

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL



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AGENDA

Meeting: **Climate and Environment Committee**
Date: **4th February 2025**
Time: **7.00 p.m.**
Place: **Council Offices, Town Hall, 1-2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone.**

To: **The Climate and Environment Committee**
(All other Councillors for information only)

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend a meeting of the Climate and Environment Committee on the date and at the time and place shown above to transact the business shown on the agenda below. The meeting will be open to the press and public.

Any member who wishes to have information on any matter arising on the Agenda which is not fully covered in these papers is requested to contact the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

Toni Brenchley
Town Clerk

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
To receive and approve any apologies for absence.
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive any declarations of either personal or prejudicial interest that Members may wish to make.
- 3. MINUTES**
To receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate & Environment Committee held on 8th October 2024 and to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.
- 4. NEW PLANTERS**
Further to the Committee agreeing proposed new sites for flower planters at its meeting in October 2024, the C & E Officer will update Members further to pursuing with KCC and F & HDC the viability and estimated costs of installations.

5. SPONSORSHIP OF PLANTING F & HDC OWNED FLOWERBEDS

The Committee is asked if it wishes to consider continuing to sponsor planting of F & HDC owned flower & shrub beds (see attached) and if so, at what level – FTC's current allotted budget is £25,000. F & HDC have advised that the sites detailed in red text on the Schedule of Planting are likely to be taken over by KCC in April 2025.

6. TREE PLANTING

The C & E Officer has organised a Tree Working Group meeting to be held on Wednesday 26th February at which tree planting sites will be considered and a draft Tree Planting Schedule will be created to be reviewed by Members at the Climate & Environment Committee meeting in April (hard sites must be agreed by the end of April and soft sites by June / July). Members views are sought with all Folkestone Town Councillors to be subsequently contacted and asked for site suggestions within their respective Wards.

7. PLAY PARKS – FENCING AT NASEBY AVENUE REPORT CE/25/378

The Committee is asked to receive, note and consider the recommendations in the Report.

8. KENT & MEDWAY LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy is currently out for consultation and will run until 12th March. All consultation documents and the questionnaire can be found at [Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy | Let's talk Kent](#) with further information on the project available at [Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy Public Consultation | Making Space For Nature Kent](#)

The Committee will be asked if it wishes to compose a response on behalf of FTC for submission and / or respond independently.

9. KALC CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE – 5th November 2024

Cllr John Renshaw and the Communities & Events Officer attended the conference And will feedback to members information gathered at the committee meeting.

10. FOLKESTONE BEACHES WATER QUALITY MONITORING – SUNNY SANDS & MERMAID BEACH

As part of its concluding budget setting process, Full Council approved a growth item of £4,500 for Water Quality Monitoring (Minute Number 2142) at its meeting on 9 January 2025.

The Town Clerk, Cllr John Renshaw and the C & E Officer attended a meeting hosted by F & HDC with Southern Water and the Environment Agency (electronic meeting slides were sent to all Folkestone Town Councillors on 23rd January 2024) and will feedback information gathered to members at the committee meeting.

The Town Clerk submitted a follow up question to EA and Southern Water with regard to FTC potentially undertaking bi-weekly water testing and whether this data could be utilised to supplement the EAs testing and if it would be helpful in terms of gathering data. To date, a response has not been received.

Members views are sought.

11. FAIRTRADE

The C & E Officer is organising a Fairtrade Working Group meeting to be held at the end of February meeting at which a draft newsletter will be reviewed and an events schedule considered.

An update will be given to the committee in respect of latest goals and actions required to ensure FTC retains its Fairtrade Town accreditation which is due for renewal on 2nd August 2025.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

1st April 2025 at 7.00pm

Councillors on Committee

Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Councillor Charles Bain Smith
Councillor Nicola Keen
Councillor Kieran Leigh
Councillor Lucy McGirr
Councillor Liz McShane
Councillor John Renshaw
Councillor Belinda Walker
Councillor Roger West

Parking available for Councillors @ 6.00pm on the precinct area at the front of the Town Hall.



FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 8th October 2024 at the Town Hall at 7pm.

Present: Councillors Kieran Leigh, Lucy McGirr (Chair), Liz McShane, John Renshaw, Belinda Walker and Roger West.

