

## MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

10<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 7.30pm

The Guildhall

Cllr Perkin (Chair)	Present	Cllr Golding	Present
Cllr Cook	Apology	Cllr Jones	Apology
Cllr Crayford	Present	Cllr Newman	Apology (Online)
Cllr Eyre	Present	Martin Collins	Present
Cllr Gibson	Present	Matthew Hatchwell	Absent

### **In Attendance:**

Louise Bareham (Town Clerk)

Victoria Frost (KCC Community and Domestic Energy Support Officer) Minute Item 059 only

Juliana Munoz (Online - Minute Item 059 only)

Rob Gibbs (Community Transport and Project Officer – Minute Item 060 only)

### **056. Apologies**

Apologies were noted from Cllrs Cook, Jones, and Newman (although Cllr Newman was present online).

### **057. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **058. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising**

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Eyre, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Environment Committee dated 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023.***

The Matters Arising Report was reviewed and noted.

Minute Item 018 Cllr Perkin agreed to liaise with SBC regarding solar panels in Conservation areas and PVC Windows.

Minute Item 020 The new panel for Westbrook Stream had been designed and printed. Permission was still being sought to install it.

Minute Item 023 Cllr Perkin would arrange for Fast Fashion event(s).

Minute Item 031 Perry Court land transfer was still in process.

Minute Item 035 Cllr Perkin agreed to liaise with SBC regarding bottle banks being installed in car parks.

Minute Item 041 Environmental Improvements for North Preston to be deferred until Cllr Cook present.

Minute Item 042	In progress.
Minute Item 043	A response was awaited from Martyn Cassell of SBC.
Minute Item 045	A response was awaited from Cllr Gibson, Leader of SBC.
Minute Item 049	The Town Clerk had been directed to a website for more information and this was in progress.
Minute Item 051	FTC was not able to apply for Flood Defence Grant in Aid.
Tree Policy	Cllr Perkin had been sent some example Tree Policies and she would circulate these for review before the next meeting.

#### **059. Green Open Homes**

Victoria Frost and Juliana Munoz were welcomed to the meeting and Victoria delivered a presentation on Green Open Homes – see Appendix One.

In response from a query by Martin Collins, Victoria advised that KCC did not recommend particular heat pump installers at the current time, and it was not planned currently to invite installers to the events.

A general discussion regarding heat pumps and the event logistics and commitments took place.

It was noted that the Green Open Homes events were proposed to take place over two weekends, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April, and Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Crayford, and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that the Town Council would support KCC's Green Open Homes events.***

It was agreed that Victoria would liaise with the Town Clerk on project milestones and the next steps.

#### **060. Thermal Imaging**

Rob Gibbs was welcomed to the meeting to discuss his report containing two recommendations on expanding the Thermal Imaging Scheme.

It was noted that the Scheme had been promoted through the FTC Newsletter and on social media and this had generated much interest, to the point that the Scheme was over-subscribed.

Cllr Golding queried whether a breakdown was available for the visits carried out so far as to the proportion of home-owners and tenants and socio-economic groups. RG agreed to provide the statistics.

Cllr Eyre referred to the possible risks in loaning a thermal imaging camera. The Town Clerk advised a deposit would be taken and checks would be made before the loan took place.

RG felt the second camera would help provide a choice to residents, whether they preferred to have a staff attended visit or use the camera in their own time.

On some occasions residents had expressed interest in purchasing their own camera and having loan of a camera would give them the opportunity to see if purchasing one was worthwhile for them.

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Eyre, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to:**

- 1. Purchase a second FLIR camera to expand the Thermal Imaging Scheme offer.**
- 2. Provide loans of the camera subject to a small deposit being taken and refunded on satisfactory return of the camera.**

#### **061. Strategic Pillars and Ambitions**

The Environment Ambitions paper was received.

It was agreed to add wording regarding resilience into 4.1 Climate Emergency and 4.2 Biodiversity.

A separate ambition regarding public engagement was agreed.

Under 4.4 Green Spaces it was agreed to add a sentence emphasising the preservation of Green Spaces.

Under 4.5 Community Gardening it was agreed to add the support of local community gardening groups.

The Town Clerk reported the current situation regarding Faversham in Bloom since they had lost support from Swale Borough Council. Joe Hannah, FTC Town Ranger, had attended a recent meeting and advised that the group had no funding and the Town Clerk had suggested the Town Ranger and a member of Faversham in Bloom attend a future meeting to discuss the support required.

