

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL



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CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

Meeting: Climate and Environment Committee
Date: 4 February 2026
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 7 October 2025 and to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

4. GREEN GRANT AWARD UPDATE

The Committee is asked to receive and note Report CE/26/409, which provides an update on how the Green Grant Award is being allocated.

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 Annual Maintenance, Summer & Winter Bedding Costs) and if so, at what level – FTC's current allotted budget is £25,000.

6. TREE PLANTING

The C & E Officer is currently organising a Tree Working Group meeting to be held on Wednesday 26 February (date tbc) 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. SOUTHERN WATER ANNUAL BATHING WATER REPORT

The Committee is asked to receive and note information in the attached report.

8. CIL CONSULTATION

The public consultation inviting residents, community groups and local businesses to share their views on how Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding should be allocated has now concluded. Items relating to climate and environment are highlighted in green on the attached document for consideration by the C&E Committee.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7 April 2026 at 7.00pm

Councillors on Committee

Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Councillor Charles Bain Smith
Councillor Laura Davison
Councillor Nicola Keen
Councillor Kieran Leigh
Councillor Lucy McGirr
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 7 October 2025 at the Town Hall at 7pm.

Present: Councillors Nicola Keen, Kieran Leigh, Roger West, John Renshaw, Belinda Walker, Lucy McGirr, Laura Davison and Abena Akuffo-Kelly (Arrived at 19.09pm).

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

Apologies: Councillors Kieran Leigh and Lucy McGirr

161. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors were asked to receive apologies from Councillors Kieran Leigh and Lucy McGirr.

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies from Councillors Kieran Leigh and Lucy McGirr

Proposed: Councillor Nicola Keen

Seconded: Councillor Roger West

Voting: F:7, Ag:0, Ab:0

162. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

163. MINUTES

The Committee was asked to receive the Minutes of the Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Climate & Environment Committee held on 24 July 2025 and to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting held on 24 July 2025 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Roger West

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

Voting: F:7, Ag:0, Ab:0

Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly arrived at this juncture.

164. FAIRTRADE

The Committee's views were sought in respect of suggested priority actions for the Fairtrade Steering Group's required actions and initiatives, in order to ensure the retention of Folkestone's Fairtrade Community status accreditation.

RESOLVED: That the Communities & Events Officer and Town Councillors encourage schools, youth groups, faith and community groups to become further involved to continue to raise awareness for the Fairtrade programme.

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw
Seconded: Councillor Roger West
Voting: F:8, Ag:0, Ab:0

165. ALLOTMENT RULE CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

Following consultation with the Allotment Associations, the Committee was asked to consider the suggested rule changes and amendments in the document attached to the Agenda.

RESOLVED: That the amended allotment rules be approved and adopted subject to the additional changes as follows:

- 2.7** *Remove sentence – However, the other person can make a representation to the Council, before the tenant vacates the plot, seeking the Council's agreement to take over the tenancy.*
- 3.4** *iv) make 'butt' plural
ix)a) remove 'annually'
ix)b) add water butts 'from taps'
Add – Tenants must make it their own responsibility on how they use water, given it is untreated.*

Proposed: Councillor Laura Davison
Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen
Voting: F:8, Ag:0, Ab:0

166. RECYCLING OLD IT EQUIPMENT VIA I.T. PROVIDERS INITIATIVE – REPORT CE/25/397

The Committee was asked to receive, note and consider the recommendations in Report CE/25/397.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To receive and note report CE/25/397**
- 2) That the Committee support the release of obsolete computer equipment through the current IT provider's initiative, Tools With A Mission (TWAM).**

Proposed: Councillor Roger West
Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker
Voting: F:8, Ag:0, Ab:0

167. PLAY PARKS – PARK IMPROVEMENTS REPORT CE/25/398

The Committee was asked to receive and note Report CE/25/398.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To receive and note report CE/25/398**
- 2) That the Committee received and noted the play designs in the report.**

Proposed: Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Seconded: Councillor Roger West
Voting: F:8, Ag:0, Ab:0

168. BUDGET 2026/27 - POTENTIAL GROWTH ITEMS

The Committee was asked to consider proposals for possible growth items and non-recurring revenue expenditure for Climate & Environment projects and initiatives for next year, with any proposal to be put forward for consideration to the Finance & General Purposes Committee at its Meeting of 23 October 2025.

