

Seaford Town Council Climate Change Sub-Committee Agenda – Thursday 6th February 2025

To the Members of the Climate Change Sub-Committee

Councillors C Bristow (Chair), R Buchanan (Vice Chair), S Dubas, R Honeyman, O Matthews, J Meek and I Taylor.

A meeting of the Climate Change Sub-Committee will be held in the Council Chambers, 37 Church Street Seaford, BN25 1HG on Thursday 6th February 2025 at 7.00pm, which you are summoned to attend.

Steve Quayle, Interim Town Clerk 30th January 2025

PLEASE NOTE:

- PUBLIC ARRIVAL TIME IS BETWEEN 6.45PM 6.55PM, AFTER WHICH THE FRONT DOOR WILL BE LOCKED AND PUBLIC WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE MEETING
- Public attendance at this meeting will be limited, so registration to attend is advised.
- The meeting will be recorded and uploaded to the Town Council's YouTube channel shortly after the meeting.
- See the end of the agenda for further details of public access and participation.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To consider apologies for absence.

2. Disclosure of Interests

To deal with any disclosure by Members of any disclosable pecuniary interests and interests other than pecuniary interests, as defined under the Seaford Town Council Code of Conduct and the Localism Act 2011, in relation to matters on the agenda.

3. Public Participation

To deal with any questions, or brief representations, from members of the public in accordance with relevant legislation and Seaford Town Council Policy.

4. Climate Change Update Report - February 2025

To consider report 159/24 providing and update on climate action within the Town Council (pages 5 to 7).

5. <u>Climate Action Planning – Recommendations of the Climate Change</u> <u>Sub-Committee</u>

To consider report 160/24 facilitating the discussion and capture of the Sub-Committee's recommendations on climate action planning for consideration by the Golf, Open Spaces and Climate Action Committee from May 2025 (pages 8 to 25).

6. Urban Grass Verge Cutting Update

To consider report 160/24 providing a further update on work being undertaken for a 'cut and collect' methodology and to confirm the 2025 urban grass contract cutting schedule (pages 26 to 29).

AGENDA NOTES

For further information about items on this Agenda please contact:

Steve Quayle, Interim Town Clerk, 37 Church Street, Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 1HG Email: meetings@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk Telephone: 01323 894 870

Circulation:

All Town Councillors and registered email recipients.

Public Access:

Members of the public looking to access this meeting will be able to do so by:

1. Attending the meeting in person.

Due to health and safety restrictions, the number of public in attendance will be limited to 15. The Town Council therefore asks that you contact meetings@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk or 01323 894 870 to register your interest in attending at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Spaces will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

Please note that if you don't register and just attempt to turn up at the meeting, this could result in you not being able to attend if there is no space.

OR

 Watching the recording of the meeting on the <u>Town Council's YouTube channel</u>, which will be uploaded after the meeting has taken place.

Public Access to the Venue:

If you are attending the meeting in person, please arrive between 6.45 - 6.55pm where you will be shown into the meeting for a 7.00pm start.

Please note that the front door of the building will be locked at 6.55pm and remain locked during the meeting for security reasons. As such, if you arrive after this time, you will not be able to access the meeting. When members of the public are looking to leave, they must be escorted out of the building by a Town Council officer.

There is also a signposted back door which can be exited through if required.

Entrance through the rear fire escape of the building will not be allowed.

Public Participation:

Members of the public looking to participate in the public participation section of the meeting must do so in person, by making a verbal statement during the public participation section of the meeting.

Below are some key points for public participation in the meeting:

- 1. Your statement should be regarding business on the agenda for that meeting.
- 2. You will only be able to speak at a certain point of the meeting; the Chair of the meeting will indicate when this is.
- 3. You do not have to state your name if you don't want to.
- 4. If you are unsure of when best to speak, either query this with an officer/councillor ahead of the meeting or raise your hand during the public participation item of the meeting and ask the Chair they will always be happy to advise.
- 5. When the Chair has indicated that it is the part of the meeting that allows public participation, raise your hand and the Chair will invite you to speak in order.
- 6. Statements by members of the public are limited to four minutes and you don't automatically have the right to reply. The Chair may have to cut you short if you overrun on time or try to speak out of turn this is just to ensure the meeting stays on track.
- 7. Where required, the Town Council will try to provide a response to your statement but if it is unable to do so at the meeting, may respond in writing following the meeting.
- 8. Members of the public should not speak at other points of the meeting.
- 9. A summarised version of your statement, but no personal details, will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Public Comments

Members of the public looking to submit comments on any item of business on the agenda can do so in writing ahead of the meeting and this will be circulated to all committee members. Comments can be submitted by email to

meetings@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk or by post to the Town Council offices.

