



Climate and Nature Forum

15th July 2026

1. Welcome / introductions

To receive any apologies for absence

2. Minutes and actions from previous meeting

3. Nature

- Kent and Medway Environment Members Board SB
- Friend of the Earth ward data and renewables map. JT
- UK Action Network & Enviroverse JT
- Kent Climate Groups NM

4. Retrofit and Warm Home

- Warm Homes Update JT
- Retrofit action plan JT

5. Active Travel

- Upper Road study (£35k) JT
- Deal Seafront (£35k) JT
- Deal engagement year 2 (£ TBC) JT
- Port of Dover LCWIP & Dover Train station JT
- Apps JT

6. Members update

7. AOB

Agenda

Actions: Kent Sustainable communities Groups - Representation from this group or feedback from existing representatives

Action: James discuss flooding mitigation with council officers

Action: James to contact Head of Investments, Growth and Tourism re Riverside Gardens

Action: Pride in place information – Chair and Board now in place.

Action: James "designations" of nature sites

Kent and Medway Environment Members Board

- Water infrastructure
- Kent Resource Partnership update
- Conference on Fly Tipping
- Simpler Recycling Regulation Compliance
- Energy and Low Emissions Strategy

Councillor Briefing: Environmental Data for St Radigunds



"As a councillor for St Radigunds, you will know the area well, but we've brought together some environmental data that you may not be aware of. We hope you can use this information to improve the lives of residents in your ward."

Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth

53%

of homes are poorly
insulated

33.2%

Summer tree canopy
cover
(Recommended
minimum = 20%)

6.7 µg/m³

Annual background
concentration of
PM_{2.5}
(WHO limit = 5 µg/m³)

Climate Change and Energy

Burning fossil fuels has already led to the planet warming by almost 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is disrupting weather systems and causing more severe storms, droughts and floods.

Our continued high use of gas to produce electricity and to heat our homes and businesses is contributing to this, as well as leaving us all exposed to volatile energy prices. Friends of the Earth is calling for councils to support a faster roll-out of renewable energy and to help householders fit insulation. We are also calling on the government to introduce a social tariff for energy — that is, cheaper energy rates for those on the lowest incomes.

More oil and gas drilling won't reduce energy costs, because costs are set on the global market, but it will exacerbate climate change (for more detail see our [Misinformation briefings](#)).

In St Radigunds, 105 homes are already at high risk of flooding, according to Environment Agency data. In the future this could increase to 273. Climate change will also lead to more heatwaves. In the 2022 heatwaves, the temperature reached 38.4°C in St Radigunds. The government needs to do more to prepare the country for extreme weather events, including with more support for local authorities, so that those most at risk — such as older people during heatwaves or disabled people during flood events — can be properly protected.

Homes need not only to be better adapted for flooding and heatwaves but also better insulated to help keep down energy costs and reduce the number of people living in cold, damp homes.

In St Radigunds, there are 1,762 homes that are poorly insulated (below the EPC C level), making it 12 out of 17 in Dover for the number of homes needing an upgrade. Better insulated homes not only cut energy bills but also reduce illness and make homes more comfortable.

Nature and Pollution

Air pollution has fallen over recent years, partly as a result of cleaner vehicles, such as electric buses, vans and cars, replacing petrol and diesel vehicles. But air pollution remains high across much of the country. Air pollution is particularly a concern for young people, as their lungs are developing, as well as for those with respiratory problems such as asthma or COPD. Up to 30,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution in the UK each year.

St Radigunds ranks 4 out of 17 in Dover for pollution levels. The level of air pollution, based on government modelling, reaches 9.6 µg/m³ for nitrogen dioxide in parts of the ward, compared to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended level of 10 µg/m³, and 6.7 µg/m³ for particulates, compared to the WHO level of 5 µg/m³.

Nature can help reduce air pollution, provide cooling during heatwaves and reduce flooding. Research also shows local green spaces are linked with better mental health. Tree cover in St Radigunds is 33.2%, against a recommended minimum of 20%. The proportion of people who are within a 15-minute walk of greenspace is 100% — the [government target](#) is that everybody should be within a 15-minute walk of greenspace.

