



FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Date of Publication: 29th September 2022

AGENDA

Meeting: **Climate and Environment Committee**
Date: **Thursday 6th October 2022**
Time: **7.15 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 give notice prior to the meeting to the Town Clerk.

J L Childs
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 9th June 2022 and to authorise the Chairman of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

4. PLASTIC FREE FOLKESTONE

As a Member of Plastic Free Folkestone, Councillor Belinda Walker will provide an update on their recent activities and advise of any ways in which FTC can support this worthwhile initiative.

5. PLAY PARKS – TREE REPORT CS/22/318

The C & E Officer will update the Committee on the attached report which has been taken to the Community Services Committee for Members consideration.

6. C & E OFFICER REPORT CE/22/321

The committee is asked to receive, note and consider the recommendations in the attached report.

7. BUDGET 2023/24 – POTENTIAL GROWTH ITEMS

At this juncture the Committee is asked to consider proposals for possible growth items and non-recurring revenue expenditure for climate & environment projects and initiatives for next year. The Finance & General Purposes Committee will consider the full list of proposals put forward by all Committees at its meeting on the 15th December 2022.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9th February 2023 @ 7.15pm

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee meeting held on Thursday, 9th June 2022 at 7pm at the Town Hall.

Present: Councillors Abena Akuffo – Kelly, Ray Field, David Horton and Jackie Meade.

Absent: Councillors Ann Berry, Richard Wallace and Tim Prater

In attendance: Vicky Deakin – Communities & Events Officer

43. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Councillors Danny Brook and Michelle Keutenius were received and approved.

44. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly be appointed as Chairman of the Committee for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

Proposed: Councillor David Horton

Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade

Voting: F:4, Ag:0, Ab:0

45. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Due to the meeting not having full attendance from Members, there were no nominations for Vice Chairman and therefore it was

RESOLVED: That the appointment of a Vice Chairman be deferred to the next meeting.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade

Seconded: Councillor David Horton

Voting: F:4, Ag:0, Ab:0

46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

47. MINUTES

The committee were asked to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate & Environment Committee held on 3rd February 2022 and to authorise the Chairman of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2022 be receive and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade

Seconded: Councillor David Horton

Voting: F:4, Ag:0, Ab:0

48. REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

In line with the Town Council's adopted standing orders, the Committee is asked to consider the terms of reference for the Climate & Environment Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Terms of Reference be re-adopted without any changes and that there be a Plastic Free Folkestone item on every forthcoming agenda to facilitate members of this external body to update the committee on all developments, initiatives and projects relating to this.

Proposed: Councillor David Horton
Seconded: Councillor Jackie Meade
Voting: F:4, Ag:0, Ab:0

49. WORKING GROUPS 2022/23

The Committee were asked to approve nominations for 2022/23 Working Groups.

RESOLVED: To adopt the following working groups and that the C & E Officer write to all Town Councillors inviting them to join any they wish to be a Member of:

Play Parks
Fairtrade (Champions)
Allotment (Ambassador)

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Meade
Seconded: Councillor David Horton
Voting: F:4, Ag:0, Ab:0

50. FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL PLAY PARKS

The 'Folkestone Town Council Play Parks Upgrade' document, inviting contractors to submit tenders to upgrade the eight parks recently adopted by the Town Council, was completed, and published on the public sector contracts finder portal.

The following timetable was agreed:

- 9th May 2022 - ITQ Contract Notice Published & All Documents available electronically
- 16th June 2022 at 12 noon - Tenders returned to Town Clerk (as per Financial Regulations)
- 16th June - Tenders assessed (reported to F&GP)
- 20th June 2022 - Contracts issued (subject to approval of winning tender at F&GP)
- 11th July 2022 - Contract works commence (start on site)

The tender documents have already received some interest and it is hoped that this will result in competitive tenders being received on the 16th June. In line with Financial Regulations, all tenders will be opened by the Town Clerk in the presence of one member. A panel made up of the Town Clerk, the Communities and Grants Officer and a representative from Martello Building Consultants together with the member will score the tenders there and then, the details, excluding contractor names, would be signed off at the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting 16th June 2022. The Committee is asked to nominate a member from the Climate and Environment Committee to attend the opening of the tenders on the 16th June 2022.

Noted

51. COMMUNITIES & EVENTS OFFICER REPORT CE/22/314

The committee were asked to receive, note and approve the recommendations of the report.

