



TENTERDEN
TOWN COUNCIL



Picture courtesy of Pat Vernon

Green campaign and local plan designed to halt more house building

There have been two major recent developments to encourage those opposed to more house building in and around Tenterden – the launch of a new campaign to keep Tenterden green, and the publication of the Ashford Local Plan.....

Keeping Tenterden Green

Around 600 people packed St Mildred's Church, Tenterden for three launch events in May for the official launch of the "Keeping Tenterden Green" campaign, aiming to create a legally enforceable Selective Neighbourhood Plan (SNP).

They heard from Town Council planning chairman Cllr John Crawford, campaign principal Richard Masefield and planning consultant Jim Boot.

Cllr Crawford opened the launch by saying "The aim is to protect for future generations our most treasured green spaces, the spaces that make our locality an exceptional place to live, work and visit."

After the presentations, Cllr Crawford said: "It was an amazing turnout, and Keeping Tenterden Green clearly has struck a chord with the community who are providing overwhelming public support.

"Together – the campaign leaders, Tenterden residents, the Town Council and Ashford Borough Council – we have a real opportunity to Keep Tenterden Green, leaving a sustainable legacy for future generations."

To find out more about the progress of Keeping Tenterden Green, log onto www.facebook.com/keepingtenterdengreen/

Ashford Local Plan supports restrictions on Tenterden development

In the summer of 2018, Tenterden Town Council published a compelling article "enough is enough", arguing against additional large-scale housing developments in the town, as they will irrevocably alter the viability, character and availability of green spaces of Tenterden.

We are pleased to say in February, Ashford Borough Council adopted the 2030 Local Plan, recognising the local sustainability issues by adding a special section for Tenterden.

The Local Plan says: "The high quality of Tenterden's landscape setting and its intrinsic historic character are factors that suggest that new development in the town should be limited, phased and very carefully planned.

"Therefore, no more major new development is planned in Tenterden itself, apart from the completion of the master-planned southern extension to the town (Tent 1A and 1B) and the permitted extension to housing at Tilden Gill Road on the Shrubcote estate.

"Combined, these can fulfil the town's development needs over the period of the Local Plan without adversely affecting the character of the town".

As the Local Plan has to be adhered to in planning decisions, any speculative developers who submit applications outside the allocated sites in the Local Plan will be resisted.

Our New Mayor



Cllr Mrs Jean Curteis has been elected Mayor of Tenterden for the coming year. She has been Deputy Mayor for the past 12 months, and takes the post first filled by Bailiff T. Petlesden in 1449.

Tributes were paid at the Town Council's annual meeting to the longest-serving member, Henry Edwards, by both outgoing Mayor Mrs Pam Smith and the new Mayor, and a presentation was made including a card and gift on behalf of the council.

Mr. Edwards retires from the council after 40 years – he was first elected in 1979, and was Mayor in 1989 and 1990. Our new Mayor praised Mr Edwards' "dedicated services to the town, a guiding hand on so many occasions".

The annual meeting also elected Cllr Dr Lisa Lovelidge as Deputy Mayor for the year, while Cllr Smith announced her allocations from the Mayor's annual charity fund – £1,888.85 to Hypo Hounds, a similar amount to Macmillan Nurses and £200 to Pilgrims Hospice.

In Brief

- You are invited to the annual Town Meeting. 7.30pm, Monday, 24 June at the Town Hall. The meeting will review progress over the past year, and priorities for the coming year.
- Kent Wildlife Trust has expressed support for turning Kiln Field into a wildlife habitat as a "sustainable and accessible resource for the community". The Town Council is progressing the plan.
- Negotiations are continuing between the council, local residents and Kent County Council in a bid to reduce the Smallhythe speed limit from 60mph to 40mph. At present, KCC is still recommending a 50mph limit.
- The council has successfully lobbied KCC to increase opening hours of the town's library at The Gateway to 37 hours a week. It was originally suggested that opening hours would be cut to 28 per week.

