



WALMER TOWN COUNCIL

62 The Strand, Walmer, Deal, Kent, CT14 7DP

Tel: 01304 362363

Web site: www.walmercouncil.co.uk E-mail: clerk@walmercouncil.co.uk

Dated this 7th day of May 2022

To: Councillors: J Lonsdale, P St Ange, M Eddy, D Thompson, S Fisher & S Le Chevalier

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Climate Emergency Working Group to be held on **Thursday May 12th** at 7.30pm via Zoom to transact the business shown on the agenda below.

Join Zoom Meeting:-

Topic: CEWG

Time: May 12, 2022 07:30 PM London

Link:-

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84480552214?pwd=WE9iYSs4U0lYMVprbnhEYWU4MjA3UT09>

Meeting ID: 844 8055 2214

Passcode: 541513

Dial in phone number +44 208 080 6592 United Kingdom

If you experience technical difficulties immediately prior to or during the meeting please call for assistance, on 07814267506 and we will try assist you in gaining access.

Cllr John Lonsdale

Copy to Richard Styles, Clerk, Cllr M Eddy – Chairman

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5th April 2022

Attach 1

4. PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

Transport

- **EV charging points**

-Verbal update from Cllr Lonsdale on monthly usage, and possible signage options to increase use.

Attach 2

-To note the email response from Cllr Vinson of DDC regarding the future of charging points in Walmer, and response from Cllr Lonsdale.

Attach 3

- **Electric Buses/ potential Section 106 funds**

To note email from Cllr Lonsdale to Ashley Taylor at DDC regarding need for CIL rather than S106 contributions from developers.

Attach 4

- **Cycle storage at Walmer Station:**

Verbal update from Cllr Lonsdale on latest from Southeastern on the cycle hub installation plan

Biodiversity

- **Biodiversity on DDC land**

Update from Cllr Le Chevalier regarding the DDC land around Borrow Pit car park

- **Urban Nature Reserves:**

-Update to be relayed from Clerk on progress with Kent Wildlife Trust surveys for 3 potential sites.

-To discuss Queen Elizabeth Peace Garden proposal from Cllr Fisher.

Attach 5

- **Walmer Beachfront**

-Update to be relayed from Clerk on discussions with DDC and English Heritage about creating a UNR on Walmer Beach.

-Update from Cllr St Ange regarding contact with the White Cliffs Partnership, authors of the 2014 Draft Management Plan.

- **Free trees for residents:**

Verbal report from Cllr Lonsdale on contact made with East Kent Climate Action Group regarding sourcing saplings for a potential scheme.

- **Beebombs for residents:**

Deputy Clerk's update to be relayed to Councillors.

- **Bee bricks**

Cllr Le Chevalier verbal update

- **Nature boxes**

Verbal update from Cllr Lonsdale regarding whether the Nature Box scheme - which includes bird boxes, wildflower seeds, insect houses and bird feeders – can be supported or may be eligible for the new WTC Green Grant.

<https://naturebox.co.uk/>

62 The Strand, new WTC office, sustainability retrofit

Clerk's update to be relayed to Councillors.

Outside projects

- **Trim Trail:**

Clerk's update to be relayed to Councillors.

- **Thermal Loss Heat Camera scheme:**

The scheme is currently on hold until Autumn when the weather gets colder, necessary for accurate readings.

5. ANY OTHER QUESTIONS OR OBSERVATIONS.

- **New WTC Green Grant**

As attached, this outline proposal was passed by Full Council on May 4th. To discuss further detail on how this grant may run.

Attach 6

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed – proposed **Wednesday June 22nd @ 1930** via Zoom



WALMER TOWN COUNCIL
8 The Strand, Walmer, Deal, Kent, CT14 7DY

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Web site: www.walmercouncil.co.uk E-mail: clerk@walmercouncil.co.uk

Report of the Climate Emergency Working Group Meeting

Held 5th April 2022 Via Zoom

Present Cllrs J Lonsdale (Chair, taking notes), M Eddy, Cllr Mrs S Fisher, Cllr P St Ange

Apologies Cllr D Thompson, Cllr Mrs S Le Chevalier

Minutes of the Meeting 3rd March - Agreed as accurate

Matters Arising not covered elsewhere – none

Priorities and Actions

Transport

-EV Charging Points

Latest use of WTC charge points Canada Rd:-

	Sessions	Average Session Duration (minutes)	Energy (kWh)
Mar-22	50	194	557

JL has written to DDC Cllr Chris Vinson and Climate Officer Amanda Martin regarding the lack of on-street EV charge points in Walmer. Awaiting a response.

-Electric Buses/106 Funds.

