

APRIL 2022



TENTERDEN
TOWN COUNCIL

HIGH STREET MARKET
BACK FROM MARCH

COUNCIL PROJECTS

SPRING
NEWSLETTER

Thanks to Sue Ferguson for photo on p.3



www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk

A MESSAGE FROM TENTERDEN'S MAYOR

As Mayor of Tenterden, it gives me great pleasure to wish everyone a very healthy and prosperous 2022. Let's all hope that we have a much better year, and we can finally overcome all the challenges around Covid.



First, I want to reflect on what was a wonderful Thank You event we held in Tenterden Town Hall in the autumn. We invited some amazing people living and working in the town who have done such tremendous work during Lockdown. It has been a difficult time for so many of us, and it was very thought-provoking to meet some of those who have gone that extra mile to help the most vulnerable. On behalf of residents of this town, I want to thank each one of them. You did make a difference.

Second, my selected charity to support as Mayor is EC30, the new Community Wellbeing and Social Prescribing Centre.

EC30, is an informal and affordable local meeting place in the heart of Tenterden, focusing on community inclusion. Within EC30 is a community café run by staff and volunteers offering a selection of hot and cold beverages alongside locally homemade cakes. EC30 is home to the Tenterden Social Hub Charity Shop, which is the only local charity, charity shop within the town.

A number of additional support services run within EC30 either in one of the consulting rooms or drop in services within the café. They currently host: Tenterden Counselling Service; The Old School House Larder; CROP; Al Anon; Parkinsons UK; Age UK Dementia; Young Carers; Social Prescribing Team; PCSO Drop in and new Knit & Knatter group. The volunteers and staff can also assist in signposting to other services within the area and are always open to new group ideas.

Every Mayor can nominate a charity for their term of office, and I am very impressed with EC30. My aim is to raise the awareness of the wonderful work that they do, and to raise some funds for them.

You can visit its website at www.ec30.co.uk/, please do show an interest if you can.

Cllr Dr Lisa Lovelidge, Mayor of Tenterden

NEW COUNCILLORS

Tenterden Town Council is delighted to welcome two new councillors – Councillor Rose Clarke and Councillor Andrew Holcombe.

COUNCILLOR ROSE CLARKE, SOUTH WARD



I have been lucky enough to have travelled the world, explore new lands and diverse cultures as well as working as a trauma nurse, a job that I was both good at and loved to do.

I returned to the UK at the start of Lockdown in 2020, having lived in California for nearly 30 years, to help look after my elderly mother

I was delighted to find my new home here in Tenterden close to my sister and brother-in-law.

I am currently volunteering at EC30 as a barista in the café and looking forward to working with the town and the council.

I look forward to meeting the residents of the South Ward and hearing about your lives, needs and opinions.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW HOLCOMBE, NORTH WARD



I hope to bring a wealth of expertise, gained from a wide range of roles of considerable diversity. These roles are associated with Community Engagement/Community Safety Leadership and Management. I served for 32 years in the public service arena within the Fire Service, culminating

as a Borough Commander across several key London Boroughs.

During my final 14 years in the Fire Service, I worked closely with both elected council leaders and Chief Executives. I have sat on many forums, including Safer Neighbourhoods, Police Consultative Groups, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Emergency Planning.

Within this period, I have had the opportunity to demonstrate leadership skills, combined with sound decision-making, communication and organisational capabilities. These I will bring to Tenterden Town council within my new role.



ONE WAY SYSTEM AT GOLDEN SQUARE AND EAST HILL

Tenterden Town Council is exploring the introduction of a one-way system in the town at Golden Square and East Hill, as it believes it would be safer for both pedestrians and drivers. Under the proposals, Golden Square would be used by vehicles leaving Tenterden and East Hill, by vehicles entering the town. In addition, the proposed improvements include an improved pedestrian crossing at Oaks Road and the introduction of a 20-mph zone in the area. Should the proposals go ahead, Tenterden Town Council would be required to fund the improvements - the cost would be in the region of £32,000.

The town council has already written to nearby residents to seek their views and is now looking for feedback from the wider community.

To respond to the public consultation on this issue please complete a short survey accessible at www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/en/page/town-council-surveys or contact the Town Hall for a hard copy of the survey. The survey closes at 5pm, Wednesday 20th April 2022.

COUNCIL IS OPPOSING PLANS FOR 145 NEW HOMES AT PUBLIC INQUIRY

TENTERDEN Town Council wants to assure residents that it opposed plans at a public inquiry to build 145 new homes along with play areas, sports pitches, and a country park.

