk All agreed. The 6 delegates left the meeting at 20:20pm</p>	Committee Clerk
7	<p><b>Recommendation from the Climate Change Officer – DTC Climate Action Strategy:</b> Committee members thanked The Climate Change Officer on her excellent work on the report. Following a debate members RESOLVED: That the Environment Committee approve the updated Climate Action Strategy, with one amendment to Priorities &amp; Aims, Item 6. Paragraph 5. To be changed to: - <i>Promote environmentally sustainable developments that add to biodiversity</i> and that this be referred to the next available meeting of the Full Council for adoption. (P) Cllr B Bano (S) Cllr M Eddy. All agreed.</p>	Committee Clerk
	<p><b>The Chairperson informed members of the date of next Environment Committee meeting on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and closed the meeting at 20:40pm.</b></p>	Chairperson

**DEAL TOWN COUNCIL  
MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Cllr S Brookfield – Chairperson of the Environment Committee, Committee members  
**From:** Mrs L Marney – Committee Clerk  
**Date:** 4th April 2025  
**Subject:** **Action on Litter Project Update**

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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.

At the December Environment Committee meeting the Committee Clerk updated members that this reworked campaign was rolled out at the Council's Climate Action Day which was held at the Town Hall on 16th November 2024, where residents who came along to the event were asked to choose their favourite pavement stencil design and in return a "Look After What You Love - Keep Deal Clean" tote bag was given.

Following on from the DTC Climate Action Day, the 3 stencil designs were placed on the DTC website, residents were asked to choose their favourite pavement stencil design, which will be placed at various hotspot locations around the town using environmentally based spray paint. This part of the project closed on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025. We have received over 82 responses. **(see attached stencil designs).**

The favoured pavement stencil design by residents was Stencil Design A, this received 45 votes, this design will be used for our project going forward.

The next stage will be to publicise this project in May.

The Committee Clerk will provide updates on this project to a future Environment Committee meeting.

**Recommendation:** Members to note this information and the Chairperson to draw the winner from the residents that chose the favoured design.