JL still to reply to DDC's Ashley Taylor email received. Need for CIL not S106 to allow for wider climate measures to be taken. Noted.

-Cycle storage at Walmer Railway Station

WTC contribution to the successful application will be paid in the upcoming financial year.
Southeastern contact still says the scheme is intended to be complete by the end of 2022. Noted.

Biodiversity

-Borrow Pit Car Park

Update from Cllr Le Chevalier regarding the DDC land around Borrow Pit car park – deferred.

-Urban Nature Reserves:

Discussed possibilities regarding three potential sites within Walmer and next steps. Various reports noted. Cllr Fisher's new report supported. Unanimous support for Kent Wildlife Trust to carry out three base site surveys and collate planting and management reports.

-Walmer Beachfront

Discussed Clerk's approach to maintaining nature along the southern Walmer seafront, based on a recently re-discovered draft management plan.

Report excellent, DDC should have supported it. Instead local councils should take it up, an opportunity for WTC and Kingsdown and Ringwould Parish Council to work together. Walmer beachfront should be better taken care of, the space should be recognized and respected.

White Cliffs Partnership, authors of the report, should be contacted. Cllr St Ange to liaise with the Clerk.

-Free trees for residents:

Cllr Lonsdale to talk to contact at East Kent Climate Action regarding possibility of sourcing free trees for Walmer resident's gardens.

-Beebombs for residents:

Beebombs continue to be distributed from the office of the 78 requests 38 are still to be collected (e-mails were sent 1/2/22). Deputy Clerk going to do a follow up e-mail to try and get rest collected. The remaining 22 were allocated for a rewilding project.

Another 12 requests from Walmer residents have come in. To be sent from those reserved for the rewilding project. Further requests numbers should be monitored, with a view to purchasing more Beebombs to satisfy demand as it comes up.

-Bee bricks

Cllr Le Chevalier verbal update - deferred

62, The Strand - Sustainability retrofit.

Awaiting update from Clerk following latest architect site visit.

Outside Projects.

-Outdoor Gym – TRIM TRAIL

Awaiting a response from the Royal Marines Association that WTC applied to for additional funds to supplement the £11k pledged by the council for this project. Update required from Clerk before further funds can be sought. Other funders may be available, eg Mind, but the project needs a major funder first, so will wait on the RMA decision before seeking alternative funding.

-Thermal Heat-loss Camera.

31 requests fulfilled with all Walmer residents (except one lady who has cancelled twice) now completed. We have done around a third of the Deal residents at no charge also but are finding the weather has been effecting the surveys so intend to put on hold until Autumn.

Will need a re-launch in September, using feedback and before/ after pics from first phase to create a fresh press release.

New Projects/Any Other Business

-Bird boxes

Initial discussion on a local resident's initiative to add wildlife measures to new builds and developments - <https://naturebox.co.uk/>

Cllr Lonsdale to approach local resident to see how WTC can support initiative

Next meeting : Thursday May 12th @ 1930 via Zoom

Deal Rugby Club, Walmer

Commissioned on 07/10/2021

	Sessions	Average Session Duration (minutes)	Energy (kWh)	Energy cost	Revenue (exc vat)	Revenue minus enegry
Oct-21	16	63	101	£21.74	£23.07	£1.33
Nov-21	33	187	399	£64.42	£84.79	£20.37
Dec-21	55	74	330	£54.48	£70.79	£16.31
Jan-22	53	188	594	£92.73	£125.00	£32.27
Feb-22	22	357	415	£66.26	£88.61	£22.35
Mar-22	50	194	557	£87.40	£116.39	£28.99
Apr-22	27	323	484	£76.66	£100.97	£24.31
TOTAL	256	198	2880	£463.69	£609.62	£145.93

Re: Walmer Town Council Climate Initiatives - EV charge points

Cllr. John Lonsdale
Sat 07/05/2022 21:31

To: Cllr-Chris Vinson <cllr-chris.vinson@doover.gov.uk>; Amanda Martin
<Amanda.Martin@DOVER.GOV.UK>
Cc: Clerk - Walmer Town Council; Cllr. Sue Le Chevalier; Cllr. Mike
Eddy; Roger Wragg <Roger.Wragg@DOVER.GOV.UK>+1 other



Parish EV project - Registration Form - WPC Station Drive.docx
33 KB

Thanks for your email Chris. My comments in red below.

Overall it seems like a very underpowered approach, and certainly not one that addresses the severe shortfall in EV chargepoints across Walmer. At the moment there are thousands of car parking spaces, and provision for 6 spaces to charge, off street. That's not good enough. We need 10's and eventually 100's on street to both encourage and support EV owners.