Many people will be aware that Wates Development Ltd has lodged an appeal against a decision by Ashford Borough Council to reject the plans for Limes Land, which is the land behind Woodchurch Road and Appledore Road in Tenterden.

The appeal inquiry began on February 8th, 2022, and in preparation the town council sought expert legal advice.

Tenterden Town Council first voiced opposition to the plans - along with local resident groups - back in June.

Ashford Mayor councillor Callum Knowles - who represents Tenterden South – spoke at a recent council meeting.

He said: "This is a case we do not want to lose. Ashford Borough Council is the planning authority, but this is a very serious issue for Tenterden Town Council as well. That is why it is right for the town council to fund expert legal support."

Tenterden Mayor, Cllr Lisa Lovelidge, said at the same meeting that the idea of a country park on the development was 'laughable.'

Tenterden Planning committee chairman Cllr John Crawford has also expressed the concerns many of the councillors have. Commenting that the Limes Land Proposals would not boost long term economic development or social sustainability, but significantly harm the environment and landscape.

The Town Council will, of course, keep residents updated with what happens at the inquiry.

It understands how important this issue is for the town's residents.

SPEED SURVEYS

TENTERDEN Town Council is backing plans for a speed survey on a dangerous stretch of road after hearing passionate pleas from residents. Three speakers told councillors at a recent meeting that the speed limit on Cranbrook Road and Chennell Park Road should be reduced from 60mph to 40mph, they said that unless this happens, someone will be killed.

In response, Tenterden Town Council agreed to work with KCC Councillor Mike Hill to jointly fund traffic surveys to cover a three-mile segment of Chennell Park Road, Cranbrook Road and Rolvenden Roads. Survey results are expected in the Spring; the data generated will allow Kent County Council to determine the effectiveness of speed reductions at these locations.

CLIMATE CHANGE TOP OF AGENDA

TENTERDEN Town Council is taking the issue of climate change very seriously and has already taken many positive steps forward. The clear aim during 2022 is to go even further.

The council will be drafting a vision statement and climate action plan at a forthcoming visioning workshop. The workshop will include Climate Change sub-committee members and selected stakeholders.

The Climate Change sub-committee welcomed expert Andrew Wright to its latest meeting.

Andrew who has 35 years' experience in the energy industry said "it is fantastic that Tenterden Town Council is taking the lead on carbon reduction. Not many other similar sized councils across the country are taking such positive action."

The council wants to be carbon neutral by 2030, an ambitious timeframe and quite a challenge, but one it believes can be achieved. The council will be looking at its emissions and what it can do to help other people lead lower carbon lifestyles.

Mr Wright said that keeping its own house in order as a council will inspire others, and the council hopes that is the case. Public transport and active travel and flexibility must in addition, be a key focus.

Last year solar panel units were installed to council owned buildings at both St. Michaels and Tenterden Recreation Grounds. Looking to the future, the town council has ambitious plans to refurbish the Town Hall with insulation, air source heat pump, solar panels, and LED lighting.

ST. MICHAEL'S RECREATION GROUND REFURBISHMENT

In 2021, the St Michaels Recreation Ground Working Group was formed and tasked with liaising with residents across the town on the current facilities available at St. Michaels Recreation Ground. It was identified that improvements could be made, and that the first step towards these would be to better understand residents' usage of the facilities and gauge their opinions on some of the ideas proposed. Feedback will inform further discussions with local groups to plan a way forward. As with any project, plans will be subject to funding being sourced; although some funds will be available from Section 106 contributions from the current housing development being constructed near Pope House Farm.

To respond to the public consultation on this issue please complete a short survey accessible at www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/en/page/town-council-surveys or contact the Town Hall for a hard copy of the survey. The survey closes at 5pm on 20th April 2022.

OUR FANTASTIC FRIDAY MARKET IS BACK

THE popular Friday morning High Street Market will be returning to Tenterden from March 2022.

The rejuvenated market will take place on Tenterden High Street on the second and fourth Friday of each month from 9am until 2pm and will include high quality traders to complement the fantastic shops the town already has to offer.

For more details, visit www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/en/page/high-street-market

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

In preparation for the Jubilee celebrations, Thursday, 2nd to Sunday, 5th June, the Town Council is compiling a timetable of events to mark this special occasion.

These include a special exhibition in the Town Hall, lighting of the Town's beacon; live stream of the Platinum Party in the Palace; and the big Jubilee picnic on the Tenterden Recreation Ground.