Health & Safety Measures:

While Covid restrictions are no longer mandated the Town Council wishes to stay vigilant and mindful of the health and safety of its meeting participants by upholding the requirement that you should not attend the meeting if you are displaying any Covid-19 symptoms (or have tested positive) as identified on the NHS website or symptoms of any similarly contagious illness.



Report No:	159/24
Agenda Item No:	4
Committee:	Climate Change Sub-Committee
Date:	6 th February 2025
Title:	Climate Update Report February 2025
By:	Steve Quayle, Interim Town Clerk
Purpose of Report:	To provide an update on climate action within the
	Town Council

Actions

The Sub-Committee is advised:

- To reflect on the contents of the report, detailing the work of the Climate Change Sub-Committee.
- 2. To move to a vote on the motions below.

Recommendations

The Sub-Committee is recommended:

- 1. To note the contents of the report.
- To pass a motion of thanks to all current and former members of the Climate
 Change Sub-Committee for their role in driving and supporting the work of the
 Sub-Committee.

1. Introduction

1.1 At the Extraordinary Full Council meeting on 12th December 2024, it was resolved to adopt a revised committee structure and as a result the Climate Change Sub-Committee will cease to exist at the end of the 2024 - 2025 Municipal Year, making this its final meeting.

- 1.2 The current areas of focus of the Climate Change Sub-Committee will feature as part of the new Golf, Open Spaces and Climate Action (GOSCA) Committee from May 2025 onwards.
- **1.3** This report is providing an overview of the work undertaken by the Climate Change Sub-Committee since its formation in May 2022.

2. Climate Change Journey

- 2.1 In October 2019, Seaford Town Council passed the following motion: 'Seaford Town Council is aware of the possible risks to the town regarding climate change and will form a Working Party to consider the situation in the town and to bring forward a series of specific, costed recommendations for climate change adaption actions and amelioration measures here in Seaford.'
- 2.2 Following on from this important commitment, and as the initial work of the working party progressed, the following motions were passed by Full Council in August 2020:

'It was proposed to declare a Climate Emergency in order to identify this Council's recognition of the climate and environment crisis facing the world. It was proposed to agree that when the Council's Strategic Objectives are reviewed, a new objective aimed at tackling, and raising awareness of, climate change be included.'

And that more work be done on:

'the recommendation for any project or development Seaford Town Council considers is assessed for environmental sustainability and resilience as they presently are for financial resilience.'

- 2.3 The work of the Working Group continued and then, in October 2021, the following motion was passed by Full Council:
 - 'To create a Climate Change Sub-Committee, reporting to the Community Services Committee.'
- 2.4 The work to create the new Sub-Committee took place at the next Annual Meeting of the Town Council in May 2022.
- **2.5** Since then, the Sub-Committee has:
 - Met 8 times
 - Considered 18 reports
 - Welcomed comments and input from 25 residents

- **2.6** Through the above, the Sub-Committee has considered reports and made decisions / recommendations concerning the:
 - Climate Emergency Policy
 - Seaford Carbon Footprint Report
 - Climate Change Delivery Plan
 - Car Park Electric Charging Points
 - Swifts in Seaford
 - Seaford Plastic Charter
 - Lewes District Council's Climate & Nature Strategy Refresh Consultation
 - Cycling Study in Seaford
 - Seven Sisters National Nature Reserve
 - Paper & Print Strategy
 - Urban Grass Verge Cutting
- 2.7 Elsewhere on this agenda is a report facilitating the capture of the Sub-Committee's comments and recommendations with regards to a Climate Action Plan to underpin the delivery of the Climate Emergency Policy. The creation of this plan will be taken forwards by the GOSCA Committee.
- 2.8 On behalf of the Town Council and town, thanks goes to all current and former members of the Climate Change Sub-Committee for their role in driving and supporting the key work above.

