



TENTERDEN  
TOWN COUNCIL

# TOWN COUNCIL PROJECTS

- Tenterden Town Hall Renovation Project
- Tenterden Recreation Ground

# TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS

- 80th Anniversary of D-Day
- Youth Event

# WILDER KENT AWARDS 2024



# TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

## A MESSAGE FROM TENTERDEN'S MAYOR

"Welcome to the latest edition of the Tenterden Town Council Newsletter filled with exciting updates and insights into ongoing projects. Explore the transformation of Tenterden Town Hall, the Recreation Ground, the Golden Square one-way system and more.

The ambitious Tenterden Town Hall Renovation Project aims to preserve the historic Grade II listed building, addressing challenges such as rising damp, a failed heating system, mould and sewage issues. This project ensures the longevity of our town's heritage for the community. Meanwhile the Recreation Ground Project focuses on significant enhancements, including new play equipment, a toddler zone, and a skate park, with a phased approach to ensure careful budgeting. Discover the changes in the Golden Square One Way System for a smoother traffic flow for residents and visitors.

As we look ahead, Tenterden is gearing up for the 2024 Wilder Kent Awards, building upon the Silver Award achieved in 2023. The Vistry Homes Steering Group fosters collaboration in the Appledore Road and Woodchurch Road development, while the Budget 24/25 keeps residents informed about financial planning, and the Tenterden Neighbourhood Plan is progressing through the independent examination stage, shaping the future of our community.

The 2024 Town Council Events calendar is teeming with exciting happenings, including the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, the Annual Civic Service, and a youth-focused event in August. We invite you to join us in celebrating these moments that bring us together as a community.

Thank you for being part of Tenterden's journey. Dive into the articles, updates, and plans within this newsletter to stay connected and engaged with our community".

Cllr Sue Ferguson, Mayor of Tenterden



Cllr Sue Ferguson, Mayor of Tenterden

## GOLDEN SQUARE ONE WAY SYSTEM

At its February Town Council meeting, councillors considered revised plans from KCC, for the implementation of the One-Way System at Golden Square. The scheme, in addition includes a speed reduction to 20 miles per hour and installation of a raised table on Oaks Road. Final scheme cost currently stands at £25,400. Timings for implementation are to be confirmed, but it is hoped that the scheme will be delivered in the autumn of 2024.

## POTHOLE & ROAD MAINTENANCE

Recognising that the state of roads in and around the town is of considerable concern to residents, town councillors agreed (with support of KCC Councillor, Mike Hill) to invite representatives of Kent County Council to attend the March town council meeting to discuss and take questions regarding potholes and road maintenance in the town. The session is an opportunity for councillors and the public to gain a better understanding of the current highways situation and put across their concerns regarding the state of Tenterden roads.

## TENTERDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Tenterden Neighbourhood Plan is currently at the independent examination stage. Further updates will be posted on the town council website as they are available.

## TOWN HALL – CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Tenterden Town Hall is now closed to the public and staff offices relocated to Milroy House on Sayers Lane.

Council staff are available to answer in person enquiries as follows:

Wednesday 2-4pm and Friday 10-11am at Highbury Hall

Tuesday & Thursday: 10-11am at the Coffee Pad, Sayers Lane

At all other times, they can be contacted by e-mail [townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk) or telephone **01580 762 271**

## ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL, CUSTOMER SERVICES

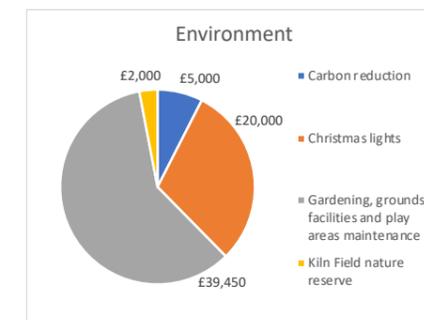
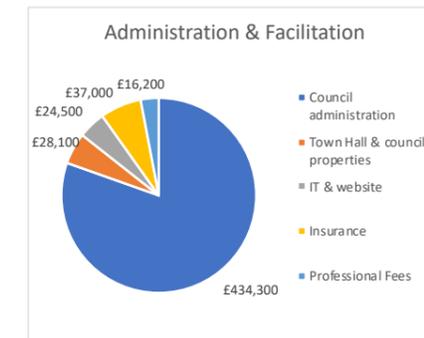
ABC Customer Service staff, are available at Highbury Hall, Wednesday from 2-4pm on the first and third week of the month.

