

Thermal imaging camera loan scheme – launch update for PPP

August 2024

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (TMBC) will launch a thermal imaging camera loan scheme in September. Thermal imaging cameras can be used to show where homes are losing heat to support residents to improve insulation, comfort and save energy at home. The cameras display images in contrasting colours to show areas of heat loss. They work best when there is a difference between indoor and outdoor temperatures, therefore the camera will be available to be booked from October 2024 to March 2025 in the first year of the scheme.

The camera has been selected to balance functionality and cost, facilitating use by residents in terms of ease of use and quality of images, but foregoing advanced software packages that come at extra cost. The camera is a robust, hand-held ‘trigger’ style model that is designed for daily use.

The camera is a robust, hand-held ‘trigger’ style model that is designed for daily use. The camera has a 3.2” colour screen, and a range of display modes to enable image clarity. For thermal imaging, it has an IR Resolution of 256×192 (49,152 pixels). It has a built-in 16GB flash memory (approx. 90,000 images), Wi-Fi and a USB Type-C port that can be used to upload images to phone apps or software to store and analyse images, and create reports. The camera has rechargeable batteries and can be used continuously for 6 hours on each charge.

The scheme will be accompanied by a webpage providing information on the camera and how it works, energy efficiency advice, and a link to the booking form. This includes example images and how to interpret them, the manual for the camera and, hopefully, free online training.

Residents may borrow the camera for a week. Parishes and community groups or organisations may borrow the camera for up to one month and will be responsible for designing a scheme to use the camera, remaining responsible for the camera and its use at all times. The loan scheme has full T&Cs, but in summary:

- The camera needs to be picked up from and returned to the Council’s offices. Proof of ID and address will be needed on collection.
- While you’re borrowing the camera, the named person on the form is responsible for what happens to it and for returning it to us safely.
- You will be charged a fee of £300 if you fail to return the camera, or if the camera is not returned in full working order.
- You are responsible for securely packaging the camera and any other equipment, e.g. the charger, and returning it to us in the box it was provided in.
- You are responsible for the proper collection and storage of all images, materials and information relating to the use of the camera in a way which is fully compatible with GDPR regulations.

We will be in touch with residents, community groups, and Parishes through direct email and newsletters to promote the scheme when the booking form goes live, so watch this space!

Carrie Spencer, TMBC Climate Change Officer