3. Financial Appraisal

3.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

4. Contact Officer

4.1 The contact officer for this report is Steve Quayle, Interim Town Clerk.



Report No:	160/24
Agenda Item No:	5
Committee:	Climate Change Sub-Committee
Date:	6 th February 2025
Title:	Climate Action Planning – Recommendations of the
	Climate Change Sub-Committee
By:	Steve Quayle, Interim Town Clerk
Purpose of Report:	To discuss and capture the Sub-Committee's
	recommendations on climate action planning for
	consideration by the Golf, Open Spaces and Climate
	Action Committee from May 2025

Actions

The Sub-Committee is advised:

- 1. To discuss and comment upon recommended actions and priorities that would underpin the delivery of the Town Council's Climate Emergency Policy.
- 2. To review the process proposed for the creation of a Climate Action Plan and make any comments on this.
- 3. To move to a vote on the motions below.

Recommendations

The Sub-Committee is recommended:

 To note the contents of the report and the comments made by the Sub-Committee during the meeting.

1. Introduction

1.1 At the Extraordinary Full Council meeting on 12th December 2024, it was resolved to adopt a revised committee structure and as a result the Climate

- Change Sub-Committee will cease to exist at the end of the 2024 2025 Municipal Year, making this its final meeting.
- 1.2 The current areas of focus of the Climate Change Sub-Committee will feature as part of the new Golf, Open Spaces and Climate Action (GOSCA) Committee from May 2025 onwards.
- 1.3 To help ensure the continuation of the work of the Climate Change Sub-Committee moving forwards, and to support a smooth transfer of the areas of focus to the GOSCA Committee, it is proposed that the Climate Change Sub-Committee utilises this meeting to capture its recommendations for the inclusions within and creation of a Climate Action Plan a key document that facilitates the Town Council's delivery against its Climate Emergency Policy.

2. Climate Emergency Policy Implementation

- 2.1 In November 2023, the Town Council adopted its Strategic Plan 2023 2027 including an aim to: 'Help create a sustainable Seaford, resilient to the effects of climate change'.
- 2.2 In the priority projects, the Town Council agreed to: 'Identify and implement appropriate ways to minimise carbon usage and emissions by the Town Council' by the end of 2027.
- **2.3** The Town Council has since adopted a Climate Emergency Policy.
- 2.4 The Climate Emergency Policy has been designed to help Seaford Town Council both reduce its contributions to climate change and increase its resilience to the effects of climate change, and where possible extend these benefits to the town of Seaford more widely.
- 2.5 The next step is for the Town Council to create a Climate Action Plan (CAP) to provide a proposed route map for how the Climate Emergency Policy will be implemented through Town Council actions.
- **2.6** A CAP is a widely used approach to support organisations, including other councils and schools, with implementing their climate aims.
- **2.7** Attached at Appendix A is a discussion document presenting ideas for implementing the Climate Emergency Policy.
- 2.8 This discussion document sets out the 14 assertions within the Climate Emergency Policy (which is available to view on the Town Council's

- <u>website</u>). Alongside this are the initial implementation thoughts that will aid in the creation of a realistic, achievable and impactful CAP.
- 2.9 The Sub-Committee is invited to discuss the contents of the appendix and share its comments for officers to capture for presentation to the GOSCA Committee in June 2025.