**Decision required:** Committee to consider the above recommendation.

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Stencil Designs



**BIN IT!**

Stencil A



**BIN IT!**

Stencil B

**BIN**

**THIS WAY**



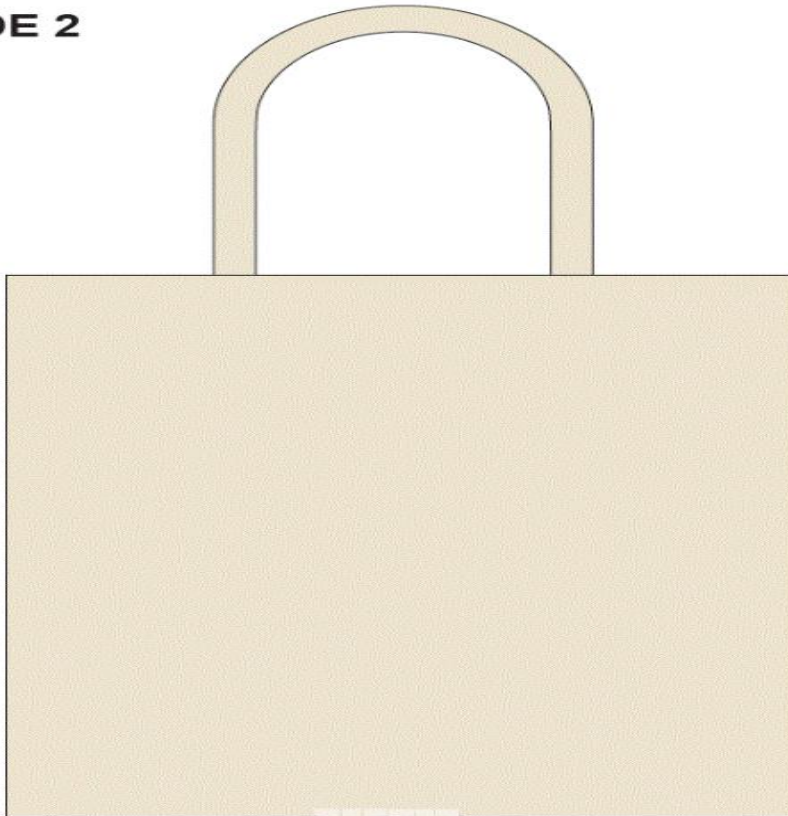
Stencil C

Tote bag design

**SIDE 1**



**SIDE 2**



DEAL TOWN COUNCIL  
MEMORANDUM

**To:** Cllr S Brookfield – Chairperson of the Environment Committee, Committee members  
**From:** Mrs L Marney – Committee Clerk  
**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
**Subject:** DDC Pesticide Usage Update

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At the December Environment Committee meeting following correspondence received, Members RESOLVED: *To accept the recommendation that Chairperson writes to DDC to ask for information on their pesticide usage and add an amendment that they write back to correspondent to advise this.*

The Committee Clerk has received the following response back from the Climate Change Officer at Dover District Council.

*“Many thanks for your previous letter dated 21/01/2025 from the Chairperson of Deal Town Councils Environment Committee.*

*I have spoken at length with colleagues in Parks and Open spaces and our in-house waste team who manage the Veolia contract. I am assured that any DDC use of pesticides are kept to a minimum.*

*Having spoken via email with the resident that raised the query with you originally, it appears the council workers in question were the Kent County Council team that maintain the kerbstones for all of the Kent urban areas. This work is normally carried out on quad bikes for efficiency, all urban roads in Kent are treated in the same way. More information can be found here:-*

*[Weeds - Kent County Council](#) it should be noted that KCC do not use Neonicotinoids and use Herbicide glyphosate.*

*[Managing highway infrastructure - Kent County Council](#) The asset management plans are found here – also the email is [assetmanagement@kent.gov.uk](mailto:assetmanagement@kent.gov.uk).*

*Below is the main extract of weed treatment strategy:-*

**“Weed Treatment** *We currently undertake our programmed weed sprays using the herbicide glyphosate to keep the highway safe and to reduce road and footway asset deterioration. There is concern within the public that the usage of glyphosate should be reduced on environmental and health grounds despite its approval by the Health and Safety Executive. As part of our continuous review of the products we use within the highway we have explored alternatives to the use of glyphosate. One of these involved the use of hot foam to control weeds as well as cultural methods such as burners and brushes.*



*These alternatives do not currently accomplish a similar level of weed control without increasing costs and in some cases may well increase CO2 emissions as well. DEFRA guidance published in 2015 estimated a cost increase of up to eight times for non-chemical control over glyphosate. To remove glyphosate completely from our current programmes could therefore create a significant unfunded revenue pressure on our budgets.*

*We will continue to review how we manage weeds within the highway, investigating alternative methodologies to glyphosate as and when they arise, and will present options to elected members when available.”*

[Road and footway maintenance guide - Kent County Council](#) - Further asset guidance.

*We will raise Pesticides as an agenda point at the next Climate and Nature Forum and look to see if there is support for a community project that could also reduce Pesticide use by residents.”*

**Decision required:** Members to consider how they wish to respond.

DEAL TOWN COUNCIL  
MEMORANDUM

**To:** Cllr S Brookfield – Chairperson of the Environment Committee, Committee members  
**From:** Mrs L Marney – Committee Clerk  
**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025  
**Subject:** Hedgehog Friendly Deal Project Update

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The Hedgehog Friendly Deal Project plan was approved at the Full Council meeting held on 25th June 2024.

This project aims to distribute hedgehog friendly gravel boards to the residents of Deal 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.