Under 4.6 Allotments, the current waiting list was discussed.

Under 4.7 Litter and Graffiti to show leadership and to work with partners to eradicate graffiti.

A separate ambition regarding pesticide reduction was agreed.

A discussion on recent water leaks, water outage and air quality took place, and it was agreed these should items for the Action Plan.

#### **062. Environment Events 2024**

It was agreed to promote awareness days via social media and through the FTC website.

It was agreed to concentrate on the following events:

- Great Big Green Week 8<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- An Active Travel month rather than repeating the Cycle Fest events.

#### **063. Bat Boxes**

It was agreed to defer the items listed until the following meeting as advice was still being sought on the placement of the bat boxes.

**064. Planters**

The list of current planters was received.

Cllr Golding reported concerns about the condition of the 20's Plenty planters near Bysing Wood Road/Wildish Road junction. The Town Clerk advised the Facilities Manager would be working to improve them.

It had been suggested to have a planter at the junction with Lower Road/South Road however Cllr Golding felt this should be put on hold until the junction improvements had been completed as part of the Cross-Town Walking Route.

Cllr Gibson suggested plotting the planters on a map to show where gaps were in the town. The Town Clerk advised she had asked the Deputy Town Clerk to produce a map showing assets within the town and this would be ready in time for the next meeting in order for a decision to be made on the location of future planters.

**065. Budget 2024/2025**

The Town Clerk advised she had received a quote for lamp post flowerbaskets.

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Golding and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that the Town Clerk would look to apply for a Levelling Up Grant to contribute to the cost of the lamp post flower baskets.***

Cllr Perkin suggested a small amount of money be allocated for local gardening groups to apply for, if they wished to plant an area. It was agreed this would be explored after the Annual Finance Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**066. Allotments**

The Allotments report was noted and received.

**067. Items for Report**

Cllr Crayford referred to fly tipping hot spots and suggested working with Swale Borough Council to help address the problem.

The Town Clerk referred to her earlier suggestion of inviting a Faversham in Bloom representative and the Town Ranger to the next meeting.

Cllr Perkin referred to the Tree Wardens attending the next meeting.

**Appendix One**



# Green Open Homes

Spring 2024: Project Proposal for Faversham

10 January 2024



# Why Green Open Homes?

- Showcasing and incentivising Low Carbon Technology (LCT) installation
  - A **focus on heat pumps** is particularly beneficial
- ‘You can have a good look at the technology, ask the residents whether the installation was a hassle, and **find out [how] much they’re really saving** on their energy bills as a result.’ (Green Open Homes website)



## Green Open Homes event

in May 2014

organised by HadLOW CARBON Community

Would you like the opportunity to showcase your sustainable home improvements?

If your house has any biomass systems, ground source heat pump and solar panels, or grey water harvesting, composting or a drought tolerant garden and you live within 10 miles of Tonbridge - we would like to hear from you.

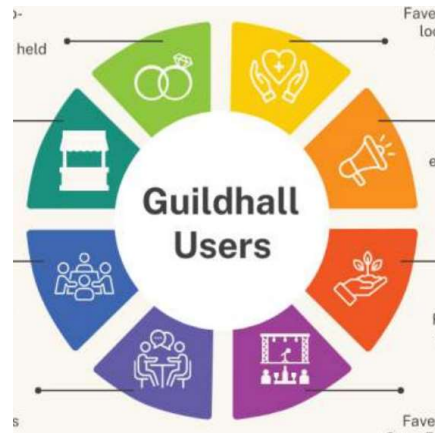


To find out more about taking part in this event  
Email [hadlowcarbon@gmail.com](mailto:hadlowcarbon@gmail.com) or  
call Hildegard Pax on 01732 852054 or 01732 463546