Sewage pollution of rivers from sewage outfalls has rightly led to public outrage. In St Radigunds there is 1 sewage outfall that spilled pollution into waterways 1 times and for 1.5 hours in 2025. Sewage pollution is a danger to water users but also harms the nature that residents of the ward enjoy.

Who is Harmed Most by Environmental Damage

While almost everyone is harmed by a degraded environment, including future generations, Friends of the Earth research has identified that people on low incomes, disabled people, and people of colour are disproportionately harmed by air pollution, climate extremes and a lack of access to nature. These people also tend to contribute least to these problems, making this an environmental injustice.

Improving the environment benefits both people and nature. Research shows it is also beneficial for jobs and the economy, with the Climate Change Committee stating that every pound spent brings benefits worth 2.2–4.1 times as much. Those calling for green policies to be delayed or abandoned are not serving the public good.

What Councillors Can Do

The information in this briefing will help you stand-up and speak out for action on climate, nature and equality because of the benefits that action will deliver for your constituents.

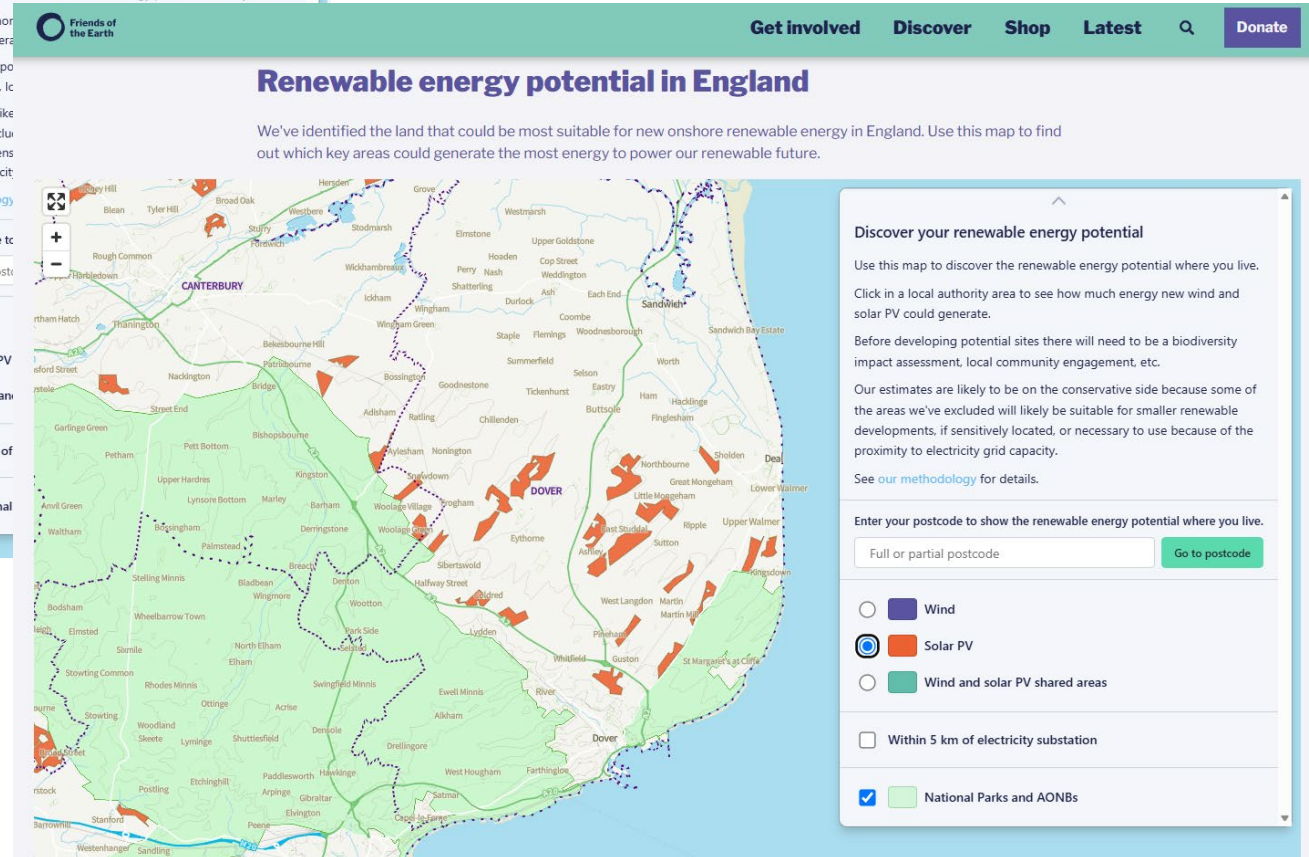
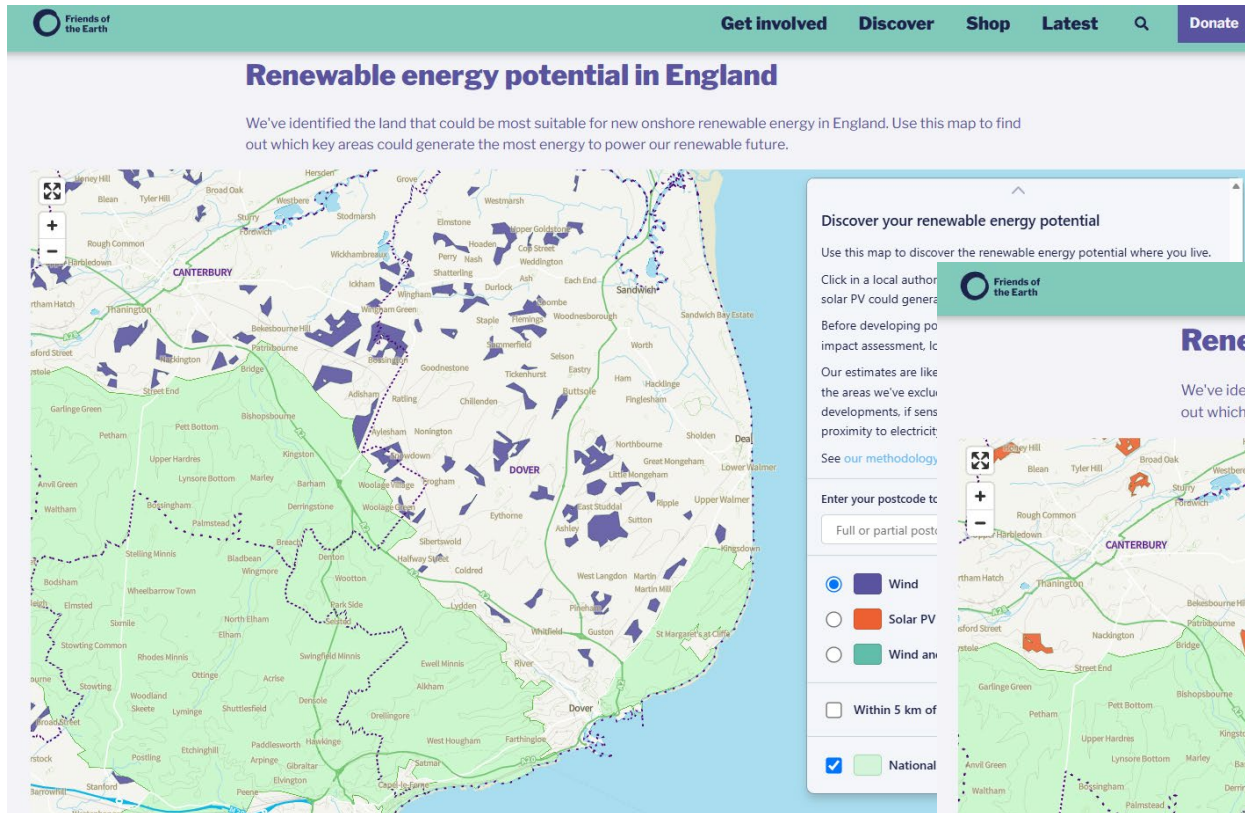
Speaking out for action on climate change, energy, nature and pollution is important at a time when powerful vested interests, some politicians and the media are seeking to delay or abandon action. Data in the other Ward reports in your area will also enable you to highlight how councillors speaking out against climate action are not serving their constituents well.

