

THE SOCIAL HUB - A CENTRE FOR CARING

It's often remarked that Tenterden has an amazing choice of clubs and social activities, and nowhere is this better typified than Tenterden Social Hub, a centre offering a range of free and low-cost services for the town's senior citizens, the disabled, and others who would simply appreciate support and company.

Established in 1980 as a day centre for the elderly, the Hub is the focus for a packed programme of activities, both at its base in Church Road, Tenterden and out-and-about in the community. Its services include . . .

- Sixty Plus - A day centre and drop-in service for those aged 60 and over, open Monday to Friday. Activities include yoga, reminiscence, games and exercise, and a two-course lunch is provided.
- Disability Hub - A daily range of activities, from photography to cooking, arts and crafts to swimming, for those with physical or learning disabilities.
- Home Help - Assistance with domestic tasks and independent living, with services such as cooking, laundry, cleaning and shopping.
- Meal Club - A Monday to Friday meals on wheels service, delivering a freshly cooked, two course lunch from a varied menu, prepared in a five-star rated kitchen.
- Information Hub - Help to ensure local people are claiming the benefits they are entitled to. Advice is provided at the Hub on Wednesdays, while home visits are also available.
- Transport - A fleet of minibuses to take people to and from the Hub.

And that's not all. The Hub provides an assisted bathing service; chiropody and foot care; osteopathy; hearing clinic (Wednesdays); lip reading classes (Fridays); a Thursday club for those with early- to mid-stage dementia; and hairdressing.

But services like these are inevitably costly, and Kent County Council grants, contributions from individual personal health budgets, and external fundraising still leaves the organisation with an annual shortfall of up to £100,000 on a turnover of £600,000.

Says Hub chairman Cllr Roy Isworth: "Ironically, the more people who use our service, the better it is for our finances.

"Although older people's grants are set to be phased out by 2020, there is an opportunity to bid for major contracts from the NHS, perhaps in conjunction with organisations such as Age UK and Age Concern. We're working on it".

In the meantime, more volunteers are always welcome to help at the Hub, from six hours a day to just a couple of hours every fortnight.

If you would like to know more about the Hub's services, why not drop in and have a look round? Alternatively visit the website www.tsh.org.uk, call us on 01580 762882 or email hub@tsh.org.uk.



TENTERDEN
TOWN COUNCIL



PLANNING

New homes - enough is enough?

POLICE FORUM AND CCTV

Keeping our town safe and secure

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Picture courtesy of Stuart Kirk

SILENT SOLDIERS PAY POIGNANT TRIBUTE

Three metal silhouettes of World War One soldiers have gone on display in Tenterden, as a tribute to those who died in the 1914-18 conflict.

The 'Silent Soldiers' are located at the Town Hall, St Mildred's Church and the Kent & East Sussex railway, and have been presented to the town by Cllr Callum Knowles, who says they are "a reminder of the ultimate sacrifice paid by so many servicemen from Tenterden."

Added Cllr Knowles, who served in the Royal Navy for 12 years: "Some Tenterden families lost four or more relatives in the Great War", he said, "and as this is the final year commemorating that conflict I thought it

would be a poignant memorial to them. I also want our younger generation to question what these 'Silent Soldiers' represent, and to understand that we must never forget".



Picture shows (l-r) Canon Lindsay Hammond, Stanley 'Butch' Goodsall - who lost four relatives in the Great War - and Cllr Callum Knowles with the 'Silent Soldier' sited at St Mildred's Church.



NEW HOMES - ENOUGH IS ENOUGH?

If there's one topic of conversation bound to provoke strong opinions it's planning.

Should more homes be built in Tenterden, or do we already have too many for our doctor's surgery, schools, parking spaces and our busy High Street to cope with?

Most Tenterden residents would say "Enough is enough", and former Tenterden Town Councillor and planning committee chairman Richard Lusty recently briefed the government's Planning Inspectorate.

But UK planning law is multi-tiered and complex, meaning that the wishes of a community can be overridden at any stage in the system.

Mr Lusty points out that central government decides how many houses should be built in which parts of the country, and a cursory glance at the headlines shows that demand for more houses is intensifying, particularly in the southeast.