RESOLVED:

- That Report CS/22/314 be received and noted.
- To support the C & E Officers application submission to the Fairtrade Foundation for Folkestone to be awarded Fairtrade Town Status.
- To approve the release of £500 from the Local Projects Budget to assist in the delivery of ongoing Fairtrade initiatives in support of FTC's imminent submission of its Fairtrade Town status submission.

Proposed: Councillor Jackie Mead

Seconded: Councillor David Horton

Voting: F:4, Ag:0, Ab:0

52. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Members were updated as to the status of the acquisition of the electric minibus and advised the project is currently postponed due to the inability to procure a vehicle within the grant received because of financial and resource issues caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Noted

53. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6th October 2022 @ 7.00pm

The meeting concluded at 7.20pm.

Chairman

Date

This report will be made
public on 29 Sept 2022

**Folkestone
Town Council**



REPORT NUMBER CS/22/318

To: Community Services Committee
Date: 6 Oct 2022
Responsible Officer: Town Clerk
Subject: Play Parks - Trees

SUMMARY:

The report outlines urgent work required at 3 of Folkestone Town Council Parks.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Additional funds are required for urgent tree work and fence repairs at Firs Lane, Downs Road and Coniston Road Parks.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To receive and note Report CS/22/318.
2. That the Committee agrees that the work should proceed and releases the necessary finance.

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

Financial Implications – Parks, Gardens & Recs – Play Areas has a budget of £35,000.

Equal Opportunities – Access to all

1. INTRODUCTION

The Communities and Grants Officer has received several complaints from local residents that live on the perimeter of Firs Lane, Coniston Road and Downs Road parks. The complaints refer to trees that are overgrown and encroaching on their property. In some of the cases the trees have been allowed to grow out of shape and too large for their location to nearby properties, resulting in falling debris and branches.

There has also been a complaint made from a resident in Dolphins Road, who backs on to the park enquiring about replacement fence panels.

2. CURRENT PROVISION

The Town Council has an annual budget of £35,000 in place for grass and hedge cutting, repairing faults and replacing parts, litter picking and weekly RoSPA checks. This budget is spent in full each year.

Below are the set costs for 2022/23, excluding any repairs required.

<i>Location</i>	<i>Annual grounds maintenance</i>	<i>RoSPA Weekly Checks x 50 weeks</i>	<i>Litter pick x 10 May-Sept (1x every 2 weeks)</i>	<i>Litter pick x 8 Sept-April (1 x per month)</i>	<i>Total Payable (per annum)</i>
Naseby Av	£1,940.00	£750.00	£250.00	£200.00	
George Gurr	£2,625.00	£750.00	£250.00	£200.00	
Firs Lane	£2,000.00	£750.00	£250.00	£200.00	
Downs Road	£2,250.00	£750.00	£250.00	£200.00	
Roman Way	£2,565.00	£1,000.00	£250.00	£200.00	
Southern Way	£2,315.00	£1,000.00	£250.00	£200.00	
Pine Way	£1,940.00	£1,000.00	£250.00	£200.00	
Coniston Road	£2,750.00	£750.00	£250.00	£200.00	
Totals	£18,385.00	£6,750.00	£2,000.00	£1,600.00	£28,735.00

3. TREE WORK REQUIRED

Firs Lane:

Several trees in the park have become out of shape and overly large for their species. The trees that have been identified as needing urgent attention are:

1953	Firs Lane	Alnus cordata	50% reduction
1954	Firs Lane	Alnus cordata	50% reduction
1955	Firs Lane	Betula pendula	Removed
1957	Firs Lane	Fraxinus excelsior	50% reduction
1958	Firs Lane	Alnus cordata	50% reduction
1959	Firs Lane	Fraxinus excelsior	50% reduction

Upon inspection there are also 4 Willow trees that have been previously cut down, due to their proximity to local properties, unfortunately they are sprouting again, these are located between 1958 and 1957.

Coniston Road:

1749	Coniston Road	Betula pendula	25-50% reduction
1750	Coniston Road	Quercus cerris	25-50% reduction
1751	Coniston Road	Acer campestre	25-50% reduction
1752	Coniston Road	Fagus sylvatica	25-50% reduction
1753	Coniston Road	Fraxinus excelsior	25-50% reduction
1760	Coniston Road	Alnus cordata	25-50% reduction
1782	Coniston Road	Betula pendula	25-50% reduction

Trees in Coniston Road park are in generally healthy condition but just need reducing.