In addition, we are asking for all those organising events to let the Town Hall know what is happening, so that we can include you in the programme if you wish.

Please visit our website to keep up to date with the latest: <https://www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/en/events>



THE WONDERS OF KILN FIELD

These are some of the stunning photos of some of the wildlife captured on film at the Kiln Field nature reserve during 2021. Thanks are due to resident Jon Burnell for his patience in obtaining these images.



A small, but dedicated group of councillors, residents and staff meet several times a year to discuss management of the site.

To encourage and nurture wildlife at Kiln Field, the town council has installed two barn owl, four tawny owl and three bat boxes. A disabled friendly pond dipping platform made



from recycled plastic has been installed, which is accessible by the creation of a new Amber Gold gravel footpath which blends in well with its surroundings. Tenterden Town Council saved 33,902 milk containers from our oceans to create our Pond Dipping Platform and have received a certificate in recognition of this.

There has been evidence of Wild Lettuce – which is not native to this area, Pyramid Orchids and Frogspit in the pond.

The woodland has been thinned to allow light and air in and wild-flowers have been planted on the advice of a wildflower consultant. The culvert has been fenced off and made safe and windblown trees have been removed, Alder trees and nine Hazel trees have been planted to establish a coppice area synonymous with Kent Woodlands. Two trail cameras have been installed to monitor the presence of wildlife.

Footage has so far been captured of a deer, cats, mice, rabbits, foxes, badgers, pheasants, and various birds.

The town council's Maintenance Team were taken aback this year by the amount of Himalayan Balsam springing up on the site. This invasive plant spreads rapidly once it sets seed and its management is an ongoing issue requiring constant vigilance and immediate action.

Looking to the future, the town council is looking to have the site officially designated as a nature reserve, this will be undertaken in conjunction with Ashford Borough Council as owners of the site. Opportunities for local schools to visit Kiln Field will be explored, as will the possibility of volunteers coming on board to help maintain this haven for wildlife. Work is needed to make the entrance on to the site more easily accessible so that it can be enjoyed by all.

Should you wish to know more about the site or want to donate your time and skills to help the town council care for this precious environment, please contact the Town Hall.

Please note there is no parking at Kiln Field, and residents wanting to visit are advised to use the parking facilities in the town and take the path from the Leisure Centre.

SAVING OUR PLANET
Certificate
THANK YOU FOR HELPING **MARMAX** IN OUR QUEST TO SAVE THE PLANET AND SAVE OUR OCEANS!

This is to certify that
Tenterden Town Council
Has saved
33,902
Milk containers from our oceans by using
materials to create a Pond Dipping
Platform

Marmax
Recycled Products

All products are made
from **100% UK**
recycled plastic and
are maintenance free
making it the ideal
material for outdoor
furniture and play
equipment

Marmax Products Ltd,
Units 9 - 16, Tanfield Lea
South Industrial Estate, Stanley,
County Durham, DH9 9QX.
Telephone: 01207 283442
www.marmaxproducts.co.uk
sales@marmaxproducts.co.uk

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recycling
in action

"I want to be a picnic bench when I'm recycled!"

Please recycle your bottle and great chance to be reborn

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL AGREES ITS BUDGET FOR 2022/23

In December, the Town Council considered and approved its budget and precept for the financial year 2022/2023. The 'precept' is the town council's share of council tax collected by Ashford Borough Council.

The town council does not receive funding directly from central government and relies on the precept and income generated from chargeable services and facilities, to fund its activities and services.

A precept for the parish of Tenterden for 2022/23 was set at £649,229 (compared with £603,839 for 2021/22). While the precept total is rising, the amount paid by individual households in Tenterden is expected to

decrease slightly, as there are more households eligible to pay council tax now, than there were a year ago. For Band D households, this amounts to £166 for the Tenterden parish element of annual council tax for the 2022/23 year, compared to £168 per year in 2021/22.

Total anticipated expenditure for the year amounts to £709,170. £649,229 of which is met through the precept, and the remainder through income generation.