After Members debate and consideration, it was concluded that no growth items or non-recurring revenue expenditure are required.

169. WATER QUALITY MONITORING AT FOLKESTONE'S BEACHES

The Committee was updated in respect of the findings from the research into the implications and requirements for FTC to commence a water testing programme, and the feasibility of continuing to deliver this initiative.

RESOLVED: That the progression of delivering a water testing initiative cease.

Proposed: Councillor Lucy Davison

Seconded: Councillor Nicola Keen

Voting: F:8, Ag:0, Ab:0

170. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 3 February 2026 at 7pm

The meeting concluded at 7.40pm.

Chair

Date

This report will be made
public on 27 January 2026

**Folkestone
Town Council**



REPORT NUMBER CE/26/409

To: Climate and Environment Committee
Date: 3 February 2026
Responsible Officer: Town Clerk
Status: Public Report
Subject: Green Grant Award Update

SUMMARY:

In Feb 2025 Folkestone and Hythe District Council launched the Green Grant Scheme, to allow local organisations funds to enhance green spaces and local wildlife.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. To receive and note Report CE/26/409.**

*Aims and Objectives – Creating a Better Environment for Folkestone and Climate Action
Aim 3.3 Increase Carbon Capture through tree planting and land management*

Financial Implications –£10,000 Green Grant Award from F&HDC.

Environmental Impact – The environmental impact has been considered in the preparation of all budgets.

Equal Opportunities – Access to all

INTRODUCTION

Since 2007 the Town Council has been committed to replacing trees that have been removed in the town because they were diseased, dead or dying. The Town Council has worked in partnership with Kent County Council to help replace the street trees. The Town Council applied for the Green Grant to help build on this commitment and work to replace the parks trees that have needed to be removed.

The benefits of the trees we have planted over the years have been submitted and monitored on Treezilla and the results of the past few years are below: Avoided Runoff 126 m³/year Carbon Dioxide Stored 103,545 kg to date Carbon Dioxide Removed 3,915 kg/year Water Intercepted 769 m³/year Air Quality Improved 12,403 g/year.

In 2020 when the Town Council adopted its eight parks, it also adopted a number of trees within the parks. Some of trees have unfortunately suffered terribly from disease and were required to be removed in 2023.

TREE WORKS PROPOSED

The Town Council's bid for a green Grant was successful and was awarded a sum of £10,000 in October 2025.

Using these funds a tree survey was conducted in November 2025 in the parks and has highlighted number of areas that tree work is required and if further trees can be planted.

Quotes have been sought for the following:

- Tree works, as outlined in the report
- Recommending trees to be planted and locations within the 6 parks (Coniston, Firs, Downs, Southern, Pine, Nasby)
- Sourcing and planting trees, including suitable native species
- Aftercare for up to 2 years (watering)

The Communities and Events Officer has a working list of ongoing tree planting list for Street trees. There is currently funds of £14,205 available in the 2025/26 budget for the provision of street trees.

Once quotes have been obtained for both schemes a decision on how the funds are split will be made.

SDC Annual Maintenance, Summer and Winter Bedding Costs 2026/ 2027

BED	LOCATION	No	SITE	OPERATION	AREA M ²
	Bruce Porter Gardens	1	East Cliff	Shrubs	10 m ²
	Tontine 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		

***This does not include the cost of replacement planting, this would be at extra 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					
ESTIMATED TOTAL COST EXCLUDING VAT					

MAINT COST 2026-2027	Maintenance Shedule
£274.54	quaterly
£1,647.28	quaterly
£274.54	quaterly
£823.63	quaterly
£3,184.71	quaterly
£631.45	quaterly
£686.16	quaterly
£3,019.98	quaterly
£10,542.29	