I attach some details of a KCC funding application I made a couple of years ago, when WTC thought they had a couple of spaces on private land near Walmer station (which unfortunately fell through). KCC said the application would have been successful, as it's clear the area has many houses and flats without off street parking that need EV charging provision. Clearly there's a need. As you mention below, the new LEVI scheme sounds like it could help, but you must use it before other Councils use up the funding.

So that I can inform WTC and the Climate Emergency Working Group, can you tell me what future plans are - where and how many EV charge points are actually happening and in what timescale?...

Best regards,

John

Cllr John Lonsdale
Chair - Climate Emergency Working Group
Walmer Town Council

From: Cllr-Chris Vinson <cllr-chris.vinson@doover.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 April 2022 19:39
To: Cllr. John Lonsdale <cllrjohnlonsdale@walmercouncil.co.uk>; Amanda Martin
<Amanda.Martin@DOVER.GOV.UK>
Cc: Clerk - Walmer Town Council <clerk@walmercouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. Sue Le Chevalier
<cllrsuelechevalier@walmercouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. Mike Eddy <cllrmikeeddy@walmercouncil.co.uk>;
Roger Wragg <Roger.Wragg@DOVER.GOV.UK>; Cllr-Martin Bates <Cllr-
Martin.Bates@DOVER.GOV.UK>

Subject: RE: Walmer Town Council Climate Initiatives - EV charge points

Hello John, and thanks for your email.

We're making good progress installing EV charging points across the district, and now have nearly 50 up and running. This includes the 2 chargers in the Memorial Car Park on Canada Road in Walmer. This phase of the District's installation programme for EV chargers is nearly concluded, with 4 soon to be added at The Quay car park in Sandwich. So just 2 in Walmer? WTC has installed 4, unfortunately very close to those DDC had installed (I'm not sure how this happened, my KCC contact Tim Middleton new nothing about the 2, so communication and joined up thinking is seriously lacking). Clearly there need to be many more, asap, spread throughout Walmer.

While many of these chargers are in DDC car parks we also have a number of on-street locations, but as you will know these are often more challenging to deliver. As well as the constraints of the local electricity grid, we've also met opposition in some locations where neighbours are unwilling to have EV charging points installed on the street outside their homes. Where this has occurred we've sought alternative sites or expanded provision in locations where there are already EV chargers. Not in Walmer you haven't. It's not acceptable that there are zero on street chargers in Walmer, and seemingly no guts to create them. As mentioned above, please see attached the application I made to KCC for chargers on a piece of land near Walmer station I believed at the time WTC could acquire. Unfortunately the site wasn't in the end made available, but the case for a charging point in that area of Walmer was compelling and remains so. It seems Walmer is being neglected, with only 2 of the 50 installations you mention there, even compared to Deal. This needs to be put right, especially as you represent Walmer!

The early utilisation data we have from those chargers we've installed to date show a range of levels of usage. The most popular site is currently being used around 14% of the time, and the data for the Memorial Car Park chargers show usage 9% of the time. Interestingly the early data show that the most popular chargers are ones located in car parks, while some of the least popular are in on-street locations. It's not about popularity, it's about advanced provision for local residents to encourage EV take-up. It's chicken and egg, having faith that it's the future and understanding there's an obligation to use the funds offered and make it happen. Usage will go up IF residents see widespread charging provision and buy the cars.

As this data is relatively new, we are focussing on monitoring demand over the coming months so we can best understand which locations might be best for further chargers, as EV usage grows in the future. Alongside this monitoring we are also engaging with the Government's recently announced and extended funding programmes for EV charging points. These are in two parts. There is the on-street scheme you've highlighted below, which has been extended by a year, and there is a new scheme called LEVI which will fund a number of pilots (mainly looking at areas where there is little off-street parking). These funding announcements are relatively recent, and the DDC officer team are finding out more detail from their colleagues in central government before we decide on the next steps. This seems a very slow, ponderous approach. The money will be limited and first come first served. There is clearly a need across the District, and I presume you have a target for an initial phase for chargers in all areas to remove blackspots? There must be an overview of where chargers need to go to cover Dover district, in phases? You should be applying for LEVI now. WTC would apply too, but we don't have control over parking spaces.

Separately we are also reviewing the information on our website and car park signage to ensure that awareness of the locations of our chargers is as high as possible among those driving electric vehicles. Yes of course, and making sure they're on all the search apps like ZapMap which EV drivers use.

I will keep you posted if we are planning anything further in Walmer. I don't understand 'if', surely instead it is 'when'?

