

MEETINGS SCHEDULE

There are plenty of opportunities to see your Town Council in action, and all of the following council and committee meetings are held in public.

The Planning Committee considers all applications affecting property in Tenterden, from a single house extension to major new housing developments, and makes recommendations before going to Ashford Borough Council for determination.

The Internal Committee discusses finance, public engagement, and council-owned property.

The External Committee deals with liaison with outside organisations such as the Folk Festival, and items such as the ‘caretaker scheme’ which includes tending the town’s green spaces.

Town Council ratifies decisions made by the Committees, accepts general representations from members of the public, Kent

Police, Community Warden and council representatives on local organisations.

You are welcome to attend any of these meetings, and in addition, the successful initiative of informal

Coffee Mornings at the Town Hall will continue in 2019, where you can meet your local councillor and talk about any issues you may have.

Here is the schedule of meetings for the next few months:

11 th February 2019	Planning, External, Internal – from 7pm
16 th February 2019 (Sat)	Meet Your Councillors Coffee Morning – 10am to 12 noon
11 th March 2019	Town Council, Planning, Internal, External – from 7pm
30 th March 2019 (Sat)	Meet Your Councillors Coffee Morning – 10am to 12 noon
8 th April 2019	Planning, External, Internal – from 7pm
29 th April 2019	Planning
2 nd May 2019	LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
13 th May 2019	Annual Meeting of the Town Council, including Mayor-Making – 7pm

Tenterden Town Council welcomes comments and feedback on its activities. Here is how to get in touch:

If you would like to contact your local councillor, please feel free to call or email.

- By email: townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
- By phone: 01580 762271
- By post: Town Hall, 24 High Street, Tenterden TN30 6AN
- Via the website: www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
- In person: Visit us at the Town Hall, 9am-3pm, Monday to Friday.

Mike Carter (West)	Caxton Cottage, 12 West Cross, TN30 6JH	01580 388709	cllr.carter@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
John Crawford (South)	2 Stace Close, TN30 6RP	07779 630013	cllr.crawford@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Jean Curteis (St. Michael's)	38 Henley Fields, TN30 6EL	07799 765730	cllr.curteis@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Henry Edwards (North)	Eastwell Farmhouse, East Cross. TN30 6AD	01580 763428	(not contactable by email)
Sue Ferguson (North)	2 St. Benets Court. TN30 6QS	01580 765546	cllr.ferguson@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Matthew Freeman (St. Michael's)	70 Wayside Avenue, TN30 6PA	01580 761230	cllr.freeman@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Nikki Gooch (South)	24 Longfield, TN30 7NH	01580 764349	cllr.gooch@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Harry Hickmott (St. Michael's)	High Force, Grange Road, TN30 6EE	01580 766496	cllr.hickmott@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Roy Isworth (South)	11 Elmfield, TN30 6RE	07585 022154	cllr.isworth@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Callum Knowles (South)	57 Shrubcote, TN30 7BG	07810 155686	cllr.knowles@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Lisa Lovelidge (South)	57 Shrubcote, TN30 7BG	07733 318836	cllr.lovelidge@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Ken Mulholland (St. Michael's)	Dering Court, Grange Road, St. TN30 6DT	01580 762827	cllr.mulholland@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Justin Nelson (North)	66 Rogersmead. TN30 6LF	01580 765313	cllr.nelson@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Pam Smith (St. Michael's)	The Old Malthouse, Swain Road. TN30 6PS	01580 765081	cllr.smith@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Alan Sugden (North)	60 Rogersmead. TN30 6LF	01580 765581	cllr.sugden@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Kate Walder (West)	Potts Farm, Chennell Park Road, TN30 6XA	07389 110611	cllr.walder@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Town Clerk's office	Town Hall, 24 High Street, TN30 6AN	01580 762271	townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk



TENTERDEN
TOWN COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 2019

PROTECT OUR GREEN SPACES

How you can help

FOCUS GROUPS UPDATE

Cinema, Town Hall, Recreation Ground, public halls

RESIDENTS' SURVEY

Putting your priorities into action

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Picture courtesy of Ray Bridges

STRONG OPPOSITION TO PLANS FOR NEW HOMES

Tenterden Town Council's Planning Committee strives to ensure that any development of new homes in Tenterden is examined in detail and, if necessary, amended or opposed.