Absent: Councillor Charles Bain Smith

In attendance: Toni Brenchley - Town Clerk
Vicky Deakin - Communities & Events Officer

111. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors were asked to receive apologies from Councillors Nicola Keen and Belinda Walker.

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies from Councillor Nicola Keen and Councillor Belinda Walker.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo - Kelly

Voting: F:6, Ag:0 Ab:0

112. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

113. MINUTES

The Committee was asked to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate & Environment Committee held on 4th June 2024 and to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2024 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw

Voting: F:6, Ag:0, Ab:0

114. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN – KCC PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Committee's views were sought for review by the Town Clerk to be incorporated in her letter to KCC on behalf of FTC in response to the consultation.

The consultation was noted however, no comments were submitted by Members.

115. FLOWER & SHRUB PLANTERS

The Communities & Events Officer updated the Committee in respect of potential new sites suggested by Ward Councillors for new planters (including seasonal planting and maintenance) and provided a breakdown and explanation of costs.

RESOLVED:

i) That subject to the C & E Officer following up with F & HDC and KCC regarding the viability of the proposed sites the following locations be agreed:

- Blackbull Road railings (both sides of road nr Mundella Primary School)
- The Stade
- Cheriton High Street (nr Old Post Office)
- Junction of Dover Road and Canterbury Road (railings under bridge)
- Pavilion Road railings
- Broadmead Village (Village Shop)
- Sandgate Road (Adjacent to Westbourne Gardens nr bus stop)
- Junction of Mount Pleasant Road and Bellevue Street (under viaduct)

ii) That the following suggested sites be declined as the Committee's view is that F & HDC will install planters in these areas as part of their 'Folkestone – A Brighter Future' scheme renovations.

- Guildhall Street
- Central Station (nr bus stop)

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo - Kelly

Seconded: Councillor Roger West

Voting: F:6, Ag:0, Ab:0

The Communities & Events Officer updated Members on the Flowerbeds Budget and instructing an external contractor to seasonally plant (twice a year) and maintain FTC assets (as detailed below):

- 4No x Large Folkestone Planters – 2No near pedestrian crossing at Bouverie Road West and 2No near town barrier on Rendezvous Street
- 6No x Small Folkestone Planters – side of Leas Cliff Hall
- 25No x FTC Railings Planters – Castle Hill Avenue
- 10No x Cheriton Railing Planters – Cheriton High Street
- 10No x Hill Road Railing Planters

RESOLVED: That subject to F & HDC providing a written assurance that the planters are of the high, visually pleasing standard of summer 2024, £6,000 of the 2024 / 25 Flowerbeds Budget be released for F & HDC to carry out the planting.

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo - Kelly

Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Voting: F:6 , Ag:0 , Ab:0

116. KCC NATIONAL LOTTERY CLIMATE ACTION FUND BID

The Community & Events Officer updated the Committee on the KCC and Take the Jump bid for the national lottery's Climate Action Fund which aims to inspire individuals, organisations and communities throughout Kent to make a real difference in climate action.

Cllr John Renshaw and the C & E Officer agreed to attend KALC Climate Change Conference on 5th November and feedback information gathered to members at the next committee meeting.

117. TREE PLANTING 2024/25

The Committee reviewed the draft tree planting schedule and

RESOLVED: That the schedule of soft sites be approved and £10,308 of the 2024 / 25 Trees Budget be released for KCC to carry out new planting.

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw

Seconded: Councillor Roger West

Voting: F:6, Ag:0, Ab:0

118. BUDGET 2024 / 25 – POTENTIAL GROWTH ITEMS / CORPORATE PLAN

At this juncture it was

RESOLVED: That Item 11 be removed from the agenda as it was a duplication of Item 8.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Liz McShane

Voting: F:6, Ag:0, Ab:0

The Committee considered proposals for possible growth items and non-recurring revenue expenditure for climate & environment projects and initiatives for next year.