COMMUNITY SERVICES	ADMINISTRATION & FACILITATION	ENVIRONMENT	LOCAL REPRESENTATION
Grants and donations £11,000	Council administration £366,950	Carbon reduction £5,000	Planning advice £10,000
Town Events £4,000	Town Hall & council properties £46,850	Christmas Lights £15,000	Neighbourhood Plan completion £8,000
Youth Provision £26,000	IT £20,000	Gardening, grounds, facilities and play areas maintenance £52,950	Civic Services £9,500
Public Toilets £42,000	Insurance £22,440	Kiln Field nature reserve £5,000	TOTAL £27,500
Projects £30,000	Professional Fees £31,500	TOTAL £77,950	TOTAL EXPENDITURE £709,190
Friday Market £3,000	TOTAL £487,740		ANNUAL PRECEPT £649,229 Annual cost to Band D resident £167.98 Weekly cost to Band D resident: £3.23
TOTAL £116,000			

This represents a decrease in the precept of 1.5% to the amount paid by the average Tenterden household.

GRASS CUTTING AND OTHER MATTERS

In 2017, the Town Council entered agreements with both Ashford Borough Council (ABC) and Kent County Council (KCC) to undertake grounds maintenance and caretaking duties in the town - including cutting of grass on verges and in St Mildred's and St Michaels churchyards.

By bringing these activities in-house, the intention was to improve the appearance of the town and at the same time bring in sufficient income to cover costs of doing so.

However, it became apparent over time that the scheme was not cost effective, as ultimately the town council did not receive sufficient income to be able to meet the level of expenditure required.

In addition, requirements of the scheme were placing a huge burden on our small team of staff.

It was decided with regret in December 2021, to withdraw from the agreements and return these tasks to ABC and KCC. This will free up our Maintenance Team to concentrate on other duties, in and around the town.

From April 2022 grass cutting and other duties will be undertaken by Aspire on behalf of ABC and KCC.

The town council will continue to maintain its own land, which includes Tenterden and St. Michaels Recreation Grounds, East Cross, Kiln Field Nature Reserve, the Millennium Garden and the various flowerbeds in the town.



TOWN COUNCIL PROJECTS UPDATE

TENTERDEN RECREATION GROUND

At the time of writing, a decision from Ashford Borough Council (ABC), regarding the town council's planning application for the Recreation Ground is awaited. The ambitious plans will maximise usage of the 'Rec', include a skate, BMX and scooter park, a children's mixed play zone and multi-use games area, including new tennis and netball courts. Plans include a new eco-friendly building – on the grounds of the existing Pavilion, to be used as a youth hub, with associated support services.

TOWN HALL REFURBISHMENT

An application for planning permission submitted to ABC in 2021 was withdrawn when it became apparent that there were matters raised by ABC's Conservation Officer, which required consideration. The town council is expected to consider some minor amendments to the planning application aimed at addressing these matters - along with revised costings for the scheme - in 2022. Planned renovations will enable the Town Hall to become a more accessible and welcoming community facility, whilst safeguarding the future of this historic building.

CHANGING PLACES

Plans for creation of a 'changing places' facility for disabled residents and visitors are expected to be realised in 2022, with work due to start once final details of the plans and costings are confirmed. The facility, to be in part of the former tractor shed at the Recreation Ground, is part of a nationwide scheme to provide facilities which enable dignity and ease of use, to those in need.

SOLAR PANELS

To provide a clean, green source of energy for two of its buildings, solar panels have been installed at both the old Tractor Shed on the Recreation Ground and at St. Michael's Maintenance facility. The panels do not need direct sunlight to work as they are able to generate electricity even on a cloudy day.

CINEMA

Exploration into conversion of the Pebbles building to a town cinema, indicated that requirements to preserve the historic nature of the building rendered the scheme as prohibitively expensive. At the time of writing, the Cinema Focus Group is exploring other possible locations and means of financing the project. The Pebbles building is owned by the town council and currently leased to White Stuff clothing company.

TENTERDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

The Tenterden Neighbourhood Plan went out for public consultation on Wednesday 23rd June 2021 for 8 weeks. This public consultation is a key step in the journey towards shaping planning by the community and for the community. The consultation aims to capture local views, expertise and input to go into the final version of the Neighbourhood Plan. This final version is then submitted to Ashford Borough Council and is independently examined before the community votes on it at a local referendum.

The Plan itself focuses on preserving and improving the Town's green spaces which are so vital for well-being, physical and mental health, our wildlife and nature, our history and the beauty of our unique Town. The Neighbourhood Plan also seeks to improve the quality and design of any new development through a detailed and sympathetic Design Code.