	Maintenance Shedule
£8,381.70	3-4 weeks
£1,838.10	3-4 weeks
£2,205.70	3-4 weeks
£735.25	3-4 weeks
£8,749.32	3-4 weeks
£294.10	3-4 weeks
£220.56	3-4 weeks
£2,895.16	3-4 weeks
£1,158.20	3-4 weeks
£1,158.20	3-4 weeks
n/a	3-4 weeks
£2,352.76	3-4 weeks
£661.70	3-4 weeks
£661.70	3-4 weeks
£31,312.44	
£41,854.73	



Dear Toni,

Further to the announcement of the Environment Agency's bathing water classifications for 2025 yesterday, I am pleased to share our annual [Bathing Water Report](#).

This report explains how we've been playing our part in improving bathing waters across our region alongside our partners. **89% of our bathing waters are now classified as Good or Excellent**, up from 84% last year.

The work we've been doing includes:

- Increasing the size of our Illegal Connections Team, and rectifying illegal connections where we find them
- Making sure our sewers are resilient
- Conducting pre-season health checks on our sites
- Improving how we treat wastewater
- Working closely with our partners to find and fix issues and increase awareness of the multiple factors which affect bathing water quality

To read the report, click [here](#). I hope that you will find it informative, and please feel free to share it with your networks.

For the second year running we also hosted a special webinar on the science behind bathing water quality. [You can watch this seminar here now](#).

This session brought together independent academic researchers and Environment Agency experts to explain what drives bathing-water contamination, how it's measured, and what practical actions reduce risk. Speakers included:

- Dr Cathy Pond, of University of Surrey — a World Health Organisation (WHO) collaborator and lead on a South Coast sources project
- Julie Kinzelman, public-health laboratory director in the USA — sharing Great Lakes case studies on source investigation and interventions
- Andy Rogers, of Environment Agency — providing national water-quality planning and regulatory context
- Ian Dunhill, of Environment Agency — offering operational perspective on monitoring, indicators and interventions.

The core themes explored were:

- Why bathing-water quality is shaped by multiple, interacting sources: sewage and storm overflows, agricultural runoff, wildlife, illegal connections, sediment and algal mats
- The limits of routine microbiological sampling (E. coli, enterococci): retrospective lab lag and hourly variability
- How a systems approach (sanitary surveys, observational data, targeted molecular tests, community profiling) pinpoints dominant sources and measures intervention effectiveness
- Practical interventions that work: stormwater retrofit (constructed wetlands), fixing illegal connections, bird management and targeted beach maintenance
- The role of collaboration across agencies, water companies, local authorities, researchers and citizen scientists.

Again, I hope you find this a useful and informative session to help you to understand the many factors which affect bathing water quality.

If you have any questions about Southern Water's role in bathing water quality, please let us know.

Yours sincerely,

Archie Macleod
Senior Public Affairs Manager



Southern Water, Southern House, Yeoman Road, Worthing BN13 3NX
[southernwater.co.uk](https://www.southernwater.co.uk)

	Your Recommendation	How Will This Benefit The Community?	Are You A Local Resident?
Play Parks	Improvements to the very run down playground in the warren by east cliff	It is a beautiful area with a lot if [sic] families nearby, and would encourage more people to utilise the green space away y [sic] the town centres	Yes
	I recommend expanding and updating the warren play park on wear bay road. Some of the main structure is unsafe, and is at the end of its useable life.	Many families who live between wear bay road and tram road regularly visit this play area, as well as children at the local primary schools. Families who cannot easily access the beach or walk further to another play area rely on the play park here, which had become unfit for purpose. A larger, destination playground would create a sense of community for this area.	Yes
	Develop the play park on the bottom left of Wear Bay Road. Create an outdoor play area that can be accessed without crossing dangerous roads from Hollands Avenue. A skate ramp would be great.	Healthy activity for mind and body. Help parents meet each other. The exisiting play equipment is tiny and poorly made. There is a great need and lots of space.	Yes
	A lot of playgrounds in the area, but once kids are 10+ or adults there ain't enough areas for them to play outdoors so please install some proper multipurpose outdoor sport facilities: e.g. outdoor gyms, football & basketball hard surface and not grass/mud as at the newest playground at near Tower Theatre. Many more ideas, thank you.		Yes
	Provide a new/improved swimming pool & leisure centre	Resonably priced access to learning to swim & other sports	Yes