Chris

Chris Vinson

Portfolio holder for Finance, Governance, Digital and Climate Change
Member for Walmer
Dover District Council

From: Cllr. John Lonsdale <cllrjohnlonsdale@walmercouncil.co.uk> **Sent:** 04 April 2022 19:39 **To:** Cllr-Chris Vinson <cllr-chris.vinson@dover.gov.uk>; Amanda Martin <Amanda.Martin@DOVER.GOV.UK> **Cc:** Clerk - Walmer Town Council <clerk@walmercouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. Sue Le Chevalier <cllrsuelechevalier@walmercouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. Mike Eddy <cllrmikeeddy@walmercouncil.co.uk> **Subject:** Re: Walmer Town Council Climate Initiatives - EV charge points

Dear Chris and Amanda,

Hope you're both well.

Chasing up my email below, could you let me know what progress you've made in getting more on-street EV chargepoints installed within Walmer? There was the recent govt announcement about £20 million being made available to Local Councils, I presume DDC is taking advantage of this, and that Walmer will be included given the dearth of on-street chargepoints (and just the Canada Rd chargers off-street)?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-powers-up-electric-vehicle-revolution-with-20-million-chargepoints-boost>



[Government powers up electric vehicle revolution](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-powers-up-electric-vehicle-revolution-with-20-million-chargepoints-boost)
Local authorities are being urged to take advantage of the £20 million funding to install more on-street chargepoints in towns and cities across the UK.
www.gov.uk

As you know Walmer Town Council is eager to help but hamstrung by the lack of spaces made available. Are you now pushing for more spaces to be released?...

Best regards,

John

Cllr John Lonsdale
Chair - Climate Emergency Working Group
Walmer Town Council

Re: Walmer and district S106 eligibility

Cllr. John Lonsdale

Sun 08/05/2022 21:58

To: Ashley Taylor <Ashley.Taylor@DOVER.GOV.UK>

Cc: Cllr-Chris Vinson <cllr-chris.vinson@dover.gov.uk>; Amanda Martin <Amanda.Martin@DOVER.GOV.UK>; Martin Leggatt <Martin.Leggatt@DOVER.GOV.UK>; Cllr. Sue Le Chevalier <cllrsuelechevalier@walmercouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. Mike Eddy <cllrmikeeddy@walmercouncil.co.uk>; Clerk - Walmer Town Council <clerk@walmercouncil.co.uk>; Carly Pettit <Carly.Pettit@DOVER.GOV.UK>

Dear Ashley,

Thank you for your email.

Further to the points you raise, and the response from the Walmer Town Council Clerk, it would be great to know why CIL is not operated in Dover District, given all the limitations you outline with S106.

S106 clearly doesn't have the flexibility or adaptability to deal with the impacts of increased housing in the Walmer area, which includes the damage done to the environment and ecology of Walmer.

Why isn't CIL being adopted in Dover District?

Regarding tree planting specifically, Walmer TC does indeed have 3 sites they are considering planting up as Urban Nature Reserves. You mention S106 funds may be available from developments where on site planting has not been possible. Could you let me know what funds are available and what details you need from us to access these funds?...

Best,

John

Cllr John Lonsdale

Chair - Climate Emergency Working Group

Walmer Town Council

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Act.

From: Ashley Taylor <Ashley.Taylor@DOVER.GOV.UK>
Sent: 07 February 2022 11:39
To: Cllr. John Lonsdale <cllrjohnlonsdale@walmercouncil.co.uk>
Cc: Cllr-Chris Vinson <cllr-chris.vinson@dover.gov.uk>; Amanda Martin <Amanda.Martin@DOVER.GOV.UK>; Martin Leggatt <Martin.Leggatt@DOVER.GOV.UK>; Cllr. Sue Le Chevalier <cllrsuelechevalier@walmercouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. Mike Eddy <cllrmikeeddy@walmercouncil.co.uk>; Clerk - Walmer Town Council <clerk@walmercouncil.co.uk>; Carly Pettit <Carly.Pettit@DOVER.GOV.UK>
Subject: RE: Walmer and district S106 eligibility

Dear John,

Thank you for your email regarding potential future S106 requests and projects.

As part of the Local Plan, we are assessing all the strategic and local infrastructure which is required to support local housing growth as it comes forward. This includes a review of background studies and data (such as the open space assessments), communication with infrastructure providers and communication with local community providers such as Town and Parish Councils. Once an infrastructure project is identified as a 'need' (now or future), this will all be included in an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) which will be available for consultation in draft format with the Regulation 19 plan when this is published. As part of this, we will be inviting Town and Parish Councils and local communities to provide information on local services, particularly where they are managed locally, so that we can identify where there are needs for other projects (Play areas, community facilities for example).

What this will then enable officers to do when a site comes forward as a planning application, is use any identified projects in the IDP as a starting point for discussion around site specific S106 contributions. However, it is important to note that S106 must be only be used to mitigate the impacts from the specific new development and not fund existing deficits in provision, or fund wider projects for mitigation of other issues which the development has no identified impact on.