The committee has registered strong opposition to a proposed development of a 56-bed care home with 23 units for assisted living at Westwell Court.

The council has sent a strongly-worded letter to Ashford Borough Council's planning department stressing a series of objections to the development.

The letter highlights that:

- The developer's transport statement "contains inaccuracies, omissions, outdated information and flawed analysis, and conclusions that render reliance on it potentially unsafe, and at times, misleading".
- The significant increase in traffic including delivery vehicles, lack of safe access, additional pressure on parking in the town, and associated problems of road congestion and air pollution.

■ The developer's plans had failed to meet the stated policy that specialist housing "would (have) no significant impact on the amenities of any neighbouring residential occupiers".

■ "The depth of local opposition to the development (explaining) why residents have registered their objections in such numbers"

The council has also expressed concerns over the proposed Tilden Gill development for 100 new homes.

While it was stressed there was no desire to reduce the number of affordable homes in the town, the units proposed by developers Redrow were sited too close to an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and were designed as a three-storey block, which is out of line with developments elsewhere in the town.

The council also declared that a proposed buffer strip around the entire development was inadequate.

NEW CYCLE ROUTES

The council is backing a study by Sustrans, the national sustainable transport authority, for a plan to create two cycle routes in Silver Hill and Colonel Stephen's Way.

The expenditure of over £10,000 will be co-funded by Cllr Callum Knowles from his Ashford Borough Council members' ward budget and the Town Council, and is aimed at encouraging healthy activity and environmental responsibility.

Said Mayor Cllr Pam Smith: "It's hard to imagine a more beautiful setting for cyclists than Tenterden and its surrounding countryside".

Moya Somerscales of the volunteer Tenterden Cycling Strategy Steering Group said, "The Sustrans study is a very exciting development in trying to improve cycling and walking facilities in Tenterden, and the councils currently involved are to be commended for supporting its initial implementation."

Anyone interested in joining the steering group or attending its meetings can give their contact details to the Town Hall to pass on.

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A TOWN COUNCILLOR?

Elections to the council are being held on Thursday 2nd May and residents, living within 3 miles or working in Tenterden and St Michaels, are being invited to stand. Candidates should be over 18 and be a British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth*.

The duties of a councillor include attending Town Council meetings held once per month, sitting on committees which produce recommendations for ratifying by the full council, and engaging with residents, local groups, and businesses to ensure their needs are being met.

Nearer the election date, the council will publish more details and run advisory sessions for those interested.

To find out more email: townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk, telephone: 01580 762271, or visit the Town Hall, open Monday to Friday 9am-3pm.

**Citizens of the EU may qualify. Any interested parties should enquire at The Town Hall*

YOU CAN HELP KEEP TENTERDEN GREEN

We need your help to shape and protect your green country market town for the future.

Ashford Borough Council is in the final stages of the local plan defining where houses will be built until 2030. As a community, we now have an opportunity to identify and define the valuable green spaces for enjoyment of all age groups, and to protect the character of the town and wildlife.

The Town Council recently passed a resolution that Tenterden should have a Selective Neighbourhood Plan solely to focus on green spaces that should be designated for protection for future generations.

This is the only viable and statutory way to protect our most valuable green spaces, and the initiative is backed by the town's MP Damian Green and the Local Green Spaces Group.

To comply with government legislation, Ashford Borough Council has been informed, and we have requested that we

should be allowed to pursue a Selective Neighbourhood Plan for the town. This permission takes a minimum of six weeks.

Once Ashford has formally agreed, a working group comprising eight local residents and three Tenterden town councillors (Cllrs John Crawford, Jean Curteis and Kate Walder) will be set up to identify sites and assess their suitability for this Selective Neighbourhood Plan.

This exercise will probably take up to two years to assess suitable green sites across the town and submit a plan requesting designation of the local green spaces. For a local green space to be eligible, it has to be of particular importance to the local community, for example being valuable for its natural beauty, tranquility, historical significance, recreation or for protection of wildlife.