3. Climate Action Plan Process

- 3.1 The creation of a CAP is instrumental in delivering on the Town Council's Climate Emergency Policy and, as such, requires buy-in from across the organisation.
- **3.2** The proposed process for the creation and adoption of a CAP is as follows:
 - (a) Stage 1 this Sub-Committee will capture its thoughts and suggestions to be passed to the GOSCA Committee.
 - (b) Stage 2 the GOSCA Committee will review the Climate Emergency Policy at its first meeting in June 2025 and agree the process for the creation of a CAP.
 - (c) Stage 3 a task & finish group will be identified to devise a draft CAP, consisting of councillors and relevant officers.
 - (d) Stage 4 the GOSCA Committee will receive and consider the draft CAP from the task & finish group.
 - (e) Stage 5 given that the CAP is highly likely to include actions to embed climate action across the Town Council's activities and outside the remit of the GOSCA Committee, the final draft CAP would be presented to Full Council for adoption.
- 3.3 The Sub-Committee is asked to consider the above process and make any comments that can be taken into consideration when presenting this process to GOSCA for approval.

4. Financial Appraisal

- **4.1** There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.
- **4.2** The draft CAP being presented to the GOSCA Committee by the task & finish group (stage 4 of the above process) will include a costed CAP.

5. Contact Officer

5.1 The contact officer for this report is Steve Quayle, Interim Town Clerk.

Point	Policy Assertion	Internal Action ideas	External Action ideas	Partnership working opportunities	Other ideas
1	Ensure the Council's operations have the lowest environmental impact as reasonably possible.	Embed sustainability and resilience criteria in all decision-making via an "Environmental Implications" section on Agenda Reports (from Strategy document). Consider each category of operations in turn. Events, buildings management, staff travel, office stationery and equipment etc. Should the Town Council consider introducing any Town Council owned vehicles, to consider electric.	Consider including sustainability requirements in lease/concession agreements.	Plastic Free Seaford partnership in evaluating office stationery and equipment sustainability.	Events and concessions already have to be plastic-free.
	February 2025 Sub-Committee Comments:				

Point	Policy Assertion	Internal Action ideas	External Action ideas	Partnership working opportunities	Other ideas
2	Generate its own energy from renewable sources where possible.	Consider installing onsite renewable generation wherever new development or redevelopment occurs.		Local energy services organisations	If excess renewably generated energy, could offer for community benefit e.g. e-bike charging station.
	February 2025 Sub-Committee Comments:				

Point	Policy Assertion	Internal Action ideas	External Action ideas	Partnership working opportunities	Other ideas
3	Actively research and apply current best practices which are proven to be effective in reducing its carbon footprint.	Officer and councillor involvement. Subscribe to relevant information sources.	Consider using consultants if appropriate.	Other local councils	
	February 2025 Sub-Committee Comments:				

Point	Policy Assertion	Internal Action ideas	External Action ideas	Partnership working opportunities	Other ideas
4	Instigate environmentally sustainable initiatives and projects.	Every new STC project should be assessed for opportunity to better its sustainability criteria in accordance with Policy.	Encourage any third-party activities which take place on STC land to be as low-impact and sustainable as reasonably possible.	Schools and engagement with OVCA Legacy planning and other local councils.	No Idling campaign for STC owned seafront parking areas (= reduce greenhouse gas emissions, noise).
	February 2025 Sub-Committee Comments:				

Point	Policy Assertion	Internal Action ideas	External Action ideas	Partnership working opportunities	Other ideas
5	Continue to improve performance to prevent all types of pollution from our activities, including greenhouse gases.	Look into green energy tariffs (low carbon energy tariffs) for STC utilities	Tenant Farmer - farming practices.	Engagement with local organisations leasing STC assets	
	February 2025 Sub-Committee Comments:				

Point	Policy Assertion	Internal Action ideas	External Action ideas	Partnership working opportunities	Other ideas
6	Work with organisations who support the health and wellbeing of the people of Seaford through the provision of information, to include the promotion of home energy efficiency measures, to keep people warm and well, in addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.	Seaford Health Stakeholder Working Group	Social prescribing programmes.	Ovesco https://ovesco.co.uk/ Seaford Medical Practice social prescriber	SMP Social Prescriber now working with Seaford Community Garden.
	February 2025 Sub-Committee Comments:				

Point	Policy Assertion	Internal Action ideas	External Action ideas	Partnership working opportunities	Other ideas
7	Minimise the production of waste from our own activities and adhere to the principles of the waste hierarchy reducing, reusing, recycling or composting wherever possible.	Adhere to the principles of the waste hierarchy - reducing, reusing, recycling or composting wherever possible.	Arisings from Cut & Collect Urban Grass Scheme	Grass cutting contractors	
	February 2025 Sub-Committee Comments:				