Following the FTC Corporate Plan Public Consultation ending, and the review of Folkestone residents' comments by the Corporate Plan Working Group, members considered comments and areas highlighted from the consultation, whilst identifying potential growth items. The Town Clerk updated Members on the following Town Council services under this Committee's governance:

- Allotments – Investigate the availability of land in Folkestone that is viable for the potential use as FTC owned / managed allotment sites.
- Litter bins:
 - i) Ensure comments from consultation respondents regarding lack of public litter bins in Folkestone are forwarded to F & HDC.

- ii) Contact F & HDC requesting an increase in the number of public litter bins in Folkestone and / or the number of attendances to each site on the emptying schedules.
- Salt bins – Raise public awareness of the assets owned by FTC by installing its logo and contact details (and other specific information where appropriate) and repair / replace damaged salt bins.

RESOLVED:

- i) **That this Item be reconsidered after agenda Item 12 ‘Water Quality Monitoring at Folkestone’s Beaches’ was reviewed by Members.**
 Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw
 Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo - Kelly
 Voting: F:6 , Ag:0 , Ab:0
- ii) **That £4,000 for water quality monitoring be proposed as a budget growth item for the Finance & General Purposes Committee to consider at its meeting on 12th December 2024.**
 Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw
 Seconded: Councillor Kieran Leigh
 Voting: F:6 , Ag:0 , Ab:0

119. FAIRTRADE

The C & E Officer updated the committee in respect of delivered actions relating to FTC’s Fairtrade accreditation. Members thoughts were sought in respect of potential actions and tasks for delivery to fulfil the requirement of continued campaigning and awareness raising of Fairtrade.

It was suggested that a quarterly newsletter could potentially be produced and distributed to local retailers, businesses, schools, youth & faith groups etc.

Other suggestions included a Mayor’s charity event being organised with a Fairtrade theme, Fairtrade stands to be hosted by FTC at the Folkestone and Cheriton Christmas lights switch on events and to reach out to the Nepalese Community as some of its members are past tea pickers.

120. PLAY PARKS – FENCING AND GATES PINE WAY REPORT CE/24/368

The Committee was asked to receive, note and consider the recommendations in the Report.

RESOLVED:

- i) **To receive and note Report CE/24/368**
- ii) **That up to £10,000 is vired from the Community Infrastructure Levy Reserve Budget, subject to approval by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.**

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr
Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw
Voting: F:6 , Ag:0 , Ab:0

121. WATER QUALITY MONITORING AT FOLKESTONE'S BEACHES

At the Full Council meeting on 19th September, it was

RESOLVED: That the Climate & Environment Committee further discuss the independent monitoring of the water quality on Folkestone's beaches (Sunny Sands and the Mermaid beach).

Cllr John Renshaw briefed the Committee on how the testing could potentially be carried out and approximate costs further to liaising with Sandgate and new Romney Parish Councils who currently undertake water quality monitoring.

After much discussion it was

RESOLVED: That Cllr John Renshaw and the C & E Officer liaise and follow up with the relevant companies and organisations to establish exact costs and implications of providing this service and to feedback to the Committee at its next meeting for further review and consideration.

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw
Seconded: Councillor Liz McShane
Voting: F:6, Ag:0, Ab:0

122. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 4th February 2025 at 7pm

The meeting concluded at 7.50pm.

Chair

Date

SDC Annual Maintenance, Summer and Winter Bedding Costs 2025/ 2026

BED	LOCATION	No	SITE	OPERATION	AREA M ²
	Bruce Porter Gardens	1	East Cliff	Shrubs	10 m ²
	Tontline Street	1	Dover Rd (Grace Hill)	Shrubs	60 m ²
	Canterbury Road	1	Wood Ave Toilets	Shrubs	10 m ²
	Blackbull Rd	1	Cubbitt House	Shrubs	30 m ²
	Radnor Park Rd	1	Park Farm Corner	Shrubs	116 m ²
	Road of Remembrance	1	La Vue	Shrubs	23 m ²
	Cheriton High St	1	Risborough Lane	Shrubs	24 m ²
	Cheriton Road	2	Invicta Sports Ground	Shrubs	110 m ²
Annual maintenance cost* for existing beds excluding VAT					

MAINT COST 2025-2026	Maintenance Shedule
£266.55	quaterly
£1,599.30	quaterly
£266.55	quaterly
£799.64	quaterly
£3,091.95	quaterly
£613.05	quaterly
£666.17	quaterly
£2,932.02	quaterly
£10,235.23	