There are numerous benefits for local green space to be designated. The list includes; creating a sense of place and facilitating community cohesion, increasing and encouraging physical activity for adults and children, adapting to climate change through CO² absorption, shading or flood alleviation, improving mental health, creating more attractive places to work, live and visit, improving air quality, enhancing biodiversity, and protecting indigenous wildlife.

For the green spaces to be designated they must be reasonably close to the community they serve. We will also be looking at possible connecting corridors from one local green space to another. These may be recognised footpaths, bridleways, or other forms of passageways.

For this neighbourhood plan exercise to be successful, your views and knowledge of the town are essential.

In order to make this process as open and transparent as possible, and to ensure the widest community involvement, we will launch an engagement workshop at the Town Hall once we have permission from Ashford to proceed. This will ensure that everyone knows about the neighbourhood plan and has an opportunity to participate.

We will be looking for people with a wide variety of skills and knowledge from all walks of life to either sit on the permanent working party or on sub groups to undertake specific tasks over a shorter period of time. Look out for the launch date and join us to shape our valuable market town.

If in the meantime you wish to register your name as a volunteer, please contact the Town clerk by email: townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk, or by letter to the Town Hall, 24 High Street, Tenterden TN30 6AN.

FOOT-BOOST

Tenterden's footballers have been awarded £1,500 by the council to help them pay for booking fees at the new 3G pitch at Homewood School.

The club can now pay for fixtures and training sessions at the floodlit, £450,000 3G pitch, which was funded by Ashford Borough Council and the Tenterden Schools Trust.

Picture shows the Mayor, Cllr Pam Smith, at the new pitch with former Homewood pupil and world number one Footgolf champion Sophie Brown.



FOCUS GROUP PLANS ON TRACK

When the town council received £3.5 million from the sale of land to housing developers, it was agreed that the money would be spent on major projects for the town.

The four projects identified were a redesign of the Recreation Ground, refurbishing the Town Hall, investigating the potential for a cinema in the town, and greater use of local community halls. Each project is being managed and monitored by Focus Groups of local residents, supported by town councillors.

The council’s plan is to look at costings for all internal and external projects once we are confident of their accuracy and then present these figures for public scrutiny. Once that process has been undertaken, we may have to go back to the individual groups, either to request phasing of the projects or savings from the overall cost. Funding for St Mildred’s re-ordering has been agreed in principle and the eventual funding will form part of the process above.

Here is an update on progress with each Focus Group:

RECREATION GROUND

A public exhibition was held in the Town Hall in October, when landscape architects Ground Control presented detailed visuals and statistics on the project.

The company is now working on a revised scheme, to incorporate suggestions from visitors to the exhibition. Further public consultation will take place.

The scheme introduces new features such as a skate park, multi-use games areas, play areas for all age groups, and netball courts as well as enhancing the existing Recreation Ground facilities.

TOWN HALL

Building design and planning consultants Price Whitehead have been commissioned to produce a detailed brief for the restoration of the Town Hall, which has been put out to tender to firms of architects.

Built in 1792, and one of the town’s most iconic buildings, the Town Hall is subject to problems associated with old listed buildings, and the objective is to restore its structural integrity and to make it

more accessible to the public. It is hoped that the Town Hall will be the centralised point for community and information services.

CINEMA

The Pebbles, a prominent high street building, has been identified as the optimum site for a cinema, and a pre-planning application has been submitted to Ashford Borough Council and Historic England to ensure it meets planning and listed building rules.

The Focus Group’s brief is for a two-screen, 150-seat venue, with an attractive cafe/bar.

The Town Council will not ultimately run the cinema - it will be handed over, by way of a lease, to a commercial cinema operator and several have already expressed their interest.

VILLAGE HALLS

Work has begun on the Tenterden Town Council website to provide detailed information on public venues for hire.

The new portal will allow visitors to see details such as capacity, bar and catering facilities, car parking, disabled access, and key contact information.

work with the Rolvenden Rocket team to avoid overlap.

For information on services please contact Owen South, the community transport co-ordinator, Tel: 01580 762882, email: owen.south@tsh.org.uk

Meanwhile, KCC has announced that scheduled bus services are being introduced on a trial basis between Tenterden and several surrounding villages from June. The objective is to fill any gaps in passenger need as a result of bus operator cutbacks. Details will be announced in due course.