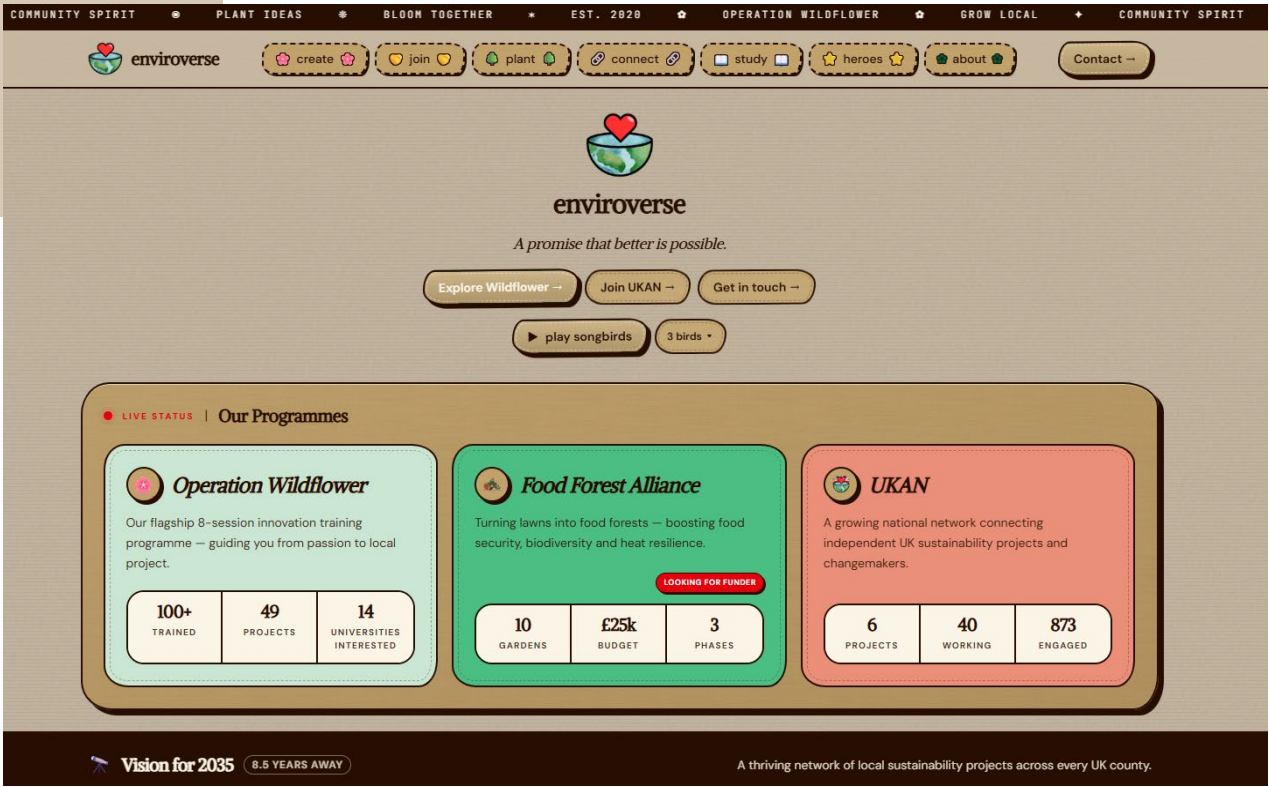
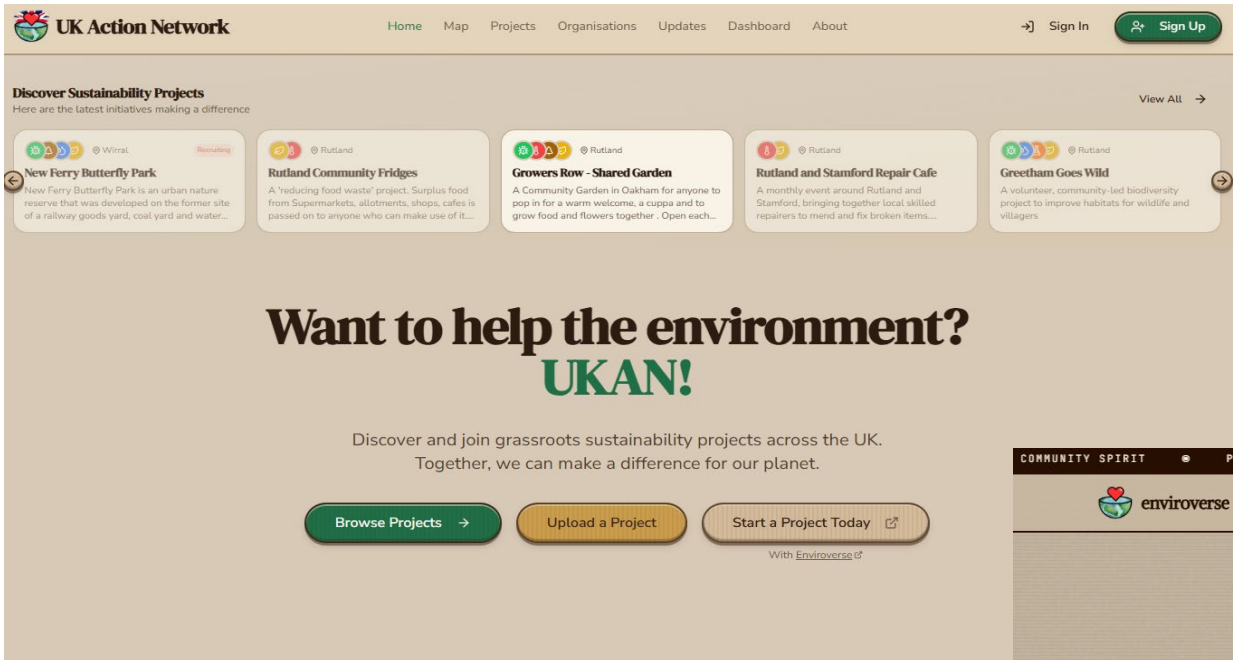
Please e-mail data@foe.co.uk to provide feedback on this environmental data sheet.

