



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 18th February 2026** 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 February 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 February 2026

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 14th October for approval and signing: Decision required.	Attach 2
6	Correspondence Update – Deal Bathing Water Quality: Decision required.	Attach 3
7	Correspondence received from Walmer Town Council: Decision required.	Attach 4
8	Correspondence received - Beaver Habitat in Deal: Decision required	Attach 5
9	Committee Clerk Report: Information to note.	Attach 6
	Date of next meeting: 14th April 2026.	

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 Cullen, Cllr M Eddy, Cllr D Cronk, Cllr M Cronk, Cllr B Bano, Cllr P Findley, 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.

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Tel: 01304 361999. Email: deal.town.council@deal.gov.uk

The Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held at the Town Hall on Tuesday 14 October 2025 at 7.15pm.

Present: Cllr M Eddy (Vice Chairperson) Cllr P Findley
 Cllr B Bano (member) Ms H Charlton (Co-opted member)

Officers: Mr P Bone (Deputy Town Clerk) Others:1
 Miss J Harper (Asst. to the Town Clerk)
 Ms Nadine Miller (Climate Change, Projects & Communications Officer)

1	Chairperson's opening remarks: The Vice Chairperson advised that he would be the Chairperson for this meeting as Cllr Cullen was unable to attend due to a work commitment. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and read the fire evacuation procedures.	Chairperson
2	Apologies for absence received: Cllr S Cullen due to prior work commitments. Absent: Cllr D Cronk and Cllr M Cronk.	Deputy Town Clerk
3	Declarations of interest: None received.	
4	Public participation and Statements received: None received.	Deputy Town Clerk
5	The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Thursday 19th June 2025 for approval and signing: Members RESOLVED: To accept the minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on Thursday 19 th June 2025 as a true and accurate record. The Chairperson duly signed the minutes. (P) Cllr B Bano (S) Cllr P Findley. All agreed.	Chairperson
6	Project Plan-Seeds for Spring: Members RESOLVED: To accept the Seeds for Spring project plan and budget and refer them to Full Council for consideration. (P) Cllr B Bano (S) Cllr P Findley. All agreed.	Project Officer
7	Hedgehog Friendly Deal Project Update: Members RESOLVED: To note the report. (P) Cllr B Bano (S) Cllr P Findley. All agreed.	Committee Clerk
8	Action On Litter Project Update: Members RESOLVED: To note the report. (P) Cllr P Findley (S) Cllr B Bano. All agreed.	Committee Clerk
9	Committee Clerk Report: Members RESOLVED: To note the report. (P) Cllr P Findley (S) Cllr B Bano. All agreed	Committee Clerk
	The Chairperson closed the meeting at 19.32pm.	

**DEAL TOWN COUNCIL
MEMORANDUM**

To: Cllr S Cullen, Chairperson of the Environment Committee, Committee Members
From: Mrs L Crow, Town Clerk
Date: 16th January 2026
Re: **Correspondence Update on Deal Bathing Water quality**

At the meeting of Full Council in July 2025 Members considered a report from the Council's Climate Change, Projects and Communications Officer regarding Deal's sea bathing water quality.

Members RESOLVED: For the Mayor of Deal in conjunction with the Town Clerk to write to: Dover District Council to urge the idea of flags or other forms of communication. The Environment Agency to ask how a spike of this magnitude could occur and how the information will be shared with residents and local stakeholders and Southern Water to ask why releases stopped after 2nd October 2021 but resumed again in Deal on Saturday 22 February 2025.

These letters were duly sent, and the responses have now been received by the Mayor, please see below.

Response from the leader of DDC, Cllr S Beer;

Thank you for your letter. I am pleased DDC and Deal TC are working together on this, alongside local community groups and individuals. The latest communication from Southern Water acknowledges our commitment has made a difference.

I will be happy to talk further with officers about DDC's information boards and whether they can be better placed.

Response from DDC 's Environmental Protection & Crime Manager, Andrezej Kluczynski :

I write further to your letter to Councillor Kevin Mills regarding bathing water quality.

Dover District Council greatly appreciate the Town Council's ongoing efforts to improve bathing water quality in Deal, and the introduction of your Ocean and Coastal Recovery Strategy is a clear demonstration of that commitment. An officer from Dover District Council's Environmental Protection team attended your first meeting on the 11th of December 2025 and we will continue to offer support and expertise in any further scheduled meetings.

Throughout this year's bathing water season, Dover District Council has worked closely with the Environment Agency and Southern Water to identify potential sources of pollution, raise questions, and hold relevant stakeholders to account. Following the conclusion of the season, the Environment Agency announced on the 25th of November 2025 that the bathing water at Deal Castle has been reclassified as "Good," removing the previous advice against swimming with immediate effect. This is excellent news for the towns of Deal and Walmer, welcomed by Dover District Council and, I am sure, by Deal Town and Walmer Parish Councils as well.

