

**Full Council Meeting 25 January 2022**  
**Statements received from members of the public**

Dear members of Deal Town Council,

I am delighted that the town council has declared a climate emergency, aiming to becoming carbon neutral in its operations by 2025. I strongly support this ambitious target, and believe it is most appropriate for the council to put climate action at the centre of its work.

I understand the Environment Committee has set out and costed a plan to reach this worthy goal that requires the council to commit 10% of its annual budget for the years 2021 to 2025 to meet the costs of the proposed projects. I believe that £50,000 per annum, about £5.00 per household, is a small price to pay for such an important and urgent programme, and I therefore urge the council to approve the spending plan as set out by the Environment Committee, and actively promote this initiative.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

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Dear members of Deal Town Council

I am delighted that DTC has declared a Climate Emergency and 'committed to becoming carbon neutral in (its) operations by 2025'. We applaud the ambitious target and the statement on the website that 'We are putting climate action at the centre of Deal Town Council's work'.

I understand the Environment Committee has set out and costed a road map to attain this worthy goal which requires the council to commit 10% of its annual budget for the years 2021 -2025 to meet the costs of the proposed projects. At only £50k per annum (total over the 5 years of £250K) this amounts to a mere £4.50pa per household (at worst – it could be less as this is based on 2011 census and there are probably more households now). We believe this is a small price to pay for such an important and urgent program and therefore urge the council to approve the spending plan as set out by the Environment Committee.

Please don't let us and our future generations down.

Accept the challenge and invest in all our futures.

Thank you

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To all members of Deal Town Council

For those of us who are concerned about climate change it is really good news that Deal Town Council has recognised the seriousness of the climate problem and declared a climate emergency.

It is encouraging to see on the website that you have committed to making council operations carbon neutral by 2025. This is an ambitious target and makes it sound as though you really are 'putting climate action at the centre of Deal Town Council's work'.

Being so ambitious of course does not come without costs. Apparently the Environment Committee has costed the proposals and they require the Finance Committee to commit to approximately £50,000 per year - or £4.50 or less per household per year on current population.

Deal Town Council has the opportunity to really show that they are taking climate change seriously for a relatively small sum of money so I hope that you will see your way to agreeing to fund this ambitious target and set Deal on the way to being carbon neutral.

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Dear members of Deal Town Council,

I am writing to you to express support for your Environment Committee who have requested, what seems to me a very reasonable budget to enable Deal Town to make its contribution to averting the worst effects of the Climate Emergency. I use the phrase Climate Emergency, because that is what you, as a council have declared. And I applaud you for doing so, because climate change is already underway and poses an existential threat to us all and even more so to the rising generations. I applaud you for pledging to cut Carbon Dioxide emissions to be carbon neutral by 2025. Finally, I applaud the council for requesting the Environmental Committee to look into appropriate actions to ensure success in achieving the emissions target. I have always seen democracy as a ground up phenomenon and the local and regional councils are essential in communicating the will of local people. As you know, the government has not properly taken up the challenge of tackling climate change and I believe they have failed to lead on this most serious of matters. So the local voice is even more important, to apply upward pressure which, when summed together is harder to dismiss. If a (non-electrical) fire broke out in my house, I would not ration water to keep my charges to the water company down, I would use whatever amount was needed to minimise loss. That is how I deal with an Emergency. I commend this approach to you and ask you to honour the findings of the Environment Committee that you selected by granting the full amounts they have requested. This would be another action, for which you would receive my hearty applause.

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I hope all Councillors on Deal TC are aware of how proud they all made us (in Deal and its wider community) on 25 June 2019 and since then, as they have led the way in Dover district in their commitment to declare a climate emergency and to make their affairs carbon neutral by 2025. More importantly, they've shown they are willing to take the detailed, practical action to make this declaration a reality.

On 25 June 2019 the council chamber was full to overflowing, the council heard young people speak with detailed understanding and great feeling of the need for action, that was two and a half years ago.

