

Notes on Climate Change Forum May 11th 2026

Kim Tanner in chair

CASP (Climate Action Shipbourne and Plaxtol) Green Homes Event at Shipbourne. There was quite a lot of interest. Queues of people.

It was suggested that future events be joint with other parishes.

Sarah said KALC would circulate a report on the CASP project to all parish councils.

Gills Fox said there will be an environmental report.

Jennifer Bate. Said there are lots of village fairs over the Summer period. Suggested there should be TMBC stalls at these events. Louise said she would find out if she could have a list.

Sarah said she is putting out an information sheet to all the clerks this week.

Seeking to promote the recycling of plastics

I brought up the fact that TMBC is currently unable to recycle most plastics while some other councils seem to be able to recycle more. E.g Medway can recycle bulk hard plastics whereas TMBC currently can't. Steve Crisp commented that only 11% of plastics are recycled.

Kim Tanner said we need to try to do better.

Fran Long made the comment that plastics can only be recycled 3 or 4 times

I brought up polystyrene foam packaging. It can't be recycled by anybody and there are plenty of packaging alternatives. How can we campaign against it? I just had a cooker delivered in it and Curry's would not take it away.

It was agreed to put it on the agenda for next time.

Lousie Stewart mentioned Retro Electrics, who can convert old diesel and petrol cars to electric.

Big Green Week.

Aiming to have water fountains in the new Angel Centre so people don't have to buy water in plastic bottles.

Question about posters for schools. Louise has "Knocked one up". It has gone to the TMBC communications team. The idea came from a school. She showed the poster. It looked good. Sarah said, why just schools? She wanted posters to be put up by parishes. General agreement. Originally, there was going to be a poster competition.

Steve Crisp said that one particular 7 year old young lady has produced some nice posters. She will send them to Louise.

Tribute made to David Attenborough who drove concerns about the oceans

Public transport. Fran brought up Tonbridge station to North Tonbridge bus problems. The KCC Bus Group has been discontinued. KCC head of transport was invited to the Forum but declined. TMBC is currently undertaking a bus study related to the local plan. Anita Oakley said with regard to 106 agreements for transport, KCC don't ask for enough money. She cited Panattoni. Kim Tanner said buses to train stations are particularly inadequate.

Steve Crip suggested cycle taxis. This was not taken very seriously.

Community Hubs. Louise asked for information about repair cafes. It was suggested TMBC prepare a list and that this should be raised at PPP.

I raised the 30,000+ tonnes of illegal waste dumped in Hoads Wood. It was originally said to be building waste but it turns out to have at least in part been municipal waste. There has been no suggestion that any came from TMBC but there have been allegations about other local councils, so I suggested that people be carefully observant as to where waste really goes.

Sarah raised some interesting talks. I will circulate if and when I have more specific information.

Tom Shelley

May 12th 2026