Government then tells borough councils such as Ashford how many new homes to deliver, and those councils create a Local Plan detailing the prime sites for

development.

For Tenterden, it is Ashford Borough Council (ABC) which decides on individual planning applications, from a simple extension to a major housing development, such as the 250 homes at Church View and Three Fields (otherwise known as Tent1a) being built behind the Leisure Centre, proposals for a further 225 homes nearby (Tent 1b), and 36 retirement properties on the Smallhythe Road.

However, Tenterden Town Council will always be consulted on a local planning application.

Says Mr Lusty: "While we don't have the final say, what we can do is express our views to the planning department at ABC, and we have made it our business to have exceptionally good relations with their officers and councillors.

"But at the end of the day, even ABC might not deliver the final verdict. For instance, the application to build 100 homes at Tilden Gill was opposed by both ourselves and ABC - but the

developer appealed to the national planning inspectorate, and won the day.

"Of course, that is extremely frustrating, but it's the way the planning system is set up".

But whether it's a major housing development, or an individual wanting to put an extension on their kitchen, Mr Lusty has one piece of advice for anyone wishing to support or oppose a planning application.

"Whether you are for or against a particular application, don't wait for it to appear on the planning committee agenda.

"Contact your Tenterden Town Council or Ashford Borough Council ward councillors or any member of the town council's planning committee.

"They can advise on the merits of your position, and help maximise your chances of a successful conclusion".

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT - KEEPING TENTERDEN ON THE MOVE

The town council, in conjunction with Tenterden Social Hub (formerly the Day Centre) and Ashford Volunteers, have recently conducted online and street surveys in the town and surrounding villages to evaluate the need for improved local transport.

This was the result of the news earlier this year that local bus services could be under threat - or be cut altogether - following Kent County Council proposals to withdraw subsidies to some bus services in Kent.

The town council has moved swiftly identify potential solutions, hoping to ensure that essential transport services are preserved and even improved.

The results of the new surveys have resulted in an approach being made to KCC to potentially fund a community bus, which has provisionally been dubbed the 'Tenterden Hoppa'. This would be hosted and run by the Tenterden Social Hub, and augment their current minibus fleet. Details of the scheme have yet to be agreed.

Says Cllr Ken Mulholland: "Cutbacks in traditional bus services in the area impact greatly on all of us, but especially the elderly, infirm, disabled and folk living in remote rural areas.

"We also envisage that the car transport services offered by Ashford Volunteers to Tenterden and its environs will be enhanced and made more available. To do this the organisation needs more volunteer drivers from the town to enlist."

TENTERDEN CCTV

Work is continuing to provide Tenterden with a sophisticated new CCTV system, which will help combat vandalism in the town.

The town council provides cameras to monitor the Pavilion and the public lavatories in Station Road, on the Recreation Ground, and at St Michael's.

Cameras in the High Street are being replaced by Ashford Borough Council in the coming weeks, with upgraded hardware to increase the quality of the images taken, and new software to improve the connection to the monitoring centre.

DRUGS AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ON NEW POLICE FORUM'S AGENDA

A new Police Forum for Tenterden has been set up to focus on preventative measures to combat incidents of crime in the town.

The Forum will include Tenterden Town Councillors, Inspector Jason Atkinson of Kent Police, Ashford Borough Councillor Brad Bradford, ABC Licensing Officer Trevor Ford, Kent County Councillor Mike Hill, and representatives of key interest groups including the town's retailers and pubs.

Insp Atkinson said that police visits to Tenterden had detected evidence of drugs use, particularly cocaine, which was predictable in a prosperous town. There had also been several cases of anti-social behaviour.

The Forum would particularly focus on problems in the evenings and weekends, and there would be a new method of recording crime and anti-social behaviour in Tenterden to ensure accuracy.

Meanwhile, Tenterden PCSOs Kate Richards and Luke Jones have reported a spate of burglaries in the area, and advised on steps residents can take to secure their properties, specifically....