Point	Policy Assertion	Internal Action ideas	External Action ideas	Partnership working opportunities	Other ideas
8	Encourage use of low-emissions transport options in continuing to develop safe walking, cycling and mobility scooter routes and promote cycling, scootering and walking around the town, for health as well as the positive environmental benefits.	Research schemes to enable/encourage staff to use public transport or active travel e.g. Cycle to Work, Green Commute Initiative.	Co-promote awareness of active travel opportunities and integrated transport where possible.	Seaford Community Partnership, Sustrans, ESCC, local transport organisations	
	February 2025 Sub-Committee Comments:				

Point	Policy Assertion	Internal Action ideas	External Action ideas	Partnership working opportunities	Other ideas
9	Work closely with our suppliers and contractors to reduce the social and environmental impact of goods and services by considering such issues as carbon footprint, single use plastics, and fairtrade goods.	Research the social and environmental impact of procured goods and services.		Plastic Free Seaford	
	February 2025 Sub-Committee Comments:				

Point	Policy Assertion	Internal Action ideas	External Action ideas	Partnership working opportunities	Other ideas
10	Use products and materials efficiently and purchase goods that, wherever possible, have a minimal environmental impact in the extraction or sourcing of materials, manufacture, use and disposal.	Is this saying the same as points 9 and 7? Could this be removed?			
	February 2025 Sub-Committee Comments:				

Point	Policy Assertion	Internal Action ideas	External Action ideas	Partnership working opportunities	Other ideas
11	Protect, conserve and enhance the town's natural environment and its biodiversity whilst improving our open spaces, public rights of way and green corridors.	Renaturing Policy. Consider cut & collect. Consider biodiversity measures in STC redevelopments e.g. swift bricks.	Investigate swift bricks.	Seaford Action For Nature. Seaford Swifts. Seaford Natural History Society etc.	
	February 2025 Sub-Committee Comments:				

Point	Policy Assertion	Internal Action ideas	External Action ideas	Partnership working opportunities	Other ideas
12	Protect, conserve and enhance the town's built environment and distinctive heritage by ensuring that any development is as sustainable as reasonably practicable, with sufficient infrastructure to support it and that all development meets the highest environmental standards.	Any STC heritage proposals to consider sustainability and low environmental impact factors.	Make recommendations to Planning & Highways committee for their consideration.		
	February 2025 Sub-Committee Comments:				

Point	Policy Assertion	Internal Action ideas	External Action ideas	Partnership working opportunities	Other ideas
13	Collaborate with other local authorities, organisations, and partners as appropriate and input into consultations which have bearing on the climate resilience of Seaford.			LDC/ESCC and other parish and town councils. Environment Agency. NNR Partnership.	
	February 2025 Sub-Committee Comments:				

Point	Policy Assertion	Internal Action ideas	External Action ideas	Partnership working opportunities	Other ideas
14	Participate in knowledge sharing with other stakeholders to keep abreast of new evidence, technology and methods which may aid achieving our aims.	Councillor & Officer training in sustainability.		Explore joint training opportunities e.g. with other local councils.	
	February 2025 Sub-Committee Comments:				

160-24 Appendix A Climate Emergency Plan Implementation – Discussion Document					



Report No:	163/24
Agenda Item No:	6
Committee:	Climate Change Sub-Committee
Date:	6 th February 2024
Title:	Urban Grass Verges Update
Ву:	Sharan Brydon, Assets & Projects Manager
Purpose of Report:	To provide a further update on work being
	undertaken for a 'cut and collect' methodology and
	to confirm the 2025 urban grass contract cutting
	schedule

Actions

The Sub-Committee is advised

- 1. To discuss the update on urban grass cutting.
- 2. To move to a vote on the motions below.

Recommendations

The Sub-Committee is recommended:

- 1. To note the contents of the report.
- To note that further updates or findings from the research into a cut and collect methodology will be presented to the newly established Golf, Open Spaces and Climate Action Committee from May 2025.