We also welcome the introduction of additional signage funded by Deal Town Council to direct bathers to water quality information. In response to your letter, we wish to acknowledge your concern regarding the location of the current bathing water information board and your suggestion of the pier as a more prominent site. We receive funding from DEFRA every 4–5 years to maintain these boards and will certainly consider your request of relocation when the next round of funding is allocated. In the meantime, our Environmental Protection team is liaising with our Tourism team to explore whether the digital screen at Deal Pier can be used to display bathing water quality results during next year's bathing water season.

Thank you again for your continued commitment to improving coastal water quality. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this important issue.

Further response received from the leader of DDC, Cllr S Beer;

Just wanted to confirm that the old information sign has been renovated and the electronic screen will have information on water quality as part of its revolving display.

Mike Tapp MP has forwarded to the Mayor a letter that he received from the Environment Agency, please see attached.

The Mayor has requested that the Environment Committee consider the responses received in the first instance.

Recommendation: To consider if any further action is required.

Decision required: To consider the above recommendation.

Mike Tapp MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Your Ref:
Our Ref:
MPCOR2025/41968

3 December 2025

Dear Mike Tapp,

Thank you for your email received on the 17 November 2025 about Deal Town Council - Mike Eddy - bathing water quality.

As you are aware the water quality results for Deal Castle were much improved this season, reaching the 'good' classification. This means the 'advice against bathing' guidance will be lifted, and the much-loved Boxing Day dip event can be revisited.

This achievement is a testament to the power of community and partnership working. Local residents and beachgoers have played a pivotal role in driving this progress. Their vigilance, ideas, and reports (shared through our 24/7 incident line 0800 807060) have directly shaped the actions of our partnership.

As part of our role as regulator, we continue to make sure the water company properly manages and maintains its assets. When things go wrong and pollution happens, we hold them accountable. These interventions are vital to protecting and improving bathing water quality. Southern Water have a responsibility to operate within the conditions of their discharge permits. They also have an obligation to inform us when they are not operating under these conditions. The Environment Agency acts upon these reports when it's within our legislative powers to do.

Southern Water are working to an action plan that outlines areas of investigation and improvement in the Deal area. We are working closely with them to achieve these targets to continually improve the water quality in Deal.

To help address poor performing assets, the Environment Agency has produced guidance for water companies to help prioritise investigations and improvements of individual assets. This guidance – the [Storm overflow assessment framework 2025 -](#)

[GOV.UK](#) – links to legal requirements outlined in [The Urban Waste Water Treatment \(England and Wales\) Regulations 1994](#) and sets out a process for water companies to prioritise investment in the locations that need it most.

The recently introduced Water (Special Measures) Act strengthens the regulators' powers when dealing with offending water companies and will provide a wider suite of enforcement tools for the Environment Agency to use. For some offences there will be a lower burden of proof than currently is required before fines can be imposed, which should help streamline our enforcement responses. More information can be found here: [Water \(Special Measures\) Act: policy statement - GOV.UK](#)

Addressing local issues here, Golf Road outfall recorded no spills in 2024 and has an excellent long-term average of 1.5 spills per year. The Elizabeth Street outfall is over 15km away from Deal. Southern Water have subsequently run models that demonstrate discharges from this asset do not impact the bathing water in Deal. Further details regarding water company storm discharge performance can be found here: [Event Duration Monitoring - Storm Overflows - Annual Returns](#)

Southern Water produce an annual Pollution Incident Reduction Plan, which is published on their website to allow the public to see what actions they are taking to protect our environment. This can be found here: [Our Pollution Incident Reduction Plan](#)

The Bathing water classification scheme is prescribed in law and is an official government statistic. The classification scheme mirrors the European Commission's Bathing Water Directive which all EU members must adhere to. This is in turn based on World Health Organisation recommendations and as such is international best-practice.

Annual classifications are important because they give a long-term assessment of water quality over a four-year period. This has many uses including showing trends, allowing comparisons of water quality between bathing waters and also informing decisions on long-term pollution reduction measures.

Bathing water quality can change daily, so shorter-term assessments alone won't provide an accurate overall picture. Where these are influenced by factors such as the

weather or tide, the EA makes pollution risk forecasts (PRF) at sites where it is possible to do so. This lets bathers know when a temporary reduction in water quality is likely, so they can make informed decisions before deciding whether to bathe on a given day.

As required under the Bathing Water Regulations, 2025's classifications were based on samples collected in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. This four-year data set had two years with above average rainfall and two with above average sunshine. 2025 was a dry year,

We remain ambitious, aiming for even higher standards next season. Thanks to our open data platform, [Swimfo](#), everyone can stay informed and make confident, informed choices about where and when to bathe.

'The urgent need for investment and improvements in local sewage infrastructure above all to reduce to a bare minimum the frequency and duration of any 'storm overflow' discharges from either the Elizabeth Street outfall in Dover or the Golf Road one in Deal'. Please refer this question to Southern Water where they will be able to provide you with specific details on their investment plan for the area.

Please also see the following link for information on how the way we monitor and structure bathing waters will be improved going forward -
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bathing-water-reforms-keep-pace-with-britains-love-of-swimming>

We note that you have also submitted your enquiry via DEFRA in addition to this request. This response addresses both requests.