With regards to your specific requests for categories to be considered relating to climate change, I will comment on each in turn:

-On-street public EV chargepoints.

With regards to EV chargepoints, policies proposed in the new Local Plan will require all new dwellings with parking provision to provide a charge point and other developments for commercial, industrial and retail to provide a charge point for every 10 parking spaces provided. This is in accordance with new government legislation, and meets the needs of the development. The provision of on-street public charge points, in addition to those on-site private requirements is more complicated this is not a requirement that we can currently justify requesting S106 funding for, as the need for electric vehicle charge points is already being met through the on-site provision. There are also additional issues which would need to be addressed to support such infrastructure, such as strategic planning of the infrastructure, the ownership, maintenance and long term funding of the electricity in addition to ensuring the electricity infrastructure can support this programme of works.

Electric bus charging infrastructure

Similar to above, developers can only be requested to contribute to infrastructure where it is

determined that the specific development is going to create a detrimental impact on this provision and create additional need. KCC Highways and Transportation are responsible for assessing Transport Statements and Travel Plans which are submitted alongside planning applications for larger developments, and as part of this request funds towards sustainable travel improvements, such as bus infrastructure. This is supported by the emerging local plan policies. Where there is an identified electric fleet project we would be able to seek contributions towards the cost of this infrastructure. However at the current time, with the exception of Dover Fastrack, there are no other District proposals for electric bus services, and the infrastructure requirements to support these are therefore not identified.

Where there is a specific requirement for a site to provide contributions to bus services in the future, an assessment would be made at the time as to whether this would be connected to an electric fleet. In such cases, bus charging points may become an important aspect of the future infrastructure needs but at this time, it would not be possible to request S106 contributions to proposals which has not yet been established.

-Tree planting

The new Local Plan proposes a policy that requires 2 new trees to be planted for each new dwelling, and one tree per job created. This will be provided on-site within new developments where possible, and off-site contributions will only be sought for schemes which this cannot be achieved. Does Walmer TC have specific areas identified already as suitable locations in your area for off site contributions, and are these areas in the ownership of Walmer TC to enable long term maintenance to take place? If so, please send over the specific details of those sites and we will be able to consider this further.

-Wildlife corridors including field edge and public footpath planting.

-Wildflower meadows

-Community woodlands

With regards to the above categories, these are mostly captured already within the emerging IDP, and/or Local Plan requirements for public open space (natural and semi natural greenspace required within new developments) and biodiversity net gain (BNG) on all new development sites which will be a national requirement. As a TC, you will be able to input into identification of specific BNG projects which small scale developments could make off-site contributions towards (Biodiversity Enhancement Schemes), but specific work will be required to support the identification what 'biodiversity credits' each project consists of. This area of work will progress as we move closer to the 2023 adoption of the national requirement under the Environment Act and would require engagement with other relevant stakeholders and evidence such as Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Kent Environment Plan.

In the meantime, as with the tree planting areas, if the TC have specific locations in the area that would make suitable wildlife corridors, and details of the ownership of those, please provided further details of this land so we can assess this further.

Once the consultation on the Local Plan commences, we will specifically be inviting Town and Parish Councils to input into the IDP so please look out for information on this. The IDP becomes a 'live' document which can be updated at any time in the future to reflect the changing needs over the plan period, many of which are likely to include many of the important climate change initiatives you have referenced.

I hope this helps, please contact me if you have any questions.

Kind Regards
Ashley



Mrs Ashley Taylor MRTPI
Planning Policy and Projects Manager
Dover District Council

Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3PJ

Mob: 07926076110

Email: ashley.taylor@Dover.gov.uk

Web: <http://dover.gov.uk>

My usual working days are Monday to Thursday

From: Cllr. John Lonsdale <cllrjohnlonsdale@walmercouncil.co.uk>

Sent: 15 January 2022 08:01

To: Ashley Taylor <Ashley.Taylor@DOVER.GOV.UK>

Cc: Cllr-Chris Vinson <cllr-chris.vinson@dover.gov.uk>; Amanda Martin <Amanda.Martin@DOVER.GOV.UK>; Martin Leggatt <Martin.Leggatt@DOVER.GOV.UK>; Cllr. Sue Le Chevalier <cllrsuelechevalier@walmercouncil.co.uk>; Cllr. Mike Eddy <cllrmikeeddy@walmercouncil.co.uk>; Clerk - Walmer Town Council <clerk@walmercouncil.co.uk>

Subject: Walmer and district S106 eligibility

Dear Ashley,

I'm the Chair of the Climate Emergency Working Group at Walmer Town Council. Before Christmas, along with my fellow Councillor Sue Le Chevalier, we had a meeting with Cllr Chris Vinson (Chair of the DDC Climate Change Working Group & a Walmer District Councillor), Amanda Martin (DDC Climate Change and Energy Conservation Officer) and Martin Leggatt (DDC Head of Assets and Building Control).