Downs Road:

1806	Downs Road	Fraxinus excelsior	Removal
1807	Downs Road	Fraxinus excelsior	Removal
1808	Downs Road	Fraxinus excelsior	Removal
1810	Downs Road	Fraxinus excelsior	Removal
1816	Downs Road	Fraxinus excelsior	Removal
1815	Downs Road	Acer campestre	25% reduction
1818	Downs Road	Acer campestre	25% reduction

There are many Ash trees in Downs Road that unfortunately are not in the best of health, it has been recommended that these trees are removed. The Town Council needs to consider replacements for these trees.

4. REPLACEMENT FENCE PANELS

There are currently 4 fence panels missing from the perimeter fence on Downs Road. The fence is not the only boundary, as there is also a wall at the end of the gardens. We have been quoted to replace the 4 fence panels, it was noted that the remaining fence was in a bad state of repair and this should also be replaced, however, not all the fence is the responsibility of the Town Council and the remainder is the District Council. I have contacted the District Council to inform them of the fence condition.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The remaining Parks and Maintenance budget of £6,265 is set aside for repairs, graffiti clearance, and other unforeseen costs. The estimated cost for the above urgent work required is £10,000.

Although it was suggested that the Tree budget was allocated, there may be a significant underspend, as many of the sites proposed in the draft 2022/23 planting schedule are not viable due to underground services/utilities or being unable to create pits in hard surfaces in the locations specified. It will be recommended to the relevant Committee that this budget is used to provide replacement trees for those that have been removed and the possible planting of additional trees in the park at Naseby Avenue to create a barrier preventing unauthorised vehicles from easily entering the grassed area.

After assessing all available budgets, there is currently £11,600 in the Youth Facilities budget and £3,000 in the Local Projects budget. There are currently no projects planned that require these budgets. With that in mind;

The Parks Working Group requests that the Community Services Committee release £2,000 from the Local Projects budget and £8,000 from the Youth Facilities budget, for the urgent tree work and fence repairs, subject to the virement approval of the Finance and General Proposes Committee.

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY UPDATE - MEMORIAL TREE PLANTING FOR HER MAJESTY

Thursday 15th September 2022

Following the death of Her Majesty The Queen, and the wishes of our Patron, His Majesty The King, The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) initiative will be extended to the end of March 2023 to give people the opportunity to plant trees in memoriam to honour Her Majesty.

As a nationwide initiative created to mark the Platinum Jubilee, The Queen's Green Canopy was due to conclude in December - the end of the Jubilee year. However, as the official tree planting season in the United Kingdom is from October to March, the initiative will now be extended to include this full tree planting season, beginning in October 2022 and concluding in March 2023.

The Queen's Green Canopy is proud to be creating a living legacy with over a million trees planted in Her Majesty's name across the nation during the first planting season, October 2021 to March 2022. The extension of the QGC initiative will build on this legacy and serve as a lasting tribute to Her Majesty's extraordinary service to her country and her people.

The interactive map created by The Queen's Green Canopy to showcase the planting projects across the United Kingdom will also continue to the end of March 2023, giving people an opportunity to be part of this special legacy.

Alongside the inspiring floral tributes being left outside Royal Palaces, people can also gift a tree in memoriam in honour of Her Majesty, with trees to be planted in schools and deprived urban areas across the United Kingdom.

For more information on how to get involved please visit www.queensgreencanopy.org

To gift a tree in honour of Her Majesty please visit www.shop.queensgreencanopy.org/

Please follow our social media channels with these handles and hashtags:

Instagram: @queensgreencanopy

Twitter: @QGCCanopy

Facebook: @queensgreencanopy

LinkedIn: @queensgreencanopy

#queensgreencanopy #treesinmemoriam #thequeen

Further details about tree planting projects in honour of Her Majesty will follow.

Background

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. All across the UK people were invited to "**Plant a tree for the Jubilee**" to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the nation, which will benefit future generations.

With a focus on planting sustainably, everyone is encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees during the official planting season between October to March. Tree planting will commence in October 2022, through to the end of March 2023.

During the first official planting season, from October 2021 to March 2022, the QGC inspired over a million trees to be planted across the United Kingdom. Her Majesty sent a message of thanks for all the trees planted in Her name.

As well as planting new trees, the QGC has dedicated a UK-wide network of 70 Ancient Woodlands and 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

By inviting everyone to plant considerable numbers of new trees throughout the country, the QGC seeks to highlight the significant value of trees and woodlands as nature's simple but highly effective way to clean the air we breathe, slow the impact of climate change, create important wildlife habitats and improve our general health and wellbeing.

