

Dover District Climate and Nature Forum

Meeting: 9th October 2025

Attendees:

Dover District Council	Cllr Susan Beer	Chair
Dover District Council 7.30 pm)	Cllr Michael Nee	Portfolio Holder for Climate & Environment (left
Dover District Council	Ashley Taylor	Planning Policy and Projects Manager
Dover District Council	James Traynor	Climate Change Office
Dover District Council	Joanne Watson	Senior Planning Technical Officer
Dover Town Council	Cllr Pam Brivio	Councillor
Deal Town Council	Cllr Peter Findley	Councillor
Walmer Town Council	Cllr Sarah Waite-Gleave	Councillor
Sandwich Town Council	Cllr Simon Mallett	Councillor (arrived at 6.45 pm)
Transition Dover	Liz Hayes	Group Lead
Deal With It/East Kent Climate Action Group	Sonja Watsham	Group member

Minutes

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Nadine Miller, Deal Town Council; Cllr Paul Carter, Sandwich Town Council and Cllr Chris Vinson, DDC, Shadow Holder for Climate & Environment.

2. Welcome

Cllr Susan Beer welcomed everyone to the meeting, and all introduced themselves.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held in July unfortunately had a format technical error, this will be corrected, and approval will be sought at next meeting.

4. Community Energy – Duane from Kent Community Energy

Duane from Kent Community Energy attended the meeting and gave a presentation giving background to who Kent Community Energy are – what their aim is - how they have helped organisations and how you can help by owning a stake/community share offer. They currently have 180 members. They are a local community benefit organisation dedicated to tackling climate change by making energy cleaner, more affordable and local for everyone. To date they have given £40,000 in grants to help local organisations (including Downs Sailing Club, Emmaus and Landmark Centre) funding was raised via shares and profits from solar plant. Regulated by FCA, but not OFGEM as solar farm is direct with National Grid.

Cllr Nee asked if KCE offer batteries in Winter. Duane responded that KCE would always look at designing the best power scheme available and therefore this may not be required.

Cllr Beer asked about the return on investment. Duane responded that 6% return on investment, but these would be sold back to organisation. 5 years minimum investment.

[Solar Together](#) is a different company to Kent Community Energy with different aims.

James Traynor: ACTION to look at DDC large projects ie. Deal Leisure Centre, to see if can link with KCE.

All: ACTION If you know of any local community organisations/school academies that would be interested in receiving help then please contact [Kent Community Energy](#) directly.

5. Tree planting & Trees on new developments

Concern has been raised about trees dying at new developments. The public should report any concerns to planning enforcement who can check if there has been a breach of planning control.

Ashley Taylor mentioned that going forward Biodiversity Net Gain monitoring would likely include trees on new developments.

Useful sites: <https://www.tcv.org.uk/i-dig-trees-free-trees/>

<https://treecouncil.org.uk/science-and-research/shared-outcomes-fund/>

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2025/06/state-of-uk-woods-and-trees-2025/>

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2019/01/residential-developments-and-trees/>

6. Water resilience, overflows, local rivers conditions bathing water quality.

James Traynor discussed how the country is a lot dryer than usual now, even with the terrible flooding that took place in July locally.

Parish and Town Councils have been asked to have a Resilience plan in place. Cllr Waite-Gleave awaiting workshop by DDC to help with completion of plan.

Members asked who was responsible for cost of cleaning up rain water from a farmers field onto roads?

Cllr Nee replied that farmers are responsible to keep ditches in good condition. If not sure who to report to them [report to DDC](#).

Liz Hayes asked if there were any schemes available offering discounts on purchasing water butts for households.

James Traynor: ACTION to contact Southern Water.

Save Our Seas Deal and Walmer will be discussed at DDC Council meeting on 15 October. The petition “demands action and investment to end the sewage pollution of our coastal seawater locally in East Kent, regionally in Kent and nationally in Britain. In 2019 our Deal beach seawater quality was rated ‘excellent’, it has deteriorated to ‘good’ in 2021, ‘sufficient’ in 2023, and in November 2024, ‘poor’. We demand that Southern Water, DEFRA, Environment Agency (EA), DDC and KCC act together to reverse this deterioration at speed in 2025 and 2026, so that it returns to ‘excellent’, and remains excellent, thereafter. We demand that all parties petitioned act with rigour and transparency. We want actions in East Kent to include”.

7. Car sharing proposals

Jame Traynor talked about different companies available nationally ([Enterprise Car Club](#) and [Co Mo Uk](#)) that we could work with to create a local scheme for either car sharing or having a community vehicle.

James Traynor: ACTION to discuss further with KALC/Parish Councils to see if a scheme would be welcomed and further information about schemes available.

Cllr Waite-Gleave said that Walmer Town Council were already looking at a scheme and had produced a poster that would be circulated which will have details of [Kent Connected](#); [Kent Coast Volunteering](#) and [KCC Lift Share](#).

James Traynor: ACTION would see if he could link a scheme with KCC Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure ([LEVI](#)) Project to this proposal.