**Deadline for registering: 17 March 2014**

# Why Faversham?

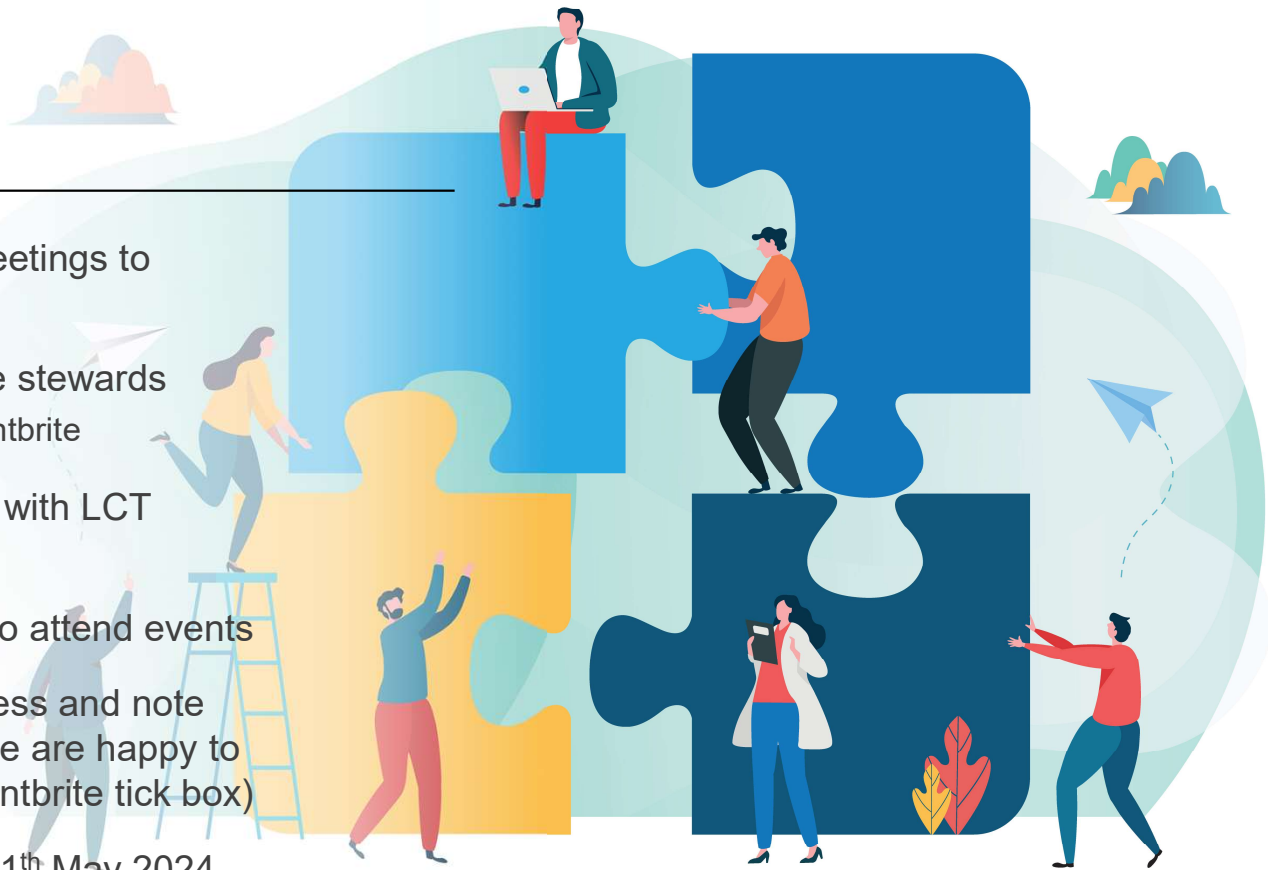
- *Faversham Neighbourhood Steering Group adopted the **Net Zero Carbon Toolkit** In October 2021.*
- There exists a **sense of community and pride** in the local area
- ~300 homes have heat pumps in Swale; around **100 of these are in Faversham**
- An opportunity to be an early mover in Kent



# Next steps

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- Delegate roles and arrange regular meetings to discuss
- Decide upon event format and allocate stewards
  - Slot-booking for each home through Eventbrite
- Promote the scheme to **homeowners** with LCT through networks and newsletters
- Promote the scheme to all **residents** to attend events
- Agree aims: monitor attendance, address and note popular queries and myths, ask if people are happy to be contacted by Councils in future (Eventbrite tick box)
- Confirm dates: Sat. 6<sup>th</sup> April and Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
avoid Bank Holidays and other local events