Sports Centre	This money would be well spent on re-opening the sports centre. Having been a member for many years it is missed as it was affordable	Health, social meeting others on a regular basis. Employment for people. Schools & children/people learning to swim. Living by the sea it is essential	Yes
Skate Ramp	Develop the play park on the bottom left of Wear Bay Road. Create an outdoor play area that can be accessed without crossing dangerous roads from Hollands Avenue. A skate ramp would be great.	Healthy activity for mind and body. Help parents meet each other. The existing play equipment is tiny and poorly made. There is a great need and lots of space.	Yes
	A skateboard halfpipe ramp to be built near East Cliff Sports on Jocks Pitch. It could be a simple, off-the-shelf half pipe, built from weather resistant materials. Easy to install and maintain.	Skateboarding is a fantastic pursuit for children and adults alike. The past few years has seen an explosion in popularity, especially among pre-teens who particularly need free and safe places to learn and practice. At present the nearest free outdoor facilities are in Hythe and Dover. F51 skatepark is a great park but prohibitively expensive for many, and lacks the appeal of outdoor skating, especially for younger skaters. Through the summer months this would be a fantastic resource for the young especially, at a very economic outlay. Lots of skaters in Folkestone currently congregate on the Leas, in car parks, and around the town centre. Having an open, dedicated place to meet friends and practice would be a wonderful benefit to the young in the area. Locating it near the fantastic East Cliff Sports facilities would be a great chance to encourage intergenerational socialising too. I have witnessed youngsters practicing in their driveways on Wear Bay Road and often think it would be great if they had somewhere dedicated to help them progress!	Yes

Trees	To replant trees of some sort along the length of Shaftesbury Avenue, like there were years ago, when I first was brought here by my parents to live (1969). This is an Avenue, and as such by its name means it should have trees planted.	It would benefit the climate and would look lovely and make the avenue look very nice and attractive. The only downside of it would be in Autumn when leaves drop - but wouldn't this create extra jobs for people?	Yes (for the time being. I might be moving)
	Plant more trees in Cheriton	This will benefit everyone	Yes
	Improve local facilities: community centres, play areas, libraries, parks	It will help all of the community	Yes
	<p>1. I'd really like to see some of the funding go towards green and blue infrastructure in the town centre.</p> <p>2. Alternatively, I'd love to see investment in local schools to help teach children about the value of managing and re-using rainwater. This could include installing small SuDS planters, rainwater harvesting systems, or even clear demonstration pipes</p>	<p>1. Many streets in Folkestone are wide, which creates great opportunities to introduce sustainable features that reduce flood risk, improve habitat, and bring wider environmental benefits.</p> <p>2. So children can see how rainwater moves and understand the benefits of using it more sustainably.</p>	Yes