The meeting was to discuss how we could best work together to implement climate change projects in and around Walmer. Ongoing projects from Walmer Town Council include EV chargepoint installation, secure cycle storage at Walmer train station, a thermal heat loss camera scheme for residents, a free Beebomb wildflower seeds for residents scheme and a major sustainability retrofit of the council office.

In the meeting we talked about developing these ideas further, as well as what more can be done in Walmer and the wider area. A big point of discussion was availability of finance, or the lack of it, and we turned to Section 106 payments as a possible solution. As you know there have been many housing developments in Walmer and the district in recent years, with many more to come. DDC was holding over £1 million of unspent

S106 funds according to a 2019 FOI request, relating to projects between 2010 and 2018. Apparently all this unspent money is allocated however, and can't be transferred to projects relating to the climate emergency.

Future S106 monies could be though, if the current out-of-date list of what's eligible can be revised. The councillors and officers present at the meeting suggested writing to you about this.

It was agreed the following vital measures relating to climate change should be urgently added to the S106 eligibility list, to counterbalance the impact on the environment of the increase in local population caused by new housing developments:-

- On-street public EV chargepoints
- Electric bus charging infrastructure
- Tree planting/
- Wildlife corridors including field edge and public footpath planting.
- Wildflower meadows
- Community woodlands

Could you let us know your thoughts on this and whether these considerations will be included on the new Local Plan S106 eligibility list...

Best regards,

John

Cllr John Lonsdale
Chair - Climate Emergency Working Group
Walmer Town Council

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Report on progress of the Peace Garden proposal for York and Albany Close



I have asked for volunteers from the surrounding houses and sought out Walmer residents that are interested in rewilding and maintaining green spaces. Our working title is, 'Peace Garden Management Group'.

We are a group of 25 people that would like to take on managing this land ourselves. This includes maintenance and raising funds for any large investments that may be needed.

Group membership includes not only the neighbours who surround the space, but also wider Walmer and Deal residents with a keen interest and skills in conservation and rewilding, including a Walmer scout leader who is keen for his scouts to earn badges by helping us.

A local church (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in Gothic Close) is keen to use this space with its members as a place of solace and reflection in difficult times. Once we have council approval we will be contacting the nearby Blossoms nursery and local primary schools to invite them to use the space for forest school activities with the children. I also plan to contact the local branch of Mind, who organise regular walking groups, to invite them to use the space.

The group would request a contract be put in place so that both Walmer Town Council and the Peace Garden Management Group have a written agreement in place for how this arrangement would work. The group will be investing lots of their own time and energy and possibly their own money and would want some reassurances that the land won't be suddenly taken away and sold off from under them. The council will want the group to adhere to certain rewilding principles and to demonstrate that they are keeping the space in reasonable order inline with the principles of maintaining it as a public nature reserve for the whole community. The group are keen to see the outcome of the report by Kent Wildlife Trust and would adhere to its principles as closely as they are able within their skillset and as tools and budgets allow.

This is an opportunity for the council to retain this land for future generations while focusing its funds and efforts elsewhere in the community, knowing that this group are now responsible and accountable. This is a well loved space that already has visitors beyond the houses in York and Albany Close. Simply reminding locals that it exists by renaming and relaunching it as an inviting space for everyone to use, will widen its user base to the whole community. The group are open to encouraging community engagement and usage by local churches, youth groups and schools.

Quarterly or annual meetings between the council Climate Emergency Working Group and representatives from the Peace Garden Management Group could easily be arranged. An annual report to the council about how the space is developing and being maintained could easily be achieved.

The local residents are planning to host a jubilee garden party in the space. It would be lovely if the council were to make their decision on this and put the wheels in motion soon, so that we can expand our group and obtain some jubilee trees, ready for Autumn planting.

Queen Elizabeth II Peace Garden

Proposed by Cllr S Fisher, 4 May 2022

The land would be managed as an urban nature reserve that invites the whole community to use it.

I feel it's important for the council to preserve the spirit of the reasons this land was given cheaply to the council by the MOD rather than being sold off for housing in the first place. To maintain a green space in the area for the benefit of the local community.