We are currently building up our plan for the bathing water season in 2026 which will include community engagement which includes partnerships covering Deal.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Penn
Area Director

**DEAL TOWN COUNCIL
MEMORANDUM**

To: Cllr S Cullen – Chairperson of the Environment Committee, Committee members
From: Mrs L Marney – Committee Clerk
Date: 2nd February 2026
Subject: **Correspondence received from Walmer Town Council**

Deal Town Council have been made aware by Walmer Town Council of relevant correspondence that they have sent to the Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The correspondence is regarding the role of Water Companies in the planning process and that they be granted a more substantive and authoritative role within national and local planning which is integral to sustainable development.

Please see Walmer Town Council correspondence attached.

Recommendation: To consider if any further action is required.

Decision required: To consider the above recommendation.



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Tel: 01304 362363

Web site: www.walmercouncil.co.uk E-mail: clerk@walmercouncil.co.uk

Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

5th December 2025

Dear Mr Pennycook

Subject: Strengthening the Role of Water Companies in the Planning Process

Walmer Town Council wishes to express its firm view that water companies must be granted a more substantive and authoritative role within the national and local planning process. At present, the involvement of water companies is largely limited to confirming the availability of a physical connection to the existing network. We consider this to be insufficient given the increasing pressures on water and sewage infrastructure, the need for resilient long-term planning, and the public's expectation of sustainable water and sewage management.

Water companies hold essential expertise and data regarding capacity, infrastructure resilience, and environmental impacts—factors that are fundamental to sustainable development. Their enhanced involvement with evidence based commentary would help ensure that new developments are sustainable, aligned with the long-term needs of communities and safe for the environment. Currently with the "Right To Connect" windfall developments can overload the infrastructure causing damage to the environment.

Walmer Town Council therefore fully supports Recommendation 72 of the Independent Water Commission report, which calls for strengthened statutory powers for water companies within the planning system. We believe that adopting this recommendation will lead to a more coherent, reliable, and resilient approach to development and infrastructure provision.

We respectfully urge the Government to implement Recommendation 72 at the earliest opportunity, so that water supply and wastewater considerations are integrated effectively and responsibly into national and local planning decisions, to protect our environment and public health.

Walmer Town Council would welcome further dialogue or the opportunity to contribute to any consultation or policy development arising from the Independent Water Commission's recommendation.

**DEAL TOWN COUNCIL
MEMORANDUM**

To: Cllr S Cullen – Chairperson of the Environment Committee, Committee members
From: Mrs L Marney – Committee Clerk
Date: 2nd February 2026
Subject: Correspondence received - Beaver Habitat in Deal

Deal Town Council have received the following correspondence and photographs from a resident with concerns about the Beaver Habitat in Deal.

“I am wondering if you are aware of beavers living just off Pottery Grove, Deal Kent CT14 9YD.

The site is owned by Quinn Estates and recently the area has been cleared, which is how I came to find out that the beavers were living there.

I am not sure who cleared the site as I didn't see it happen, but I am concerned. It may have something to do with the developer Quinn. As beavers are protected, I'm wondering if you guys could investigate the situation.

They seem to have survived so far as I can see the path they have made to access the stream/dyke. But if there is any further disturbance, it could be detrimental to their environment.”





Decision required: Members to consider how they wish to proceed.

**DEAL TOWN COUNCIL
MEMORANDUM**

To: Cllr S Cullen – Chairperson of the Environment Committee, Committee members
From: Mrs L Marney – Committee Clerk
Date: 9th February 2026
Subject: Committee Clerk Report

Seeds for Spring Project

As Environment Committee members will be aware this project was agreed by Full Council in October 2025.

In September 2025, a Declaration on UK Insect Declines was issued at the Wild Summit, calling for urgent, coordinated action to address the steep and ongoing losses in the United Kingdom's insect populations.

According to the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, 2024 was the worst year for bumblebees since records began. Across Great Britain, bumblebee numbers declined by almost a quarter (22.5%) compared to the 2010-2023 average.

Pollinators include wasps, ants, butterflies, beetles, moths and bees. The Seeds for Spring project will provide 100 free seed packets, containing flowers native to the UK, for residents to plant and improve our biodiversity in the town. The plants have been selected to contain wildlife-friendly wildflowers with nectar-rich blooms.

This project is being rolled out in February, and residents will be able to sign up online to collect the seed packs from the Town Hall, take them home and plant them early to mid-spring 2026. An online map will be used to show where the planting has taken place, giving up-to-date evidence of increased opportunities for biodiversity.

An update on this project will be brought to a future Environment Committee meeting.

Climate Action Day Update

More than 170 people visited Deal Town Council's second Climate Action Day on Saturday 15th November 2025 which coincided with COP 30 (Conference of the Parties - UN Climate Change Conference).

The event took place at Deal Town Hall and focused on the town's proximity and relationship with the sea and lead with our recently adopted Ocean and Coastal Recovery Strategy and Declaration.

The Climate Action Day was a gathering of local groups engaged in different types of climate action, sharing what they do and how people could get involved. Southern Water representatives were also in attendance.

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

Decision required: Members to note the above information.