Town budget - how the money is spent

Tenterden Town Council has a reputation for carefully looking after local taxpayers' money, constantly aiming for best-value-for-money in the annual budget (Precept).

Expenditure for this year amounts to £571,964, which equates to £2.50 per week for the average household.

The budget represents a significant investment in the town, reflecting the council's growing agenda of additional responsibilities, including.....

- £40,000 on professional fees and managing the progress of the four major projects identified by local people - a potential cinema, re-ordering the Recreation Ground, restoration of the Town Hall and greater use of public halls.
- £35,000 in extra staffing costs, including £20,000 on a new Town Manager who will be charged with implementing the Tourist Destination Management Plan, and staff to look after visitors to the Town Hall, which have doubled in the past three years.
- Functions previously financed by Ashford Borough Council - for instance, we continue to look after the town's public toilets at a cost of £70,000 a year.

- £20,000 towards employing a new youth worker, previously the responsibility of Kent County Council..
- £20,000 for updating IT equipment, including providing councillors with tablets, saving significantly on postage, printer rental and purchasing paper, improving the Town Hall's environmental footprint.
- £11,000 on establishing a Selective Neighbourhood Plan (NHP), the major new campaign to give the town's valuable green spaces legal protection against applications from developers.
- Support for the Friday High Street market
- Financial and administrative support for major town events during the year



Says Town Clerk Phil Burgess: "Tenterden is a rapidly growing town, and the additional budget will enable us to improve services, care for our environment, and maximise the economic and tourism potential which is just waiting to be unlocked."

Town Projects Update

Our Focus Groups have continued to work hard to deliver the four major town projects funded by more than £3.5 million from council-owned land sales.

Recreation Ground

The new skate park, youth hub, tennis and netball courts will be the first elements of the plan to be delivered in two phases. Costs will be put to public consultation in September, following a public exhibition, and work is scheduled to start on the Recreation Ground next spring. Indicative cost of project: £1.4m-£2.1m.

Cinema

The Pebbles in the High Street has been identified as the preferred site, and issues regarding its listed status and physical layout are to be discussed between the Focus Group, architects and councillors.

As the Pebbles building needs some essential work to bring it up to standard for letting, the Town Council has agreed to contribute £500,000 for its restoration.

Town Hall

Architects have been appointed to redesign the Town Hall, opening it up for more visitors and functions. A public meeting to discuss the plans has been scheduled for 6pm on Tuesday, 6 July. Long-overdue repairs, such as the leaking roof, will be undertaken during the redesign. Indicative cost of project: £750,000 plus income from grants.

Public Halls

An information portal on the Town Council website providing detailed information about local halls for hire is now live. Indicative cost of project: £880.

New Councillors

The recent local elections resulted in three new councillors being elected to the Town Council.

Cllr Roger Quinton



Moved to Tenterden with his wife Sue in 2014, after working as a self-employed builder in London for more than 35 years, choosing the town because of its unique character and community spirit.

Stood for election "because I think this is an interesting time for Tenterden, with lots of community projects happening or in the pipeline. I wanted to get involved and hopefully make a positive contribution."

Tel: 07956 805117, email cldr.quinton@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Amy Gardner



Runs an interior design and architecture business with her partner, with clients across the UK and Europe.

Says: "My interests are varied and once I find my feet, I will be immersing myself in matters involving business, tourism, health and wellbeing, and the environment."

Tel: 07901 615928, email cldr.gardner@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Vic Cole



Worked for Southern Water for more than 40 years, operating and maintaining water treatment works and pumping stations to recycle waste water for further utilisation.

Says: "I am keen to promote green space and environmental protection, and take an interest, and participate, in local community matters and fundraising events."

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Contact

If you would like more information about Tenterden Town Council, visit the website www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk; tel: 01580 762271; or please email townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk Or visit the Town Hall, 9am-3pm, Monday to Friday.