I propose that we make it a true community asset for the public, for the whole of Walmer, by creating a community space for reflection and conservation, with a clear public identity, signage and a public launch:

- arranging with KCC for a brown sign to point to the garden as a place of historical and natural interest in Walmer
- asking a local school if they are interested in designing a large sign for the entrance that invites visitors to use it
- asking a local public figure (possibly someone from the marines, from Kent Wildlife Trust or someone who can represent the Queen's jubilee), in Autumn 2022, to officially open the rebranded space and plant the first jubilee tree in the space

It will be a place of reflection and a haven for native British species to thrive - a small urban nature reserve, that invites the community in to enjoy it.

As we would be marking the Queen's Jubilee with the launch, we would want to plant a number of the jubilee trees and take other modest measures with a long term aim of making the natural space friendlier to British native birds, flowers, bees and wildlife species relevant to the area.

We would, as planned in the urban nature reserve proposal, make modest changes to the space with advice (already commissioned by the council) from Kent Wildlife Trust, to make it a haven for British wildlife, with subtle and unobtrusive features that make it inviting for

people to enjoy the space (such as a few logs to sit on, and a longer term goal of putting in a wheelchair accessible pathway). Sandwich has a nature reserve that allows the public in, so it is possible to encourage visitors and have a space that's friendly to birds and other wildlife.

We would want to tell the story of the history of the space

It was a Royal Marines area for housing until the MOD it was passed on to Walmer Council for the benefit of the community; tell a brief history to make the link to the presence of the royal marines in Walmer.

To celebrate its history and make it more visible and attractive to the whole community, we're bringing back the royal connection in its name, and investing in the space as part of the jubilee celebrations.

I suggest this proposal makes a clean break from the past and makes it much more inviting to the whole community to use. There is nowhere else quite like it in Walmer, designed for people to enjoy and reflect in a place where British native species are being encouraged to thrive through minimal but considered management of the flora and fauna. There are already bat boxes and native plants in there. The group have already discussed a desire for more wildflowers and trees.

Walmer Town Council have a history of protecting our green spaces

It's recently been reported in the national press that new housing developments are less likely to include green spaces or parks as part of the development.

I refer to the following article "[Parks near new homes shrink 40% as developers say they cannot afford them](#)". The article goes on to state:

Not only are new parks not being created, existing parks lack legal protection, so are being built on by developers.

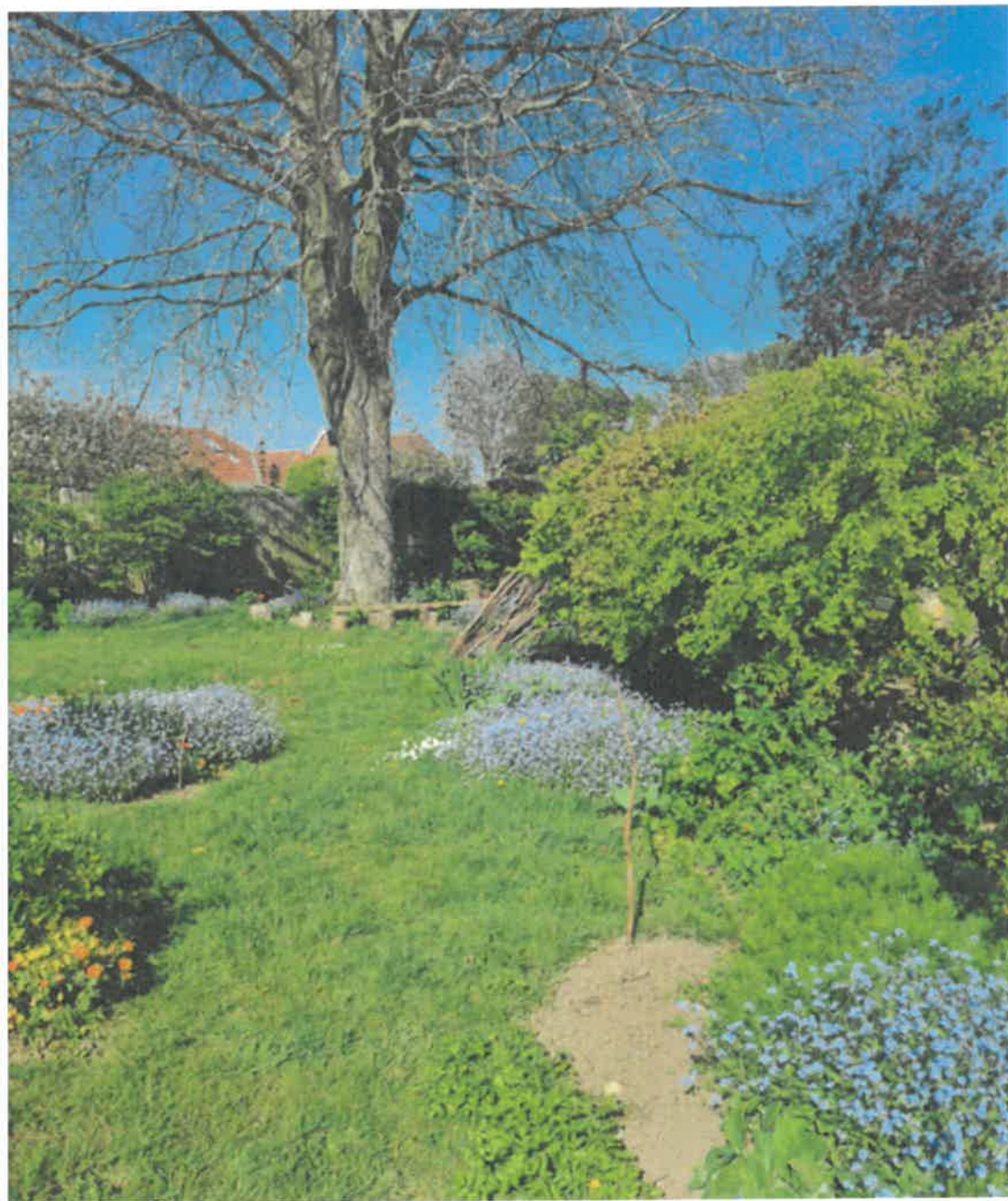
A senior researcher in the article says: "Some of these developments are infill – they are being built on what would have been someone's green space. This could be because the parks do not have legal status or protection, so they can be built on."