*This does not include the cost of replacement planting, this would obviously be at cost

BED	LOCATION	No	SITE	OPERATION	AREA
	Harbour Area	1	Rear Bed	Flower Bed	114 m ²
	Dover Road	1	Bingo Bed	Flower Bed	25 m ²
	Majestic Parade	2	Raised Beds	Flower Bed	30 m ²
	The Leas Planters	5	Planters	Flower Bed	10 m ²
	Flemming Way	5	Raised Beds	Flower Bed	119 m ²
	Large Folkestone Planters	4	Planters	Flower Bed	4 m ²
	Small Folkestone Planters	6	Planters	Flower Bed	3 m ²
	FTC Railing Planters	25	Planters	units	25 planters
	Cheriton Railing Planters	10	Planters	units	10 planters
	Hill Road Railing Planters	10	Planters	units	10 planters
	Lucy Avenue	1	New Bed	Flower Bed	63.5 m ²
	The Leas Beds	2	Earls Avenue	Flower Bed	32 m ²
	Canterbury Road	1	Blackbull Rd 1	Flower bed	9 m ²
	Canterbury Road	1	Blackbull Rd 2	Shrubs & bulbs	9 m ²
Annual maintenance cost					

	Maintenance Shedule
£8,137.57	3-4 weeks
£1,784.56	3-4 weeks
£2,141.45	3-4 weeks
£713.83	3-4 weeks
£8,494.48	3-4 weeks
£285.54	3-4 weeks
£214.13	3-4 weeks
£2,810.84	3-4 weeks
£1,124.47	3-4 weeks
£1,124.46	3-4 weeks
£4,532.77	3-4 weeks
£2,284.23	3-4 weeks
£642.43	3-4 weeks
£642.43	3-4 weeks
£34,933.20	

ESTIMATED TOTAL COST EXCLUDING VAT

£45,168.43

This report will be made public on 29th Jan 2025

**Folkestone
Town Council**



REPORT NUMBER CE/25/378

To: Climate and Environment Committee
Date: 4 February 2025
Responsible Officer: Town Clerk
Subject: Play Parks – Fencing at Naseby Avenue

SUMMARY:

The report outlines work required to the fence at Naseby Avenue.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee is asked to approve the recommendations set out below because:

- a) There is healthy amount of Community Infrastructure Levy funds available for fencing to be installed at Naseby Avenue.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To receive and note Report CE/25/378.
2. That the Committee agrees that the work should proceed and recommend the Finance & General Purposes Committee to release Community Infrastructure Levy funds to install fencing at Naseby Avenue.

Aims and Objectives – *Continuing to improve the appearance and quality of the environment in which we live.*

Financial Implications – *Community Infrastructure Levy has available funds of £156,000.*

Equal Opportunities – *Access to all*

1. INTRODUCTION

The area around Naseby Avenue is very open, the Committee is asked to consider erecting timber posts on the park boundary that comply with guidelines provided by RoSPA or conform, where applicable to BS EN 1176-1.

Timber bollards are built to withstand a variety of impacts and would provide protection from Vehicle encroachment. The natural appearance of wooden bollards would complement the recreational area. Plus, due to its anti-rust properties, are effective in all-weather conditions.

Timber bollards can also be very customisable in outdoor settings to suit a specific purpose including adding surface-mounted signage, markings, and reflective lights to provide directional or situational information, legibility and visibility.



2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The total Play Area Maintenance budget is £37,000, after general maintenance (grass cutting and litter picking) there is a remaining budget of £8,571 set aside for repairs, graffiti clearance, and other unforeseen cost. The estimated cost for the above urgent work required is around £5,000. Three quotes have been sought for the cost and the Town Clerk will consider them once they are all received.

After assessing all available budgets, it is recommended by the Finance Officer that the Community Infrastructure Levy funds be utilised as the works required is suitable for the use of the fund. With that in mind;

The Climate and Environment Committee ask that up to £5,000 is vired from the Community Infrastructure Levy reserve, subject to the virement approval by the Finance and General Proposes Committee.