<p>Community Projects</p>	<p>I have a recommendation for the CIL funds (as mentioned in the town council magazine) - I would like to suggest that the green space beyond Jocks Pitch (alongside the road into the Warren) and the enclosed/gated triangle of land opposite be turned into a community meadow and food growing space, developed on forest gardening principles. The area could have a focus on semi-wild and self-sustaining crops that enhance biodiversity in this underused green space, and bring people together with nature through having integrated seating and meeting areas, and being used as a space to run courses on growing and wellbeing. It could link to the Geopark proposal, the Community Fridge, amongst other local food growing/sustainability networks.</p>	<p>With the loss of the Locavore Garden last year, this would be a great asset to the East Cliff area and there is already a team of skilled people who could support the realisation of the idea, which has emerged from an artist community climate breakfast held during the Triennial.</p>	<p><i>Not Supplied</i></p>
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	<p>I am the grandmother of a ten-year-old with a physical disability, and our family has visited Folkestone for many years. Sadly, Sunny Sands beach is currently inaccessible to him. He cannot be carried safely across the sand, and his powered wheelchair cannot operate on this surface, excluding him from activities enjoyed by his siblings. Other coastal areas provide specialist beach wheelchairs that travel on sand and enter the water, enabling disabled visitors to participate fully. Introducing these at Sunny Sands would greatly improve accessibility, inclusion, and the visitor experience for families and the community</p>	<p>Improved Accessibility. Inclusive Participation. Enhanced Visitor Experience. Social Inclusion. Community Reputation. Tourism Appeal. Demonstrates commitment to diversity and accessibility. Health and Wellbeing.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p>Maps of Folkestone Project</p>	<p>The New Folkestone Society - Maps of Folkestone Project. Abraham Walter's Book of Maps of the Folkestone area 1699 In colour, which was in a dilapidated condition, has been conserved and stabilised. A facsimile of the book as it would have been when newly drawn, will be made to be housed in Folkestone, for hands on experience. Funding will assist with this. John Powells 12 maps of Folkestone in 1782 indexes – to be digitised. Haynes plans of Folkestone area 1798 – with indexes - to be digitised. Training on special software - teamwork involved -All generations will see how their town has evolved over the centuries and how it was before the coming of the railway.</p>	<p>These maps are educational. People will have access to their heritage, many are unaware how Folkestone has developed over the centuries before the railway came. People will see who lived in what properties, what they were used for: businesses, the workhouse, the theatre, horse transport or by foot. Social history peeks out at us. They are full of information. The 1798 maps are a record of the surrounding lands, what was grown, the acreage, who owned it. People will learn there were reed beds that saffron was grown, people rented gardens if they were lucky. learn where the courts were held. They will be available on line for Research.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
	<p>Funding to be put towards the New Folkestone Society Map project. The 1698 reduced version of the restored maps showing the topography, land use and layout of Folkestone is planned to be made available to the people of Folkestone for the first time as a facsimile book. Furthermore there are plans for the map to be digitised, as well as the 1782 and 1798 map</p>	<p>This is important, previously hidden, heritage for the people of Folkestone which needs sharing widely. Viewing these maps brings to light Folkestone before the railway ,giving the local community an insight into how the town has developed. An example being the Pent Stream mainly hidden from view nowadays; viewing the map shows the stream flowing down what is now Tontine Street. People will discover where they can still see where the castle walls were, workshops are planned where young people will develop the skills to try to solve the puzzle of Shouters Field. This type of heritage will bring the community together , its not about looking back but helping communities understand the now and foster a sense of belonging</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Cemetery	<p>The Old Cemetery by Morrisons could be spruced up with a little aid from the Town Council. A litter bin by its east / town end gate and another at the bus stop by the pelican crossing would be useful. A weekly visit by a “town sprucer” and community officer could also help. Funding for three grass strims a year and a clear of grass cuttings would encourage many kinds of wildflower to return. Butterflies, bees and insects would increase and wagtails and other small birds benefit. There would still be room for long grass and wilder patches around the area’s edges.</p>	<p>A neater appearance would make the area look safer and more attractive. Even more people would stroll through benefitting from the greenery, open air and exercise. The history of our town is on shown there and it could be a valuable history and nature resource. Those regular foreign visitors, looking for family relatives, may well base themselves in Folkestone, and their internet posts attract others.</p>	Yes
Christmas Lights	<p>Provide new xmas lights for Folkestone and Cheriton bringing more to the town</p>	<p>Less complaints better festive being happy faces but all the work you've done is great</p>	Yes
Pavillion at Aldridge Road	<p>The Pavilion at Aldridge Road: Use as social venue: Table Tennis Club. Car Park only mostly used at weekend. Install basketball hoop similar dual use of car park as in Etchinghill Village Hall. Many more ideas, thank you.</p>		Yes