## TOWN COUNCIL SETS A BUDGET FOR 2024/2025

### 6.15% increase in the town council precept for 2024/2025.

In December, the Town Council considered and approved its budget and precept for the financial year 2024/2025. 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 amenities.

The budget for 2024/2025 was set at £724,250. Income for the year has been estimated at £30,470. The precept for the parish of Tenterden for 2024/25 was set at £693,750 (compared with £653,580 in 2023/2024).



## About your Council Tax

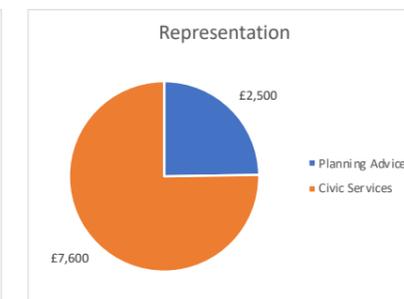
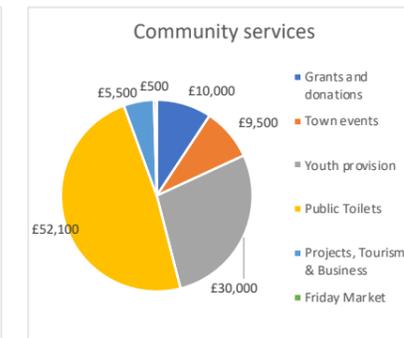
Council tax is a local tax that you pay to fund the services that are provided by:

- Ashford Borough Council
- Kent County Council
- Kent Police and Crime Commissioner
- Kent Fire and Rescue Services
- Tenterden Town Council

This represents an increase of 6.15%. For Band D households, this amounts to £176.13 for the Tenterden parish element of annual council tax for the 2024/25 year, compared to £167.97 per year in 2023/24. The monthly cost of the precept to a Band D resident, amounts to £14.

## How is the money spent?

From town events, to youth facilities and management of land and buildings, these pie charts show how the town council spends its funds.



## 2024 TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS

The Town Council will be hosting several events this year:

### 80th Anniversary of D-Day

Thursday 6th June, from 8pm

The event will take place on Tenterden Recreation Ground which will include the lighting of the Town's Beacon at 9.15pm in celebration of the 'light of peace' that emerged out of the darkness of war. More information will be released as plans are confirmed.

### The Annual Civic Service

Sunday 21st July, 12pm

This will take place in St. Mildred's Church. Preceded by a short parade from St. Mildred's Church Hall to the Church of the Youth Groups, Town Council and visiting dignitaries.

### Youth Event

Sunday 11th August, 11am to 4pm

For the first time, the Town Council will be hosting an event solely dedicated to the Youth on Tenterden Recreation Ground. This event will showcase Tenterden's Youth Clubs and will include pro-wrestling, music/singing, dancing and club demonstrations to name a few, plus there will be fantastic food and some free activities on offer.

Please visit our website for more information as its published on all of these events: [www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/en/events](http://www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/en/events) or look out for posters around the Town and in our noticeboards.



# TENTERDEN TOWN HALL RENOVATION PROJECT

## An ambitious project to deliver desperately needed improvements to the historic Town Hall.

The Grade II listed building which occupies a prominent position on Tenterden High Street, will undergo extensive renovation (starting in 2024), to achieve a sustainable, community-based building, which is both welcoming and accessible to all, whilst addressing issues arising from the declining state of the building.