In times when nationally the distrust, disgust and disbelief in elected bodies is greater than ever, Deal town council, by voting through the budget recommended by the Environment cttee Zero Carbon 2025 Deal have the opportunity to be a beacon of hope for the many in Deal and the wider community who worry about the whirlwind their grandchildren are to inherit. Just 10% of the annual budget in the years 2021 - 2025, has been planned, a very small amount per household per year, will do a lot of long-term future-proofing and long-term saving.

I note the current budget £5600 represents a very significant underspend, within which the focus is the overdue architects' assessment of a thermal and ventilation performance of the town hall. The thermal Imaging camera will help people identify how to insulate their homes, reduce the amount of energy needed to heat them, extremely needed in times of fuel poverty.

But logically the delay and underspend means there is much catching up to do, and the 2022-23 Offsetting (planting and other) projects would now seem to be urgent matters as would the Awareness raising activities ( together £76,000). Investment in these and the plans for 2022-23 are likely to prove popular among young and old in our community.

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I am proud to live in a town that was so prompt to declare Climate Emergency in 2019, and that Deal Town Council has set a budget appropriate for implementation of the Environment Committee's programme. Deal Town Council appears to have made an excellent start on the road to Net Zero Carbon by 2025, both in its support of the Environment Committee and in DTC's activities across the board, putting into practice its declared intention to "...put climate action at the centre of Deal Town Council's work".

I am, therefore, utterly dismayed to hear that DTC is considering not carrying over the Environment Committee's underspend from the last few years. Much of this period has been dominated by the "paralysing" effects of Covid, when many normal activities ground to a halt or were put on hold; this period coincided roughly with the initial stages of the existence of the Environment Committee, when thorough groundwork was essential. The underspend is indeed significant, but I would much rather tax-payers' money was spent on a programme that has been well considered and prepared, than having money thrown at projects that may not yet be fully ready—just for the sake of spending to meet a deadline.

I was very excited on reading Cllr Oliver's proposed revision of the Environment Committee's spending programme (Attachment 3), seeing here a wonderful opportunity for DTC to lead and support the community in the fight against Climate Change. I am particular pleased to see proposals for raising awareness in the community, which will help more people get behind far-reaching projects such as the excellent renewable energy infrastructure proposals, and generally give people some sense of agency in very difficult times.

These very much needed proposals cannot be implemented without drawing on the underspend to date; we have here the ideal opportunity to do justice to Deal Town Council's encouraging and very welcome declarations back in 2019.

I urge the Council to reconsider its recent decision about the underspend and be flexible enough to adapt systems and regulations to the very urgent needs imposed on the community by the ongoing Climate Emergency.

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Dear Deal Town Council Members

The strong stance from Deal Town Council on climate change and the realistic target of 2025 to become carbon neutral reflect the urgency of the situation and are to be encouraged and supported.

After 2 years of the pandemic and hampered progress, the investment required to achieve this goal must now be stepped up. I agree that unspent money should be ringfenced and carried forward, and would suggest that the proposal of £50,000 spending per annum is realistic.

The tree planting projects which form a large part of the carbon offsetting necessary to achieve this goal also provide exciting opportunities for community engagement. Planting trees will incur large costs in preparing land, buying trees and ongoing protection and maintenance. This will represent a large and important part of the budget.

There have also been many mature trees lost to development over the years eg the veteran trees on the Aldi site. It is vital to protect our existing mature trees, not only are they important for carbon sequestration and biodiversity, but they have a huge amenity value for the community. I am very pleased to note that Deal Town Council have had the foresight to start mapping trees in Deal using I-tree. On completion this spring, the data will be a valuable tool in protecting existing trees from badly planned housing development.

As a coastal community with the most to lose from sea level rise and increasing storm severity, I believe the people of Deal will be in favour of this spending, and continued decisive action from Deal Town Council on climate change.

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