Lockdown posed some significant problems. Government guidance was absolutely clear – no public meetings were allowed. Previous events had been held at the Town Hall and St. Mildred's with hundreds of residents attending in person to find out about what the Neighbourhood Plan was all about and what it could achieve. With help from TTC, we launched a digital consultation on our website (tenterdenneighbourhoodplan.org) and used Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Printed versions of the draft Plan were put at key venues in the Town and a town-wide leaflet drop also took place. Written responses were collected at the Town Hall and over 70 letters went out to Tenterden's community groups and other stakeholders seeking their views, along with critical organisations such as infrastructure providers and government agencies.

Our website received 1.4 thousand unique visits during the consultation phase, the website's homepage was visited almost 3 thousand times whilst Instagram reached significant numbers of residents under the age of 35.

The response has been really impressive, both in terms of numbers and in the level of detail, almost twice the number of responses received by a neighbouring parish of equivalent size. Each and every response is being considered carefully and analysed by the Neighbourhood Plan Committee so that we can use these ideas and suggestions to improve and update the Plan. We are also analysing and applying contributions from other organisations, authorities, partners and stakeholders whose input is required by planning legislation. This is time-consuming and detailed work carried out by truly dedicated volunteers. The Committee wishes to thank everyone who took the time to respond – your views will make a real difference and make this a Neighbourhood Plan that gives the Town the local planning powers it deserves.

We also wish to thank the staff at TTC, Feria Urbanism, and Gravity Global for their unwavering help and hard work.

Follow us on

■ Website <https://tenterdenneighbourhoodplan.org/>

■ Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/keepingtenterdengreen/>

■ Twitter <https://twitter.com/TenterdenGreen>

■ Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/tenterdengreenspace/>

DEFIBRILLATORS IN THE TOWN

Defibrillators give a high energy electric shock to someone who is experiencing cardiac arrest. You do not need training - they are simple and easy to use with clear instructions provided.

Tenterden Town Council provides six defibrillators for public use in case of an emergency. They are vital and save lives so please be aware of where they are. The council bought, maintains and insures all of them because they are so important.

COUNCIL PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATORS IN TENTERDEN:

- The Crown Public House.
- The Fat Ox Public House.
- Tenterden Recreation Ground Public Toilets
- Station Road, Public Toilets Tenterden Social Hub
- Smallhythe Telephone Kiosk

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC DEFIBRILLATORS IN THE TOWN ARE LOCATED AT:

- Fire Station at St. Michaels
- Ivy Court Surgery
- Tenterden Leisure Centre
- Tenterden Social Hub
- Tesco's
- Trinity Baptist Church

TOWN HALL HIRING

Tenterden Town Council is looking for a new member of staff - a part-time Deputy Town Sergeant at Mace to join its small team at the Town Hall.

The successful candidate will provide cover for the Sergeant at Mace - attending and ensuring the safety and security of the Mayor and their civic regalia when attending official functions. The role will also involve acting as Security Officer at the Town Hall when required. The hourly rate is £15 and training will be provided.

Applications must be received by noon, Wednesday 20th April.

Requests for copies of the job description and person specification should be made to townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk or by calling 01580 762271.

TO CONTACT THE TOWN COUNCIL ON SUBJECTS IN THIS NEWSLETTER or on any other matter:

E-MAIL: townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk

PHONE: 01580 762271

OR BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE: www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/en/page/contact

Follow us on twitter: twitter.com/tenterdentc

on Instagram: www.instagram.com/tenterdentowncouncil

or like our page on Facebook: www.facebook.com/TenterdenTownCouncil

FAULT REPORTING

ALL residents are invited to use online tools to report local problems, such as graffiti, fly tipping, broken paving slabs, potholes, faulty street lighting, water and drainage issues.

ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report issues directly to ABC:

www.ashford.gov.uk/report

- Report environmental issues
(e.g. fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles, dog fouling, etc.)
- Report missed bin collections
- Report noise nuisance
- Report issues regarding planning and building control

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

Report issues directly to KCC:

www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report

- Report faults with roads
- Report faults with potholes
- Report faults with pavements
- Report faults with drains
- Report faults with streetlights
- Report faults with traffic lights
- Report faults with public footpaths and rights of way

SOUTHERN WATER

To report disruption to water supply, burst or leak in a public place, blocked or flooded sewer:

24 hour emergency line 0330 303 0368

or report online at:

www.southernwater.co.uk/help-advice/what-to-do-in-an-emergency

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Report issues to TTC:

www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/en/page/contact

- Public toilets (Recreation Ground, St. Michael's Recreation Ground, Station Road)
- St. Michael's Recreation Ground
- Tenterden Recreation Ground
- Kiln Field Nature Reserve
- Coombe Lane Cemetery
- Millennium Garden