One in three people in England do not have nature near their home, with little or no green space at all in some of the most disadvantaged areas. There are families living close to York and Albany Close that live in flats with no garden. Children from these flats use this space currently. If lockdown taught us anything, it was to value access to green spaces, especially for those who are not lucky enough to have a garden or who have a very small garden.

Walmer Town Council can be proud that we have fought to protect green spaces where they have the remit, and to object to planning applications on greenfield sites. This space is a good news story for the council. This proposal offers a workable and positive solution for the future management of this land, that backs onto York and Albany Close, Church Street, Salisbury Road and Meryl Gardens.

Here are some recent photographs of the space:









Meeting: Council

Date: 4th May 2022.

Subject: Outline proposal for a nature or biodiversity improvement grant.

The Council allocates some money each year to funding community activities by means of grants to voluntary bodies. These tend to go to the same voluntary bodies each year, and while this proposal does not seek to change that process, it does suggest that the council should enlarge its remit, by creating a parallel grant system for projects that fulfil something more than a community event or activity purpose. The council has been very active regarding climate change, resilience, and biodiversity; therefore, this proposal is a nudge in that direction.

Who or what will be addressed by this scheme:

- Small community groups
- Small tree planting projects.
- Micro gardens or parks on small pieces of waste or spare land.
- Funding towards studies on biodiversity/nature in the area.
- Kit such as litter pickers, tools, tee shirts, test kits etc.
- Seeds, plants etc.
- Information such as specialist books/websites etc.
- Bee bombs, Bee Bricks, Beehives etc.
- Anything that could conceivably advance nature, biodiversity, and offset/reduce climate change (Imaginative projects welcome!).
- Suitable projects from Scout, Guide, other young person's organisations, Church groups.

What is not recommended for funding under this category:

- Events – These can be considered under the general fund.
- Individuals – Community/voluntary groups only.
- Projects that have very little nature or biodiversity within them.
- Projects outside the area.
- Projects without the landowner's consent.
- Projects that would otherwise be done without a grant (in other words projects where there are already adequate resources in the hyper locality that could fund the project).
- Commercially based projects, where companies or individuals will benefit directly from the funding.
- Projects on WTC land, unless there are clear benefits to the wider community, or to biodiversity or the relief of poverty.
- Principal Councils.
- Other Town/Parish councils, unless it was a joint project.
- Projects already funded part funded from other WTC grants.

The recommendation is to start on a small scale (£5,000?) and to increase the funding if successful. The proposed Cllr Ward grant might also fund hyper micro projects under this heading.

The existing grant funding form can be used but adapted to cover this field of activity.

The existing grant funding scheme funds organisations that may already have a structure, bank account, accounts etc. It is likely that this grant scheme will be of interest to new, ad-Hoc, voluntary or community groups and they may need help to put together a coherent funding bid. The exception to this might be the beach cleaning squads that have sprung up in recent years. If this is the case then starting small and building capacity, may be a sensible course of action.

The existence of this grant may build voluntary/community capacity in this field and enable projects in this field that do not always require the intervention of the council. The council is an organisation that can deliver continuity or long term support, because it in theory can exist on a perpetual basis; small community groups do not last for ever, but while they do they can achieve great things in a short time.

Council to decide