These renovations are essential to both preserve and maintain

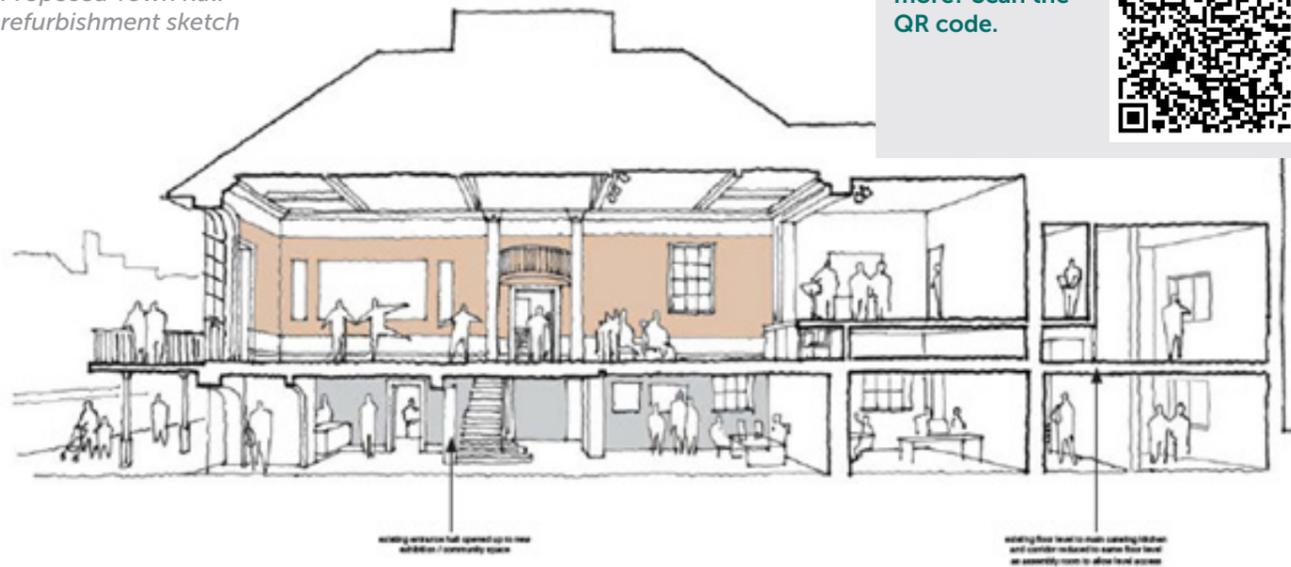
the Town Hall for future users. The building is currently extremely challenging to use, manage and maintain. Issues include unacceptable levels of humidity, mould, excessive rising damp, regular sewage smells and water ingress to offices and communal areas.

In January 2024, the archaic and inefficient heating system failed, resulting in users resorting to electric heaters to heat individual rooms, while communal and other spaces remain bitterly cold and unusable.

Temperatures in the building are worsened through the lack of insulation and the poorly fitting windows and doors.

All in all, the Town Hall is no longer fit for use by the town council or the community and has now closed pending the start of the renovation project. This ambitious restoration project will preserve and protect the Town Hall and restore it as a welcoming, vibrant and fit for purpose building while maintaining and enhancing its historical features. It is anticipated that the building will be closed for 2 years.

Proposed Town hall refurbishment sketch



Want to know more? Scan the QR code.

## Town Council meetings

From February 2024 and for the duration of the Town Hall's closure, town council meetings will take place at Highbury Hall, starting at 7pm. This includes Planning Committee (first Monday of the month) and Town Council/Finance & General Purposes meetings (second Monday of the month). Where these dates fall on a bank holiday, please check our website for details of day, time and place.

## Town Council offices

During the closure, Town Council offices will relocate to Milroy House and Town Council staff will be available to answer in person inquiries as follows:

- Wednesday 2-4pm and Friday 10-11am at Highbury Hall
- Tuesday & Thursday: 10-11am at the Coffee Pad, Sayers Lane

At all other times, they can be contacted by e-mail [townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk) or telephone **01580 762 271**

Visit our website for more information.