BUSES HIT THE ROAD

For several months the Town Council has been working with Kent County Council, Ashford Borough Council, Tenterden Social Hub and surrounding parishes with a view to providing more local transport options for residents - particularly the elderly, infirm and those without their own car - following cutbacks in services by major bus operators.

NEW POST FOR TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

A new role will be created to help Tenterden maximise its potential as a great place for residents to live and a top destination for tourists.

A Town Centre Manager is to be appointed, with a brief to implement the recommendations of the Tenterden Destination Management Plan which was commissioned by the council and Chamber of Commerce last summer.

The report cited the tree-lined High Street, the wide choice of eating and drinking venues, the steam railway, and the nearby vineyard as key factors pulling visitors into the town, but emphasised that more needed to be done to maximise the town’s potential.

In a New Year’s message, the Mayor Cllr Pam Smith stressed the fundamental strength of the town’s retail offering, with a lower rate of empty shops than the national average, and a raft of new shops opening in the town in the past 12 months.

“It’s a cheerful thought that Tenterden is bucking the trend”, she said. “However, we know that the battle to retain customer and visitor loyalty always has to continue, which is why the council has decided to part-fund a Town Centre Manager in 2019”.



CHRISTMAS MARKET A SUPER SUCCESS

Tenterden’s annual Christmas Market was an outstanding success, attracting overwhelmingly positive reviews from visitors, stallholders and residents.

Research showed that among the estimated 12,000-14,000 visitors - a 20 percent increase over the 2017 event - nine out of 10 said they would come to the next Christmas Market. About one third of visitors travelled more than 20 miles, and the average spend was £53, an exceptional result for an event of this size.

Tenterden residents rated the Market as either ‘Good’ or ‘Excellent’, particularly commending the light parade, snow machine and overall atmosphere.

High Street businesses expressed similar enthusiasm, saying the event kick-started Christmas trading in the town and commented on the great atmosphere, increased footfall and raised profile.

The highest commendations came from Christmas Market stallholders, who rated the event and management as ‘Good’ or ‘Excellent’, commenting that what made the event even better was the great welcome they received from the residents, local businesses and visitors, with over 90% of them wanting to repeat in 2019.

The three-day Market received a town event budget contribution from Tenterden Town Council and individual support from Ashford Borough Council members to support the light parade where almost almost 500 local residents and schoolchildren took part.

The Market received more than 85% funding from the private sector, with a generous sponsorship contribution from Dandara homes.

The event was organised by Natasha Mahoney and Seren Welch. Following their report to the council, they were presented with bouquets of flowers in recognition of their achievement.



PUTTING YOUR PRIORITIES INTO ACTION

When Tenterden Town Council conducted its wide-ranging residents’ survey last year, respondents were asked to list their top priorities for action. They were: parking, town appearance and regeneration of the High Street, policing, and repair of potholes and pavements.

Parking

Survey respondents asked for affordable and convenient parking without causing problems for residents, workers, and visitors.

Action: Approaches are being made to the Kent & East Sussex Railway for a trial use of the station car park for workers at a low rate, and Ashford Borough Council (ABC) for a ‘free after three’ scheme in town car parks. An analysis is also being undertaken with ABC of data on car park usage and occupancy rates at key times throughout the year.

Lead councillor: Cllr Justin Nelson.

Town Appearance

The survey highlighted the wish to improve and maintain the appearance of the town as an attractive place to live, work, and visit, and to develop a partnership approach with businesses.

Action: Current weed control and leaf-clearing contracts are being reviewed, and communication with businesses is to be improved.

Lead councillor: Cllr Alan Sugden.

High Street Regeneration

Respondents asked for action in identifying and implementing ways of regenerating the High Street.

Action: Look into the appointment of a Town Centre Manager (see story on page 5), and further activities to be identified by the Tourism & Business sub committee.

Lead councillors: Members of the Tourism & Business sub committee.

Policing

Survey respondents asked the Town Council to ensure appropriate and sufficient police responses to crime, and to identify the extent of the problem and available resources.

