

## Thermal imaging Scheme

In January 2023 FTC began offering thermal imaging appointments to residents. A FLIR C3-X thermal imaging camera was purchased and RG and three volunteers from Swale friends of the earth undertook basic online training on thermal imaging.

Over 40 visits were carried out between January to April 2023. Swale friends of the earth volunteers ceased involvement in April 2023 due to other time commitments and RG completed the final visits alone.

In November 2023 visits resumed with RG and JH conducting approximately 2 visits per week. The scheme has been promoted via social media and the town council autumn newsletter and take up has been quite high with a further 30 appointments scheduled until the end of March 2024.

To help expand the offering it is recommended that a second camera is purchased. This would give residents the choice of having a staff attended visit or borrowing a camera with some basic instructions for a small refundable deposit. This would help satisfy demand and free up staff time.

Some residents have expressed an interest in purchasing their own thermal imaging camera and if the facility to loan a camera was offered, they could then have time to decide whether it could be a worthwhile investment for them.

A second would FLIR C3-X cost £416.17 if purchased through Amazon\*. The price has reduced by over £150 since the first camera was purchased in late 2022.

### Recommendations:

- 1) A second FLIR camera is purchased to expand the Thermal Imaging Scheme offer.
- 2) Loans of the camera be offered subject to a small deposit being taken and refunded on satisfactory return of the camera.

\* Price correct as of 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024.