Further Reading

- Friends of the Earth's Local Environmental Data tool, which includes local authority-level data and policy recommendations for councils: <https://groups.friendsoftheearth.uk/near-you>
- Friends of the Earth's misinformation briefings, including on energy bills, costs and jobs: <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/climate/climate-change-lies-vs-facts>
- Friends of the Earth's policy website, with articles spanning all the issues listed here and more: <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/>

Nature





A Great Place to
Live, Work, Visit, Learn and Invest



[Home](#) / [Kent Sustainable Communities Network](#)

Kent Sustainable Communities Network

The **Kent Sustainable Communities Network (SCN)** aims to enable more coordinated and impactful climate action through a hub of grassroots groups across Kent.

By creating strong partnerships and meaningful collaboration amongst community groups, the Network aims to:

- ♥ increase and improve **public awareness** of, and engagement with, climate change mitigation and adaptation

Meet our member groups

 [Active Kent & Medway](#)

 [Amplifi - Tunbridge Wells](#)

Retrofit and Warm Homes

- Warm Homes second year
- Warm Homes Loan scheme starting later in the year
- Kent and Medway Retrofit action plan

Active Travel

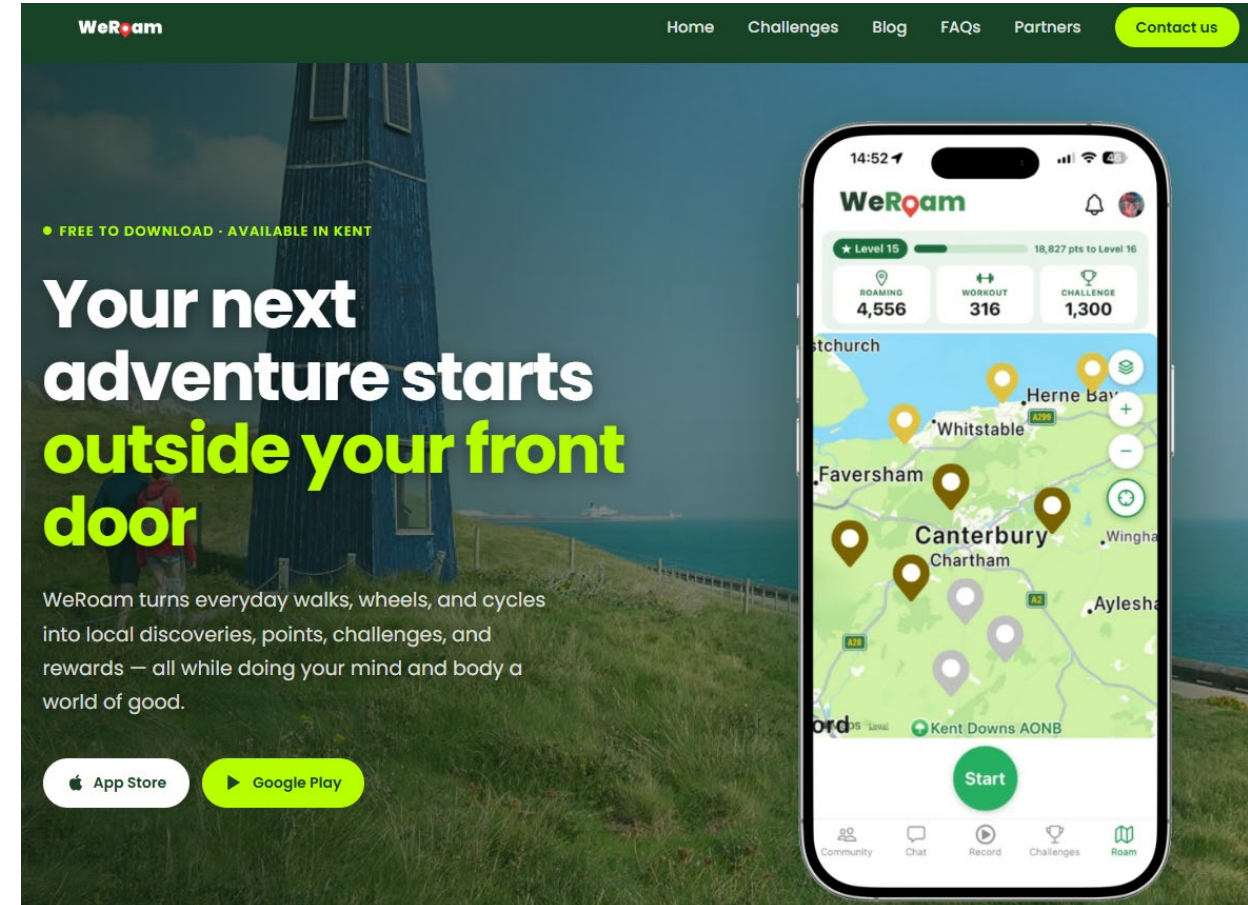
Upper Road feasibility study