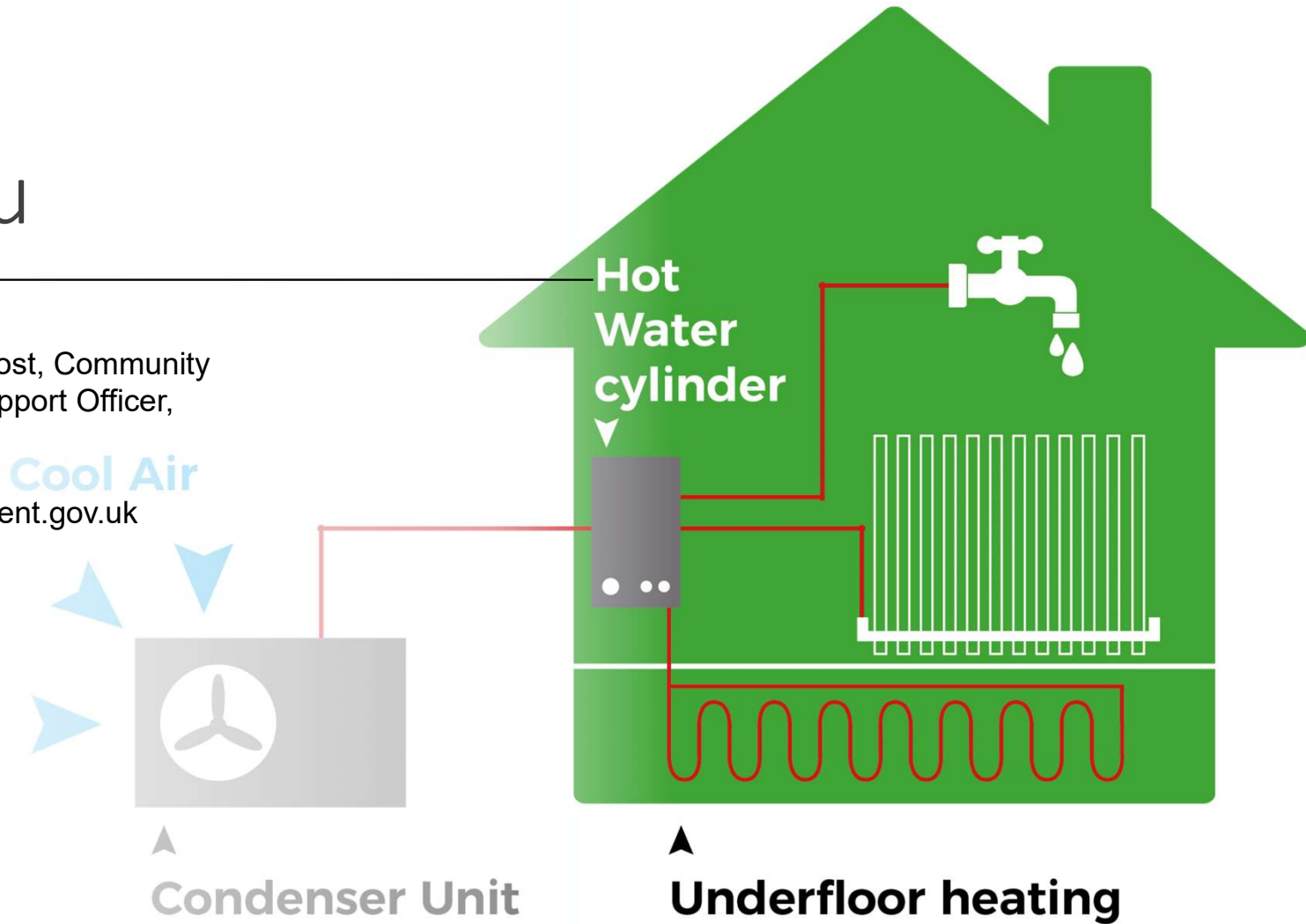




# Thank you

Presented by: Victoria Frost, Community and Domestic Energy Support Officer, Kent County Council

Contact: [Victoria.frost@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Victoria.frost@kent.gov.uk)



# Sources

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Faversham Town Council (FTC) (2021) [https://favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/netzero-carbon-toolkit\\_Faversham-.pdf](https://favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/netzero-carbon-toolkit_Faversham-.pdf)

Green Open Homes (n.d) <https://www.greenopenhomes.net/about> [website] – includes useful guidance

Parity Pathways data (n.d.) <https://parityprojects.com/services/local-authorities/> - using Public Sector information, OS and Royal Mail data

FTC Autumn Newsletter (2023) <https://favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Autumn-Newsletter-2023-WEB.pdf>

Explore Kent & Plastic Free Faversham (n.d.) <https://explorekent.org/plastic-free-faversham/> [website]