[www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/en/page/town-council-projects](http://www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/en/page/town-council-projects)

## NEWLY FORMED VISTRY HOMES (TENTERDEN) STEERING COMMITTEE

On 7th November 2023, representatives of the Town Council met with Vistry Homes and their associates, Ashford Borough Council Officers and Councillors, and members of the Town Council's Tenterden Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee and Climate Action Group. This pre-application meeting was to review Vistry Homes' proposed Reserved Matters documentation for the land between Appledore Road and Woodchurch Road development (referred to by many as Limes Land). At this useful meeting, Vistry Homes were amenable to the creation of a Steering Committee to keep the lines of communication open between all parties as their application progresses through to completion of the development.

The first meeting of the Steering Committee took place on Friday, 26th January 2024 and it is intended that the Committee will meet approximately once per month. As well as those organisations stated above, representatives from Kent County Council, the Tenterden Community Land Trust and Limes Land Protection Group were also present.

The Town Council were keen for the Steering Committee to be set up, given the success of the Steering Committee that was set up for the Tent1 development which is known to residents as Church View and Three Fields. As many will know, the original Wates Planning Application was permitted through Appeal to the Planning Inspectorate; Vistry Homes who are working in conjunction with Wates will see the development through to completion.

We will provide any updates regarding this development on the Town Council's website and will also publish any Steering Committee meeting notes to keep residents as fully informed as possible: [www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/en/page/land-between-woodchurch-road](http://www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/en/page/land-between-woodchurch-road)



# TENTERDEN RECREATION GROUND PROJECT

An ambitious project to deliver much needed improvements to the Tenterden Recreation Ground.

The Town Council recognises its importance to the community and seeks to deliver improved facilities for to this much-loved park.

Planned improvements to the park include new and refurbished play equipment in the children's play area; a new and improved toddler zone, with nearby picnic and seating area and a skate or pump park with youth hub alongside. Proposed courts for tennis and netball are included in the plans. In addition, the scheme will incorporate a much-needed drainage strategy, alongside improved planting, updated toilet facilities and an enhanced work-zone for maintenance purposes. As well as improving the facilities, priorities for delivery include taking opportunities to promote and provide additional ecological and amenity benefits.

The town council will deliver in manageable stages through a phased approach. This strategy facilitates careful budgeting, enables independent completion of specific sections, and minimises disruptions during the renovation. Crucially, this approach will allow the town council to press ahead with improvements. Plans to remove the football pitch and install tennis and netball courts at the far end of the site cannot be delivered until there is suitable alternative provision for Tenterden football teams elsewhere in the town and permission is obtained for removal. Provision of the additional pitches at Appledore Road will enable the town council to approach both ABC and Sport England to request review of the need for the Tenterden Recreation Ground football pitch,



taking into account the increased level of facilities available in the town. The council recognises that the Appledore Road pitches are intended as replacement for the Homewood school pitch and cannot be seen as replacement provision for that at the Recreation Ground. In the interim period, the council can deliver much needed improvements to the remainder of the park.

The town council has however recently agreed that details of the scheme and associated costs be reviewed to allow a more affordable scheme to be achieved. Cost savings are achievable by for example, maintaining the children's play area in its current location,

retaining the mound (incorporating and enhancing its role as an existing play feature) and through review of the proposed materials to be used.

The town council is working with Mark Hanton Studios (landscape architects) and Logic PM (project managers) to bring the plans to fruition. Where possible, improvements will be delivered through permitted development.

**Want to know more? Scan the QR code above or visit our website.**  
[www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/en/page/town-council-projects](http://www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/en/page/town-council-projects)



## WILDER KENT AWARDS 2024

### Join us in protecting wildlife and supporting nature!

#### Tenterden – Silver Award winner in 2023

The Kent Wildlife Trust awarded Tenterden a Silver, in its Wilder Kent Awards 2023. Following on from this significant achievement, the town council will again in 2024 submit an application to the award scheme on behalf of the town.

A huge thank you to the groups and individuals who contributed towards the town's Silver award in 2023. We hope you will participate again this year and encourage others to get involved.