A press release was issued on 26<sup>th</sup> March to kick off this project which stated:

*“Deal Town Council is offering local residents the chance to take home a free hedgehog friendly gravel board to help our *Erinaceus europaeus* thrive.*

*There are 100 boards, one per household, to be claimed and by creating a hedgehog friendly town we will create a better habitat for nature. The gravel board has a hole at the bottom to allow hedgehogs through, and is the section of fencing that slots beneath your fence panel)*

*Since 2002, hedgehog numbers across the UK have declined by more than 30%, and number fewer than a million. Not only are they an iconic British species, as insectivores they help keep our gardens healthy, balancing insect populations that would otherwise damage agricultural crops and garden plants.*

*Environment Committee Clerk, Laura Marney said: “Following decades of decline, the recent [State of Britain's Hedgehogs report](#) shows numbers have stabilised and this is down to the actions we're each taking in our own homes.*

*“By allowing these very active and adventurous mammals better access to roam freely it gives them a greater opportunity to thrive and increase in number. This is a great opportunity for us all to do our bit to help protect and support hedgehogs so sign up for yours today!”*

*To get involved, please complete the form below – the campaign will close once 100 boards have been requested. You will be notified if you are eligible to take part and once you have collected and installed your hedgehog friendly gravel board you will need to register the new hole here at [Big Hedgehog Map](#).*

*You can learn more about the [Hedgehog Street](#) campaign here, how to create a [hedgehog friendly garden](#) here and the Wildlife Trust gives instructions to make a [hedgehog hole here](#).”*

The Hedgehog Friendly Project details along with the registration form for residents have been placed onto the Deal Town Council website.

The Committee Clerk will bring an update on this project to the next Environment Committee meeting.

**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:** 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
**Subject:** **National Grid Sea Link Project Update**

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The Committee Clerk received a community update at the end of February from the National Grid on the Sea Link Project for the Kent area.

The National Grid have advised that their next steps are to submit their application for development consent early this year. For now, they are continuing to carry out survey works, which will help them understand more about any potential impacts and how they can avoid, limit, or mitigate them.

What survey work is happening? The National Grid are currently undertaking surveys to look at archaeology and ecology around the project area. They regularly update their website with ongoing and upcoming surveys.

The National Grid Project Timeline is as follows:

- **October – December 2022** - Non-statutory consultation.
- **October 2022** - Environmental impact assessment scoping submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.
- **October – December 2023** - Statutory consultation.
- **July – August 2024** - Targeted consultation.
- **Now** - Updating stakeholders.
- **Early 2025** - Submission of development consent order application.
- **Summer 2025 – Summer 2026** Pre-examination, examination and reporting.
- **Winter 2026** - Secretary of State decision.
- **2026 – 2030** – Construction.

The full detailed community update for Kent can be found using the following link: [19664 National Grid SeaLink Newsletter 4pp Kent AW2\\_SC.indd](#)

A further email update has since been received from the Community Relations Team at the National Grid which is as follows:

*“National Grid has now submitted its application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate for Sea Link.*

*As you will be aware, Sea Link is a vital electricity upgrade that will help to secure Britain's energy future by carrying more low carbon and renewable energy from where it is generated, to homes and businesses across the country. The project forms part of The Great Grid Upgrade and consists of a new 2 GW, predominantly offshore, high voltage direct current (HVDC) cable between Suffolk and Kent as well as associated onshore infrastructure.*

*Our development consent submission follows multiple rounds of consultation between 2022 and 2024, where local communities in Suffolk and Kent have provided helpful feedback on the proposals.*

*The Planning Inspectorate now has 28 days to decide whether to accept the application, allowing it to progress to the examination stage. The Planning Inspectorate would manage the examination, with members of the public able to make representations directly to the Inspectorate. We will provide information on how members of the public can get involved in the examination if the application is accepted.*

*If you would like to view the application or read about the next steps, please see the [dedicated Sea Link page on the Planning Inspectorate's website](#).*

*We appreciate the large volume of information presented as part of our final application. We would be happy to provide assistance in navigating the reports and finding relevant information for your area. Please do let us know and we will work to share the relevant information with you.”*

**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:** 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
**Subject: Committee Clerk Report**

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**Please see below updates for information only.**

**DDC Update – Deal Bathing Water Quality**

Following the presentations given by Southern Water, Environment Agency and Dover District Council at the February Environment Committee meeting, the Committee Clerk has received the following updates:

**DDC - Port Health and Public Protection Manager:**

*We are writing to the Chief Executive of the Environmental Agency & Steve Reed MP – the Secretary of State for Environment outlining our concerns.*

*We are also having regular meetings with both the EA and Southern Water on working together to improve the situation and also how we can take steps to preventing this recurring.”*