1. Introduction

1.1 At the Community Services Committee meeting in December 2023, a resolution was approved for a 'cut and collect' methodology to be investigated by the Climate Change Sub-Committee for future deployment.

2. Urban Grass Verge Cutting

- 2.1 It was agreed by the Climate Change Sub-Committee to create an informal working group with volunteers from On The Verge (now incorporated into Seaford Action For Nature (SAFN)), whom Seaford Town Council already partner with on other projects.
- 2.2 Meetings were held throughout 2024 with Town Council Officers, the Chair& Vice Chair of Climate Change and representatives of On The Verge.
- 2.3 The informal working group looked into splitting Seaford's urban grass verges into zones, 'cut & drop' or 'cut & collect'. This was initially based on soil type considerations and fertility being the primary factors, with the potential for a 'cut & collect' to succeed, and considering cost implications.
- 2.4 Seaford's soil is either chalky (nutrient-poor) or clay (typically nutrient-rich), and early-stage costs for 'cut & collect' recognised that over a longer time period of several seasons, cutting costs should decrease.
- 2.5 The informal working group began to investigate a project which would involve local scientific expertise and citizen science (residents' participation).
- 2.6 Part of these investigations in late June 2024 saw Seaford for Action/On The Verge and Town Council representatives meet with the Service Manager for Environment and Greenspace at Dorset County Council, who is responsible for delivering their 'cut & collect' service, which has been ongoing for several years along their Highway verges (not urban). The Service Manager's main message was that in Dorset they found the main considerations for the scheme to be practical, for example, where can the contractor perform 'cut & collect' safely to take into account the ability of machinery to deal with gradient/steepness of verges, obstacles like planted trees, and financially a significant cost with the disposal of the grass arisings.
- 2.7 This has led the informal working group to investigate further costs and practicalities for how and when to transport grass arisings to a composting facility or if there is any prospect of the grass being used locally, for example by local farmers.

- 2.8 Seaford Town Council will continue to investigate costs and practicalities with a contractor and seek experience from other councils who use 'cut & collect' to inform programme consideration post-2026.
- **2.9** Further updates on this work will be presented to the newly established Golf, Open Spaces and Climate Action Committee from May 2025.

3. Urban Grass Cutting Schedule 2025

- 3.1 Further to concerns raised by some residents in 2024 that some of the cuts were missed, or that they did not know when to expect a cut to happen, the Town Council's facilities team has worked with the current contractor for the urban grass cutting to establish a calendar of expected dates for grass cutting to take place across the town throughout 2025.
- **3.2** The timetable of urban verges grass cutting is as follows:
 - Cut 1 Month of April
 - Cut 2 Month of June
 - Cut 3 Month of August
 - Cut 4 Month of October
- 3.3 This timetable is weather dependant because the contractor will need to access all verges and may have to move the schedule of the cutting dates accordingly.
- **3.4** This calendar of dates will be publicised on the Town Council's website for 2025.
- 3.5 In terms of the areas being cut, during this first year of the Town Council providing the grass verge cutting service, East Sussex County Council has confirmed that they review the geographical area of cuts periodically (usually as and when the classification of verges change or where it is noticed that current verges are omitted from the original map provided). As such, there has already been an increase in the number of urban verges that the Town Council is responsible for cutting. Officers have discussed this with the grass cutting contractor, who have been flexible and supportive of accommodating additions to the contract.

4. Acknowledgement

3.6 Seaford Town Council would like to thank volunteers from On The Verge/Seaford Action For Nature for generously giving their time, input and expertise to scoping the future options for a 'cut & collect' scheme.

5. Financial Appraisal

- **5.1** There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.
- 5.2 As per 3.5 above, there are additions to the contract that are identified by East Sussex County Council. For the 2025 2026 financial year, this has served to increase the cost of cutting by £1,800. These additional costs have been included in the grass verge cutting budget of £61,800 recently approved by Full Council.

6. Contact Officer

6.1 The contact officer for this report is Sharan Brydon, Assets & Projects Manager.