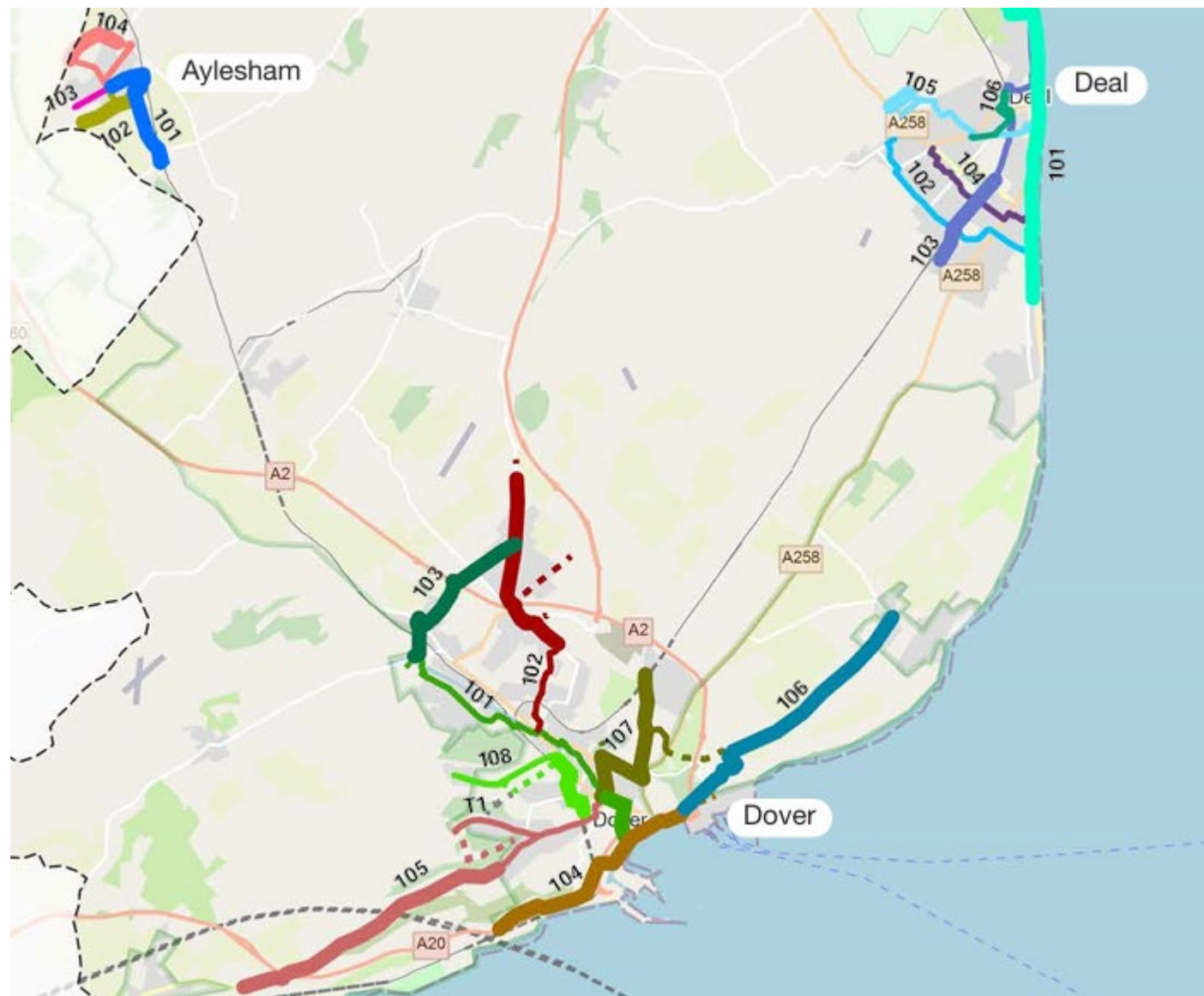
Deal to Walmer Seafront Feasibility study

Year 2 Community engagement project for Deal and Walmer

Port of Dover LCWIP & Dover Train Station

New Apps – WE ROAM





Updates from Transition Dover:

- We attended the Samphire Multicultural Festival, Dover Green Day at the Charlton Centre and the Dover Harbour Festival - with a stall to engage families in eco-themed crafts (making wallets from tetrapaks, upcycled fabric bookmarks, and loo roll tube bunting!). We have also been distributing the home energy saving kit at these stalls.
- The next Dover Repair Cafe will be on Wednesday 29th July - all welcome!
- The Bridge Street green corridor is doing well and looking lush and green (after the vandalism earlier this year). We received generous donations from Help Our Town and The Red Lion pub quiz teams, to help us do some new planting.
- We are partnering with Dover Big Local and Kent Wildlife Trust on the new Wilder Streets, Wilder Lives project. This involves working with community members to green urban spaces, upskill volunteers and engage the public in rewilding/nature/environmental activities. The project has just commenced this June so is at an early stage of scoping out potential areas and informing communities about ways to get involved. (Suggestions for town centre areas in need of tlc/greening are welcome.)