**Area Engagement Officer - Southern Water:**

*Working with Dover District Council and the Environment Agency, our bathing water quality investigations have continued since we last met in February.*

*We will be sharing the latest update with you and other stakeholders w/c 21 April 2025, following the next technical steering group meeting. This will ensure you are receiving the latest update from our investigations on the ground.*

**Environment Agency – Area Environment Officer, Kent & South London:**

*“Since our meeting with the Town Council, the partnership group between the Environment Agency, Southern Water and Dover District Council has set up a strategic steering group. We have agreed that communications will come in a coordinated way from that group.”*

From the update given by the Environment Agency I will be receiving a collective response from the partners on the Strategic Steering Group, I will bring any further updates regarding this item to future Committee meetings.

## **Community Garden at Park Avenue Allotment Site Update**

This project was approved by Full Council in January 2024 and is part of our Deal Town Council Climate Action Plan 2024 onwards.

The plan of action is to create a Community Garden at the Park Avenue allotment site on the right-hand side, next to the shed as this area is too small for a plot. The garden will be next to the compost area on a steep bank, where four raised beds will be created.

This project will enable the Council to build links with organisations which support vulnerable people e.g. people living with dementia, neurodiversity, sight or hearing impairment.

The Committee Clerk can advise that the handrails have now been installed to make the site more accessible, the paving slabs have been delivered to improve the pathways, and the work will start at the end April or beginning of May. The community garden planting in the raised beds is due for late Spring/Summer 2025.

## **Changes to pesticide, herbicide and inorganic fertiliser use at DTC Allotments update**

At the F&GP Committee meeting held in January following a report provided by the Climate Change Officer on pesticide, herbicide and inorganic fertiliser use at DTC allotments, Members RESOLVED:

1. To update section four 'Pests and Infection' of the Allotment Tenancy Agreement to read: "In line with our climate action and ecological commitments, the use of all pesticides, herbicides and inorganic fertilisers by allotment holders is strictly prohibited. In the event of a plant, insect or rodent infestation, the Allotment Officer should be contacted in the first instance."
2. The agreed changes to section four are notified to the allotment holders advising that the date the changes will come into effect will be agreed at the March meeting of F&GP and giving them a notice period of 30 days from 30/01/2025 – 28/02/2025 (inclusive) to provide feedback on any concerns they may have to the Allotment Officer regarding these updates. This feedback to go to the next F&GP meeting on 18/03/2025 to decide the commencement date of the updated agreement.

This item was brought back to the March F&GP Committee and following a discussion by the members of the F&GP Committee, Members RESOLVED:

1. That the agreed changes to the Allotment Tenancy Agreement are to be made effective from 1st April 2025.
2. That all the allotment holders are sent a copy of the 'Cultivating naturally' leaflet.
3. Section four of the Allotment Tenancy Agreement is further amended to advise that allotment holders should report any instances of bind weed to the Allotment Officer.

The agreed change to the tenancy agreement from the previous meeting referred to in 1) above was: *To update section four 'Pests and Infection' of the Allotment Tenancy Agreement to read: "In line with our climate action and ecological commitments, the use of all pesticides, herbicides and inorganic fertilisers by allotment holders is strictly prohibited. In the event of a plant, insect or rodent infestation, the Allotment Officer should be contacted in the first instance."*

## **Ocean & Coastal Recovery Strategy Update**

As Councillors will be aware this project plan was agreed by Full Council in October 2024. The Climate Change Officer, Cllr Findley and the Committee Clerk have met and discussed delivering this project and have also had a meeting with a representative of Motion4theOcean Local Government Ocean Recovery Declaration to ensure that the DTC strategy will be achievable.

The aim of this project is for Deal Town Council to make a declaration supporting the recovery of the Deal coastline and sea off Deal, develop strategies to achieve this for the Town Council itself and develop cooperative strategies with neighbours and interested parties.

Meetings are booked in with local stakeholders where they will be able to provide information to feed into our strategy. Local parish and town councils have also been invited to a meeting to explore partnership working. All meetings are scheduled for May and June 2025.