Useful Sites: [Car Share: Co Wheels Car Club | Co Wheels | Co Wheels](#)

[Enterprise Car Club | Hourly Car Hire UK | Car Share](#)

[CoMoUK - supporting shared transport](#)

8. Thermal Cameras and EE boxes

By the beginning of November DDC will receive 10 EE boxes and 2 Thermal Cameras that will be used in the Community. The Community van will have some of these boxes available to residents that need them. Walmer Town Council has requested EE box.

All: ACTION Please advise if any other Community organisations would like use of camera (full training will be given) or equipment from EE box.

9. Members updates:-

East Kent Climate Action (EKCA)

- Work continues in the background. One of our members continues to pursue the realisation of a global plastics treaty, working alongside several movers and shakers. Our WhatsApp buzzes with news, info, campaigns, indignation, outrage, always seeking positive ways forward.
- In the foreground, our work will be making an appearance in the autumn edition of our local paper, Deal Despatch.
- Our focus, as ever, is both local and global. An ongoing concern is the maintenance of trees in our area. We continue to seek channels to whichever body will actually act on its responsibility for the upkeep of trees, particularly newly planted ones, be this in the public or the private domain.
- We are planning our warm winter campaign, which will involve drop-in advice sessions at the library and heat escape diagnosis.
- We are actively supporting SOSDAW's campaign to improve the state of our seas, with individuals contributing relevant observations. We took part in DTC's Ocean and Coastal Recovery Strategy consultation.
- Our "Street theatre" group, Making Waves, puts in appearances at local events to highlight the need to care for the ocean, both locally and globally.
- We took part in Deal Carnival, where Poly the Whale made a much-acclaimed reappearance.
- We joined Deal Pride parade and offered an array of plants at the market afterwards.
- A group of us took part in the national "Make them pay" demonstration.
- EKCA is collaborating with Deal with It on showing films of local and wider environmental interest. This will be coinciding with the global and Deal Town Climate Action Day in November (which we will of course be attending.)

Sonja Watsham: ACTION to contact events@dover.gov.uk to see if can attend future Dover Community Events.

Deal with It

- Actively supporting SOSDAW, and will be taking part in Deal Town Council Climate Action Day in November.
- Captain's Garden has had its best year ever for attendance at Open Days; of course, Royal interest might have played a part in this. The avenues of fruit trees have begun to produce well. The latest innovation is our thriving vineyard.
- The garden is now set up as a Community Interest Company.
- Deal Hop Farm had a good yield, in spite of many individual growers having poor results in a strange year weather-wise. This years total was 185 kilos.
- Gleaning continues well, with new bodies keen to receive the proceeds, the latest being a local primary school. Over 35 gleans so far this year.
- Beach cleans continue on a regular basis.
- Deal Repair café now has a permanent home at the Deal Welfare Club, in an area where it is felt our services are most needed.
- Station gardeners have had several new members, so are continuing to do much -appreciated work at the station, in collaboration with our wonderful ticket office manager.

Transition Dover

- A repair café took place at the Maison Dieu together with KCC /school children e-waste project.
- To mark 10 year anniversary a series of events will take place.
 - 12 November, Biggin Hall – Film and Chat, 'Imprint' - a new film made by Campfire Stories and the Swedish Transition Network.
 - 26 November, Biggin Hall - Dover Repair Café and 10th Birthday Party
 - November, Bridge Street - Litter Pick
 - 1 November, Bridge Street – Bulb Planting

Deal Town Council

- Deal Town Council has adopted an Ocean and Coastal Recovery Strategy, recognising that we have an essential role to play in recovering the health of our oceans through increasing awareness of how local actions can affect the sea. The Mayor will sign an 'Ocean & Coastal Recovery Declaration' (or Motion for the Ocean) at Charter Day on Sunday.
- Climate Action Day returns to coincide with COP on Saturday 15 November. This year's theme will be the town's proximity and relationship with the sea. The event will continue to raise awareness of our local environment and groups and organisations who have worked with and supported the town council in the last 12 months have been invited to exhibit. We hope to see you there.
- Look After What You Love, our anti-litter campaign saw chalk stencils with a 'Bin It' message appearing around the town in the summer, encouraging people not to drop litter. The project will return next year.
- Almost 40 hedgehog friendly gravel boards have been requested through our Hedgehog Friendly Deal campaign. We offered free boards to local residents to install in their garden, allowing hedgehog greater freedom to roam.

Sandwich TC

- Continuing work at their two nature reserves. A bird watching shed is being installed at Monks Wall Nature reserve. Trees are getting large, looking at what can be done.

Walmer TC

- A Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan has been designed and will be submitted for approval by WTC Councillors. Once approved document will be shared with members.

Aylesham

- Looking at purchasing an Electric Vehicle for Park Areas.
- Concern raised that KCC had removed Climate Emergency from their agenda.

Dover Town Council

- Allotment water scheme working well. By stopping water supply allotment holders now need to collect rain water to use instead on their allotments.
- Expanded [bike scheme](#) working with DDC.

10. Dover District Council

- The council has purchased further REGOs for leased assets.
- The LWCIP goes to Cabinet for approval in November

11. AOB

None.

Meeting ended

20.15