The Wilder Kent Awards celebrate the work of communities to protect and enhance wildlife in their local area and include, for example initiatives to

- ensure that wildlife is protected.
- to create habitats and environments that allow wildlife to thrive.
- protect, improve and enhance green spaces.
- allow people and wildlife to coexist and flourish.

The awards are an opportunity for Tenterden to showcase what it is doing to protect wildlife and support nature. Groups and organisations are asked to submit details of their activities to the town council. We will collate and submit to the Kent Wildlife Trust, on the town's behalf.

To find out more, visit our website or email [adminassist@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:adminassist@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk)

Calling Tenterden schools, charities, businesses and organisations. Get involved.

Tell us what you are doing to:

- protect wildlife.
- boost sustainability & reduce carbon.
- engage with nature.

**Deadline for contributions: 13th May 2024.**

*Image courtesy of Jon Burnell and taken at Kiln Field Nature Reserve.*



**TENTERDEN REPAIR CAFE**

### GOT SOMETHING BROKEN?

Drop into the monthly repair shop & cafe. We'll repair it for FREE\*.

Accepted items:

- Small wooden furniture
- Small electricals
- Small mechanical items
- IT equipment
- Jewellery
- Clothing
- Bikes
- Toys

We will not be able to repair microwaves.

SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE DETAILS & TO GET IN TOUCH OR VISIT [sustainable-tenterden.org](http://sustainable-tenterden.org)

PLUS: The Repair Cafe is extending its positive impact in 2024. Drop off your hard-to-recycle single-use packaging, and we'll recycle it with TerraCycle. Bring along empty and clean:

- Dishwasher tablet packaging
- Surface wipe packets
- Cleaning product refill packs
- Biscuit & cracker wrappers
- Bread bags

\*Cash donations are welcome — reasonably priced refreshments are on sale at the informal cafe.

#### NEW LOCATION:

Highbury Hall, Highbury Lane, Tenterden, TN30 6LE

#### NEW 2024 DATES:

2nd March, 4th May, 1st June, 6th July, 7th Sept, 5th Oct, 2nd Nov

**TIME: 1-3:30 pm**

# TENTERDEN YOUTH EVENT

A SHOWCASE OF TENTERDEN'S YOUTH CLUBS

FOOD ~ DRINK

DANCE ~ MUSIC

YOUTH GROUPS

FREE FACE PAINTING

PRO-WRESTLING

FREE ACTIVITIES

AND MUCH MUCH MORE

**SUNDAY 11TH AUGUST 2024**  
**11AM - 4PM**  
**ON THE RECREATION GROUND**

# TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

**7PM**

FOR THE DURATION OF THE TOWN HALL CLOSURE FOR EXTENSIVE REFURBISHMENT, TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE AT Highbury Hall

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, ALL WELCOME

**VENUE:**  
**HIGHBURY HALL**  
**TENTERDEN**  
**TN30 6LE**

PLANNING  
 1st Monday of the month

TOWN COUNCIL & FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES  
 2nd Monday of the month

MEETINGS ARE NORMALLY ON A MONDAY UNLESS A BANK HOLIDAY

Mon 4 Mar  
 Mon 11 Mar  
 Wed 3 Apr  
 Mon 8 Apr  
 Tues 7 May  
 Mon 13 May

Annual Town Meeting  
 Mon 20 May

**Council Public Access Defibrillators in Tenterden:**

- The Crown 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:**

- Three Fields Green
- Tenterden Fire Station
- Trinity Baptist Church
- Waitrose

*The defibrillator at The Fat Ox has failed and has been taken out of service.*

**CONTACT THE TOWN COUNCIL:**

**E-MAIL:** [townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk)

**PHONE:** 01580 762271

**WEBSITE:** [www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk)

**INSTAGRAM:** [www.instagram.com/tenterdentowncouncil](http://www.instagram.com/tenterdentowncouncil)

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/TenterdenTownCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/TenterdenTownCouncil)