- Throughout Her reign, The Queen planted more than 1,500 trees all over the world and spoke alongside Sir David Attenborough of the importance of trees in the Earth's future.
- The QGC is a voluntary and inclusive initiative which is open to participation by everyone in the UK.
- The QGC is a symbolic gift which involves the voluntary dedication of forests and woodland – there is no land/title transfer.
- The QGC is a not-for-profit initiative, which has not received Government funding.

Further information about the QGC is available: www.queensgreencanopy.org

The Queen's Green Canopy Partners

Collaboration is central to the QGC. We are proud to work with **Cool Earth, The Royal Horticultural Society, The Woodland Trust, Trees for Cities, The Forest Canopy Foundation, DEFRA, The Tree Council, The Conservation Volunteers & Community Forest Trust.**

The Queen's Green Canopy – Platinum Supporters

The QGC is grateful to the **Royal Mail Group** as our first Founding Partner. We are also working with Platinum Supporters **Bloomberg Philanthropies, Coutts, John Lewis & Partners, Waitrose & Partners, Rentokil Initial, Coupa, Regatta and Craghoppers, Bridgepoint, Howdens, Johnnie Walker, McDonald's UK & Ireland. Bags of Ethics by Supreme Creations and Bollinger are Official Supporters.**

The Queen's Green Canopy – QGC Friends Network

A diverse collection of groups located across the UK, our Friends Network is supporting the QGC, from planting trees to helping inspire the nation to get involved. <https://queensgreencanopy.org/about-us/qgc-friends-network/>

This report will be made public on 29th September 2022

**Folkestone
Town Council**



REPORT NUMBER CE/22/321

To: Climate & Environment Committee
Date: 6th October 2022
Responsible Officer: Town Clerk
Subject: Communities & Events Officer Report

SUMMARY:

This report provides an update on the delivery and development of services, initiatives and events led by the Communities & Events Officer covering the period from June 2022 to September 2022.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The Town Council is committed to the continual development of its services and events.

To identify what aspects of our Climate & Environmental responsibilities within Folkestone Town Council require priority delivery, and to consider the provision of additional services to develop existing initiatives. Therefore, there is a need to show evidence of current provision and those to be considered for the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. To receive and note Report CE/22/321**
- 2. To approve the release of £20,000 from the Parks, Gardens & Recs Trees Budget to deliver the 2022 / 23 FTC Tree Planting Schedule.**

Aims and Objectives – *To enhance the current services to the community*
Financial Implications – *Services Budget 2022/23 £106,350*
Equal Opportunities – *Access to all*

1. INTRODUCTION

The intent of this report is to summarise the development and delivery of projects, initiatives and events between June 2022 and September 2022.

2. FAIRTRADE TOWN STATUS FOR FOLKESTONE – www.fairtrade.org.uk

- 2.1 The Communities and Events Officer will update the Committee in respect of the current situation regarding Folkestone Town Council's application submission.
- 2.2 FTC continue to focus on raising further awareness of the Fairtrade Foundation aims and objectives and are hosting information stands at various upcoming local events (further information will be published on our website and social media pages as dates / times are confirmed).
- 2.3 The Town Hall Fairtrade product display consistently generates public questions and interest in the Fairtrade message.

3. TREE PLANTING 2022 / 23

- 3.1 The Communities and Events Officer will update the Committee regarding this year's tree planting schedule further to the Tree Working Group meeting on Thursday 29th September with significant work being carried out by and, support and feedback from Members.
- 3.2 All Town Councillors have been invited to nominate sites in their respective Wards to facilitate equal coverage across Folkestone.
- 3.3 Following the death of Her Majesty The Queen, and the wishes of His Majesty The King, The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) initiative will be extended to the end of March 2023 to give people the opportunity to plant trees in memoriam to honour Her Majesty (further information attached).
- 3.4 As such, I will re-engage with schools, youth and faith groups, local businesses and other organisations, again asking if they wish to be involved with this project in providing green spaces for planting tree at their respective sites.
- 3.3 Members views and details of suggested planting sites are again sought.

4. LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

- 4.1 The C & E Officer will brief the committee in respect of local projects currently being considered for support by FTC including:
 - Sunshine House - Repair Café
 - Sunshine House - Kintsugi Art
 - Police Surgeries
 - Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)