

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL



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AGENDA

Meeting: **Climate and Environment Committee**
Date: **Tuesday 3rd October 2023**
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 give notice prior to the meeting to the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

Stephen Nash

Mr Stephen Nash
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 6th June 2023 and to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

4. **CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**
The Committee are asked to consider merging with the Community Services Committee and Best Practice Terms of Reference being created whilst determining the working practices of the future. Any changes the Committee wishes to make must be approved by Full Council at a future meeting.
5. **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. Any changes which the Committee wishes to make must be approved by Full Council at a future meeting. The current version is attached.
6. **COMMUNITIES & EVENTS OFFICER REPORT CS/23/346**
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 14th December 2023.
9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
6th February 2024 at 7.00pm

Councillors on Committee

Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Councillor Charles Bain Smith
Councillor Jane Darling
Councillor Kieran Leigh
Councillor Jackie Meade
Councillor Lucy McGirr
Councillor Liz McShane
Councillor John Renshaw
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, 6th June 2023 at the Town Hall at 7pm.

Present: Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Charles Bain-Smith, Jane Darling, Kieran Leigh, Lucy McGirr, Liz McShane, John Renshaw and Roger West.

In attendance: Steve Nash – Town Clerk and Vicky Deakin – Communities & Events Officer

69. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors were asked to receive apologies from Councillor Jackie Meade (due to attendance at a District Meeting).

RESOLVED: To accept Councillor Jackie Meade's apologies.

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Seconded: Councillor Charles Bain-Smith

70. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED: That Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly be appointed as Chair of the Committee for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Jane Darling

71. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Lucy McGirr be appointed as Vice Chair of the Committee for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw

Seconded: Councillor Kieran Leigh

72. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

73. MINUTES

The Committee was asked to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate & Environment Committee held on 4th April 2023 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 April 2023 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly

Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr

74. REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

In line with the Town Council's adopted Standing Orders, the Committee was asked to consider the Terms of Reference for the Climate & Environment Committee. Any changes which the Committee wishes to make must be approved by Full Council at a future meeting. The current version is attached.

RESOLVED: That further to the Town Clerk's recommendation for a full review, this item be deferred to the next meeting.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Kieran Leigh

75. WORKING GROUPS 2023/24

The Committee was asked to consider whether any Working Groups are necessary and if so, approve nominations for membership for 2023/24.

RESOLVED: That the following Working Groups and Memberships be approved:

Fairtrade: Cllrs Akuffo-Kelly, Darling, McShane and Meade.

Trees: Cllrs Chapman, Darling, Lockwood and Walker.

Parks & Open Spaces: Membership to be agreed.

Allotments: Membership to be agreed.

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Seconded: Councillor Liz McShane

76. TREE PLANTING 2023/24

Members were asked to review the draft tree planting schedule and agree which of the detailed hard sites it wished to approve for tree planting. The Communities & Events Officer provided more details, including an explanation of costings at the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- i) **That £15,000 be released from the Tree Planting budget subject to species identification for each site (where practicable) from KCC and an equal distribution as possible between all Wards.**

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw

Seconded: Councillor Kieran Leigh

- ii) **That a Tree Working Group be set up and all Councillors invited to become a Member.**

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr

77. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 3rd October 2023 at 7pm

The meeting concluded at 7.45pm.

Chairman

Date

This report will be made public on 26th September 2023

**Folkestone
Town Council**



REPORT NUMBER CE/23/346

To: Climate & Environment Committee
Date: 3rd October 2023
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 April 2023 to October 2023.

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/23/346
2. That the current remaining tree planting budget of £4,891 be vired to General Reserves and that only associated grant funding obtained externally be applied to future plantings.
3. That sponsorship of F & HDC owned flower and shrub beds ceases immediately and that the existing FTC allocated budget of £33,264 is vired to General Reserves for the purpose of purchasing equipment and plants to maintain FTC planters.

Aims and Objectives – *To enhance the current services to the community*
Financial Implications – *Services Budget 2023/24 £99,300*
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 April and October 2023.

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

- 2.1 Folkestone Town Council celebrates becoming a Fairtrade Community on 2nd August 2023.
- 2.2 This milestone and significant achievement in attaining Fairtrade status for the town is down to the hard work and commitment of FTC Officers, Councillors and external partners & stakeholders to champion Fairtrade and the rights of farmers in developing nations.
- 2.3 Folkestone Town Council has achieved mobilisation of cafes / restaurants to serve Fairtrade tea and coffee, retailers to sell Fairtrade-certified products, held events and ran campaigns and achieved impactful media coverage.
- 2.4 Farmers around the world face many challenges ranging from unfair trading practices to poverty and climate change. Fairtrade has paved a way for fairer, ethical trading. Currently it works with 1.66 million farmers and workers in poorest nations to enable them to earn a sustainable income and the Fairtrade Premium that they can invest in community, business and environmental projects.
- 2.5 In a Press Release, the C & E Officer, said “We are very proud of our Fairtrade Town status and our commitment to the values of the movement: fairness, justice and empathy. This fantastic milestone is a collective achievement and reflects the continued support of local campaigners, businesses, retailers and community groups. We have some exciting plans and today Folkestone Town Council invite local residents to get involved to help drive change for the farmers who need our support most.”
- 2.6 The C & E officer is seeking to organise a photo call to be attended by FTC Councillors and is currently communicating with local press and media regarding arrangements. An update will be provided at the Committee meeting.
- 2.7 The Fairtrade Town campaign started in 2001 in Garstang, Lancashire, to promote Fairtrade-certified goods in the town. The Fairtrade network currently includes over 600 Fairtrade Communities in the UK, and over 2,000 worldwide.
- 2.8 The Fairtrade Foundation is an independent certification body which licenses the use of the FAIRTRADE Mark on products which meet international Fairtrade standards. This independent consumer label appears on products to show that disadvantaged producers are getting a better deal from trade. Today, more than 1.66 million people – farmers and workers – in 1,411 producer organisations across the Fairtrade system.

