

RDC update

Carbon and co-benefits tool

RDC is enhancing the decision-making process to include carbon and climate-related impacts.

From May, the Council will be using the Carbon and Co-Benefits Decision Support Tool (Tool) developed by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority in partnership with the Tyndall Centre and the Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations (CAST). This is an Excel tool which is completed by officers. The tool supports decision-makers to take a holistic approach to decision-making by providing a clear and concise summary of how projects and policies impact a range of strategically important areas including climate and environment, equality and inclusion, health, economy, housing, and mobility.

Further information about the Tool can be found on the CAST website. This includes videos for officers and members. [Carbon and Co-benefits Decision Support Tool - cast.ac.uk](https://www.cast.ac.uk)

CAST has produced the following guide for local authorities. [Guide for LAs: Co-benefits Tool \(cast.ac.uk\)](https://www.cast.ac.uk)

LEAD

RDC are supporting Citizens Advice 1066 on the Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) project, funded by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. The project is working with households in rural Rother to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy bills. The project is offering free professional energy assessments of homes (worth up to £500), carried out by our experienced delivery partners. The first wave focused on Camber and East Rother, the next wave will focus on Battle and the surrounding area. There will be targeted MyAlerts and a maildrop to residents in the target area. More information can be found here [Local Energy Advice Demonstrator - Home Retrofit Assessments \(citizensadvice1066.co.uk\)](https://www.citizensadvice1066.co.uk)

Biodiversity Audit

We have received the Biodiversity Audits for the two sites in Battle (attached). These will be put on the RDC website when they meet accessibility requirements. The attached versions are not currently web-accessible. We are still waiting for more reports. Once they have all been received we will consider next steps.

Micro Woods

Following a presentation to Battle Town Council on 25th Jan and site visits with the Tree Warden and further Councillors on 4th March, the preferred site being considered for the Battle Micro Wood is Coronation Gardens Rec. Final confirmation is pending the outcome of a review of any underground infrastructure, expected shortly. The decision has considered the recent biodiversity audit conducted on the site and advice from Natural England's Woodland Creation Service.

Subject to final confirmation of infrastructure and tree root protection zones, the proposed plot is below. This location preserves sight lines onto the rec from the road and surrounding houses, will fill gaps in the tree line that will obscure the waterworks behind the site, and takes into account a reptile habitat displacement that has taken place on the rec from the nearby Blackfriars development.



Community Orchards Grant Scheme

Constituted groups can apply for grants of between £500 and £5,000 to create Community Orchards of at least 5 fruit and/or nut trees. Final preparations are being made and the scheme will be publicised and open for applications shortly.

Contribution towards item 12 - Options to consider

1. An annual climate action report
2. A webpage for progress against the climate action plan
3. An event - this would probably still need something written for people who are not able to attend the event