For information - Transition Dover is already a member of the Kent Sustainable Communities Network. I've only managed to attend one online meeting so far. The scope is huge, as they cover all of Kent, so updates from other members did feel a bit remote/irrelevant, but it would be good to attend from time to time to feel part of something bigger. So much good, largely voluntary, work going on across the county.

Also for your information - The Turner Schools Trust (group of 10 schools) always hold a Community Action Day, and this year they are making it a Green Community Day. Tomorrow (16th) pupils from all schools are taking part in different green action and there's a celebration event on the Harbour Arm from 2-4pm. It's hoped that it becomes a 'green' action day every year, so there may be ways for others to partner with schools in future years to support their activities.



Walmer Town Council updates

- WTC office has been made more energy efficient with a new door.
- Full Council has approved the installation of a first water filler station outside the Marine Road public toilets, close to Cycle route 1 and to the site of WTC new outdoor gym. WTC thanks DDC / Veolia for the installation of the special anti-plastics 'Green Seas' bin close to site. WTC CEWG hopes to follow up with a 2nd water filler station 1 mile further south before end of year, if colleagues & DDC approve.
- Cafes, pubs, fish and chip shops in Walmer who have taken steps to comply with government regulations replacing **supply of single use plastic products** with biodegradable or long life alternatives have been thanked for their work with a certificate and a window sticker '**Proud to support Walmer Against Plastic Pollution**'.
- Two WTC councillors attended the screening of the People's Emergency Briefing (organized by East Kent Climate Action / Deal With It) and participated in the discussion on the need to press for urgent action given the weather extremes we are now seeing. These National Emergency Briefings can be viewed on youtube @nebriefing . The issues covered include : Nature : Climate : Tipping Points : Weather Extremes : Food Security : Health : National Security : Economics : Energy Transition.
- WTC is keen to progress discussions with DDC about using disused space between Churchill Avenue and Downs Road as a wildlife garden and community orchard. Discussions started with site visit in July 2023.
- Community Resilience as encouraged by DDC workshop for parish councils 18 Feb. The setting up of a WTC working group was approved by Full Council early March. The intention is to get a Walmer community resilience plan done by end 2026. **Community Resilience Working Group** held 1st meeting on 14th April followed by helpful teams meeting with DDC Kayleigh Jones 21/4. Noted resilience is an issue raised by Kent Resilience Forum in 2024 and by National Emergency Briefing in Nov 2025.
- WTC is supporting Downs Sailing Club to run the National Schools Sailing Regatta in as low carbon way as possible 19 to 25 July ; 230ish young competitors are due to sleep under canvas on the Rugby Field Canada Rd, so they can walk to club each day, and small grant has been approved by WTC to help DSC provide multi-use water bottles for competitors instead of single use plastic ones.
- The sea water sample collected 28 April just south of Walmer Castle and sent to Lab for testing came back excellent. We note with thanks that DDC has installed 3 new warning signs for swimmers between Deal Pier and north of the Royal on Deal Castle Beach with QR codes suggesting swimmers check for updates before entering sea.
- WTC will again hold its Walmer in Bloom competition June / July 2026 which includes wildlife friendly gardens category.
- The volunteers who maintain / enhance our LWS Hawkshill Freedown have completed a woodland walk to the east of Liverpool Rd including glades which increase biodiversity.
- WTC interested in whether DDC has had further feedback from potential car club providers.
- WTC interested to know if the 3 trees felled at Admiralty Barracks have been replaced as the DDC tree officer Jo Daniels recommended.
- Cllr Blackwell has now replaced Cllr Waite-Gleave as chair of WTC CEWG, but CEWG happy for Cllr Waite-Gleave continue to liaise with DDC Cl&N Forum.

Members updates

Deal Town Council updates

- Look After What You Love returns for 2026 - our anti-litter campaign
- Free e-bikes to local charities
- Created online Deal Tree Zone
- Launched Community Garden scheme
- Hedgehog Friendly Deal returns in the Autumn, giving away free gravel boards
- Seeds for Spring - summer roadshow
- Climate Action Day 2026 – ‘Art and the environment’

AOB & Networking