- 2.9 Over 6,000 products have been licensed to carry the FAIRTRADE Mark including coffee, tea, herbal teas, chocolate, cocoa, sugar, bananas, grapes, pineapples, mangoes, grapefruit, lemons, oranges, satsumas, lychees, coconuts, dried fruit, juices, smoothies, biscuits, cakes & snacks, honey, jams & preserves, chutney & sauces, rice, quinoa, herbs & spices, seeds, nuts & nut oil, wines, rum, confectionary, muesli, cereal bars, yoghurt, ice-cream, flowers, sports balls, sugar body scrub and cotton products including clothing, homeware, cloth toys, cotton wool, olive oil, gold, silver and platinum.

3. TREE PLANTING 2023 / 24

- 3.1 The Communities and Events Officer will update Members at the October Committee meeting regarding the 2023 / 24 tree planting schedule.
- 3.2 External funding is available for various tree planting projects from multiple sources including the Urban Tree Challenge Fund, the Local Authority Treescapes Fund and the Tree Council.
- 3.3 The Communities & Grants Officer is currently drafting a grant application to be submitted to the Tree Council.
- 3.4 This is a small fund and FTC are eligible to apply for up to £2,500. The Communities & Events Officer will update Members at the October Committee meeting in this respect.
- 3.5 FTC are currently advertising for two Grounds Maintenance Officers who, once appointments have been made will, as part of their varied responsibilities, undertake tree planting and maintenance on FTC assets.

4. F & HDC SPONSORED FLOWER AND SHRUB BEDS 2023 /24

- 4.1 FTC have been sponsoring the F & HDC flower & shrub bed assets in the Folkestone area for over ten years and as such, have significantly enhanced their appearance and development during this time.
- 4.2 FTC own the following planters in Folkestone and Cheriton:
- 6No x Large Folkestone Planters (Two O/S Town Hall, Two on Rendezvous St, Two on Bouverie Road West)
 - 6No x Small Folkestone Planters (adjacent to the Leas Cliff Hall)
 - 25No x FTC Railings Planters (Castle Hill Avenue)
 - 10No x Cheriton Railing Planters (Cheriton Road / Cheriton High St)
 - 10No x Hill Road Railing Planters
- 4.3 Once appointed, FTC two Grounds Maintenance Officers will take responsibility for planting and maintaining our planters.

5. LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

- 5.1 The C & E Officer will brief the committee in respect of local projects currently being considered for support by FTC.



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE – 9 MEMBERS

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To exercise the powers and duties of the Town Council on the following highways and transportation matters:
 - a) Cycling and cycle ways
 - b) Community transport
 - c) Public rights of way, footpaths and bridleways
2. To exercise the powers and duties of the Town Council on the physical environment of the town, including:
 - a) Management of open spaces and common land
 - b) Public Parks, Gardens (inc. Community Gardens), Recreation and Pleasure Grounds (inc. Tree Planting and Flowerbeds with associated carbon emission compensation strategies)
 - c) Provision of play equipment, sports and recreation facilities
 - d) Allotments (inc. biodiversity development plan and establishment of 'bug hotels')
 - e) Engagement with Allotments Associations
 - f) Implementation and monitoring of the council's action plan for becoming carbon neutral by 2030
 - g) Climate & Environment Communications with Community Partnership Working
 - h) Plastic Free Folkestone
 - i) Folkestone Fairtrade Status
3. To consider and make recommendations on:
 - a) Support for projects and organisations in Folkestone which aim to: promote biodiversity and wildlife, improve air quality, support renewable energy generation
 - b) Litter Management (via schemes such as 'Keep Folkestone Beautiful Campaign')
 - c) Climate Change / Action Plan and Carbon Reduction Strategy
 - d) Youth facilities
4. To prepare budgetary forecasts, where necessary, on any of the above activities for inclusion in the Town Council's budget for the following financial year and submit these to the Finance and General Purposes Committee in the Autumn to calculate the precept for the ensuing year.
5. To consider and make recommendations to the Council on any changes to these terms of reference that might be required to enable the committee to adapt to changing circumstances and be better prepared to carry out its mission.