Action: Encourage residents and businesses to report crime and concerns by calling 101 (or 999 in an emergency). Alternatively, crimes can be reported online via the Kent Police website: www.kent.police.uk.

Encourage formation of Neighbourhood Watch schemes (see story opposite)

Lead councillor: Cllr Ken Mulholland.

Potholes and Pavements

There was a clear wish expressed in the survey that roads and pavements should be well maintained, and potholes and broken pavements repaired.

Action: Kent County Council is the authority responsible for maintaining the county’s 5,000-mile road network, and there is evidence that they are doing a great job repairing potholes on a limited budget.

Residents are encouraged to help them by reporting any unrepaired potholes online at www.kent.gov.uk/potholes adding a photo if possible, calling Kent Highways on 03000 41 8181, downloading the ‘FixMyStreet’ app, or calling into the Town Hall.

Lead councillor: Cllr Sue Ferguson.

KEEPING TENTERDEN A SAFE, LOW-CRIME TOWN

New ways of ensuring that Tenterden remains a low-crime, safe neighbourhood have been identified by the town’s Police Forum.

■ Improved CCTV cameras are scheduled for installation by the end of March, incorporating improved number plate and facial recognition technology.

■ The purchase of electric bikes is under consideration for the town’s PCSOs, enabling them to ride into areas inaccessible to cars.

■ Anyone witnessing vandalism is encouraged to report the incident by phoning 101. Alternatively, download the ‘Country Eye’ app on your smartphone which also has the facility to incorporate photos.

■ While one new Neighbourhood Watch Scheme has recently been set up in St Michaels, others would help deter crime in the town. If you are interested in establishing one in your neighbourhood, please contact Andrew Judd, Tel: 01233 896151 or 07584 164348, Email: andrew.judd2@kent.pnn.police.uk or call in at the Town Hall.

NHS PLANS “POTENTIALLY DISASTROUS”

The Town Council has said that the proposed reorganisation of NHS health services in the area could be “potentially disastrous”.

Following a briefing to the council’s external committee by Cllr Roy Isworth, a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Town Clerk Phil Burgess was instructed to send a letter to the official NHS body collecting evidence from public consultation ‘Listening Events’.

The letter said that Cllr Isworth, who is also a member of the Ashford Health and Wellbeing Board, had explained the two options under consideration, and there was unanimous support for Option 1 - consolidating specialist services, including A&E, at William Harvey Hospital, Ashford.

The alternative option involved moving some services, including A&E, from William Harvey Hospital to Canterbury, which is the proposed site for a new hospital to be built by a local developer.

The Tenterden Town Council letter said the latter option “was regarded as potentially disastrous for the population of this area”.

“It should be noted that the Tenterden area is currently undergoing a 25% increase in population due to the extensive house building in progress”.

The letter also said the council had noted that the NHS East Kent ‘Listening Event’ in Tenterden had been belatedly arranged to coincide with the council meeting.

HOW WE SPENT COMMUNITY CHEST CASH

The £165,000 Community Chest fund set up by the council last year has been distributed among 10 local causes.

They are:

- The Tuesdays and Ruby Tuesdays - Stage and equipment. £12,000.
- Tenterden Youth Club at Highbury Hall - New floor and upgraded toilets. £8,500.
- Tenterden Social Hub - £19,000 towards two minibuses for the Community Transport Scheme.
- Tenterden Primary Federation - School computers. £19,500.
- Tenterden Museum - World War One centenary exhibition. £19,250.
- Tenterden Cricket Club - New wickets and drainage. £24,000.
- Tenterden Amateur Boxing Club - Mezzanine floor and improved facilities. £10,500.

- St Michaels Village Hall - Kitchen. £24,000.
- St Michaels and All Angels PCC - Footpath. £8,000.
- Small Hythe Cricket Club - Open membership promotion and building improvements. £1,750.
- 2nd Tenterden Scout Group - Site extension/car park. £18,500.



The Mayor, Cllr Pam Smith, presents Community Chest cheques to (above) the Social Hub’s manager Spencer Goddard and (below) to Max Wilson, musical director of The Tuesdays and Ruby Tuesdays.

