



**Minutes: Climate Change Forum  
11 May 2026  
MS Teams**

**Attendees:**

Cllr Kim Tanner - Chair  
Sushant Bali (SB)  
Sarah Barker (SBa)  
Jennifer Bate (JB)  
Cllr Steve Crisp (Cllr Crisp)  
Gill Fox (GF)  
Helen Longley (HL)  
Fran Long (FL)  
Cllr Anita Oakley (Cllr Oakley)  
Cllr Tom Shelley (Cllr Shelley)  
Louise Stewart (LS)

**Apologies:**

Cllr Robin Betts  
Carol Bridge  
Min Stacpoole  
Norman Taylor

**1. Welcome and apologies**

1.1. Cllr Tanner chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllr Betts, who was delayed travelling. Apologies were noted.

**2. Minutes and actions from previous meeting**

- 2.1. LS provided an update on attendees and circulation lists. This has been reviewed and will remain ongoing.
- 2.2. JB updated the Group on the CASP Eco Fair event held in April. The event was well attended and included a range of climate and energy organisations. The Group discussed opportunities to encourage wider parish involvement.
- 2.3. SB confirmed the CASP project would be shared through the monthly KALC newsletter.
- 2.4. Cllr Crisp highlighted positive engagement at the event, including discussions around plastics and alternatives to single-use items. The Group discussed opportunities to attend wider community events.

**3. Key items for discussion**

**3.1. Plastics**

- 3.1.1. The Group discussed plastic reduction, recycling and awareness. Plastics can only be recycled a limited number of times, reducing plastic use remains the priority. Difficulties recycling certain materials locally, including soft plastics and polystyrene packaging were discussed and Members highlighted concerns regarding excessive packaging used by retailers and manufacturers.

3.1.2. LS provided an update on actions undertaken since the previous meeting:

- Promotion of local businesses displaying sustainability best practice was discussed. Retroelectric cars, who convert classic cars to electric power, were featured within the TMBC business e-bulletin.
- Local schools had been contacted regarding a potential plastics poster campaign to gauge interest. Initial draft poster concepts had been developed.
- Discussions had taken place with tmactive regarding water refill facilities and the Green Business Grant scheme. The Angel Centre project group had been asked to consider accessible water refill provision.

3.1.3. Members discussed developing the plastics poster competition aimed primarily at primary schools, launching next academic year to allow sufficient planning time for schools. Members discussed extending awareness materials to parish and town council noticeboards.

3.1.4. Cllr Crisp shared a poster created by a young attendee at the CASP event highlighting climate change.

3.1.5. The Group agreed to continue discussions regarding plastics, including polystyrene packaging at future meetings.

### 3.2. Public transport

3.2.1. LS provided an update following discussions with Kent County Council Councillors and Officers regarding local bus service concerns. It was noted that bus services are privately operated rather than directly operated by KCC. Arrangements are in place for transport discussions between KCC and local authorities and therefore KCC Officers would not be attending a future CCF meeting. LS confirmed that a bus study was currently being undertaken as part of the Local Plan to review existing services.

3.2.2. Members discussed the challenges of securing sufficient Section 106 funding for long-term public transport provision. As well as bus provision, station connectivity and parking pressures within West Malling and Kings Hill.

3.2.3. Members discussed the importance of ensuring local input into future transport planning discussions.

3.2.4. Cllr Crisp suggested exploring alternative transport solutions, including electric-assisted cycle taxis and community transport concepts.

### 3.3. Community hub

3.3.1. LS provided an update regarding the Greener and Cleaner Hub in Bromley. Outside of the meeting NT, advised that he had enrolled on an outreach programme and would share further information with the Group in due course.

3.3.2. SB and FL highlighted ongoing challenges faced by the Tonbridge Repair Café around storage and access to suitable community space.

3.3.3. Members discussed benefits of vacant retail units or shared community spaces to support repair cafés, workshops and wider sustainability initiatives.

3.3.4. JB highlighted potential future funding opportunities linked to community energy and sustainability projects and suggested there may be opportunities for collaborative working.

#### 4. Round-table updates

4.1. Cllr Shelley raised concerns regarding fly-tipping and waste disposal issues within Hoad's Wood.

4.2. SB discussed the role of repair cafés, community hubs and reuse initiatives in encouraging repair and reducing waste. Members discussed opportunities to develop a list of local repair cafés.

4.3. SBa highlighted an upcoming Plastic Free Communities webinar and agreed to circulate details to the Group.

4.4. Cllr Oakley raised options for redistributing unwanted tools and equipment through reuse initiatives and community projects.

#### 5. Action Summary

No.	Action	Lead
1	Continue reviewing invite list and circulation list.	Chair/LS
2	Explore opportunities to attend community events and fairs to promote CASP/plastics reduction/sustainability initiatives.	ALL
3	Contact TMBC Comms Team for local events list, raise at PPP requesting parish councils to share details of upcoming events.	LS
4	Email Clerks requesting parish councils to share details of upcoming events. LS to provide TMBC email contact details.	SBa
5	Resend recent recycling correspondence/query email to TS.	LS
6	Investigate recycling plastics including soft plastics, plastic types, innovation provided by KCC, Medway, TWBC.	LS
7	Revisit polystyrene packaging at a future meeting	LS
8	Expand school poster campaign on plastics, confirm poster design with Comms, share with Forum, circulate ahead of end of school term.	LS
9	Continue monitoring and discussing local public transport issues and updates.	SBa/Chair /LS
10	Raise bike taxis/community transport at future meetings	Cllr Crisp
11	Explore potential opportunities regarding vacant retail/community space for repair café and sustainability hub activities with TMBC's Economic Development and Special Projects Manager.	Cllr Betts
12	Investigate tool recycling	LS

#### 6. Meeting closed