- *Keep front gate closed at all times.*
- *Lock all external doors.*
- *Spotlights can deter offenders.*
- *Alarm systems, particularly those linked to the police, can also deter offenders, and help police attend incidents swiftly.*
- *Use time switches when you are out at night or on holiday.*
- *Keep windows closed, particularly at night in the warmer months.*
- *Alarm out-buildings.*
- *Lock sheds and garages.*
- *Mount CCTV to deter, and capture evidence of offences.*
- *Dashcam footage can be used in relation to vehicle crime.*

The PCSOs also said that there had been a few calls to residents from people claiming to be from the tax office and demanding payment.

They advised that HMRC never call people, and those who receive calls should report it to www.actionfraud.police.uk or call the Action Fraud line on 0300 123 2040.

FOCUS GROUPS MAKE PROGRESS

Significant progress has been made by all four Focus Groups working on major improvements to Tenterden. The Groups - teams of local people working together with town councillors - are formulating detailed plans, to be funded by more than £3.5m from the sale of council-owned land to developers.

The four improvement projects are centred on the Recreation Ground, the Town Hall, a potential cinema for the town and local community halls.

RECREATION GROUND

Landscape architects Ground Control have now hosted three sessions attended by up to 25 members of the public, including representatives of local sports clubs.

Ground Control have produced a 'spatial positioning' design, showing where facilities such as a skate park, multi-use games arenas, a play area and tennis and netball courts will be sited, and a pre-planning application to Ashford Borough Council (ABC) has received a positive response.

Work is now going ahead on preparation of a detailed planning application to ABC and a public presentation session at the Town Hall in the summer. The project

will be given the final go-ahead once an alternative site is found for the existing football pitch, and plans to secure that site are well advanced.

TOWN HALL

The objective of the Town Hall Focus Group is to produce plans to make the iconic building a genuine and fully utilised social 'hub' for the town. An initial report highlighted that although residents love the Town Hall, built in 1792, they would like to see it serve the community better.

The building is badly in need of urgent repair, including a new roof, and specialists have already been called in to deal with an immediate damp problem.

Meanwhile, the Focus Group is analysing a range of services which could be based at the Town Hall, including NHS health initiatives in conjunction with Ivy Court surgery, a centre for liaising with police and PCSOs, tourist information and a citizens' advice service.

However, the immediate focus is on restoring and repairing the building to ensure that it does not require any further significant maintenance for the next 30 years, as well as bringing it up to 21st century standards of insulation, heating, ventilation and technology. The Group have also expressed their ambition of employing local trade and craft

professionals to carry out the work.

The budget to repair and restore the Town Hall has been estimated at £1m.

CINEMA

Business consultants Craigmount Consulting and architects Burrell Foley Fischer are currently evaluating potential sites around the town for a cinema, including land behind the Town Hall, The Pebbles in the High Street, the Tenterden Club and Glebe Hall. The town council has agreed to fund stage two of their feasibility study.

VILLAGE HALLS

The aim of this Focus Group is to centralise information via the town council's website regarding venues for hire in the town, maximising online information points to allow potential users to see details such as capacity, bar and catering facilities, car parking, disabled access and key contacts.

KEEPING FIT

Did you know that there is a great choice of activities for adults and children, from yoga to dance, pilates to public speaking, held each week at the Town Hall and Pavilion?

For full details, visit our website www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk and click on What's On.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

As Tenterden's First Citizen, the Mayor has a unique perspective on life in the town. Here, outgoing Mayor Cllr Justin Nelson looks back at his year in office, and newly-elected Mayor Cllr Pam Smith looks forward to the coming 12 months.

Cllr Justin Nelson writes . . .



I was delighted and honoured to be elected as Mayor a year ago and have thoroughly enjoyed my year in office, though happy to hand the role over to someone new as each Mayor brings their own character and priorities to the post.

My own priority has been to improve communication (in both directions) between the council and residents. I think we have made good progress, improving the format and popularity of the 'Meet Your Councillors' coffee mornings, increasing significantly the council's presence on social media and improving our website.

We also formed a Public Engagement sub-committee, involving numerous non-councillors, tasked with finding other ways of improving communication. Several proposals have been put forward, and a starting point is the town-wide survey to ascertain what people think of the current arrangements, and to provide a benchmark against which to measure improvements.

Of course, this does not mean abandoning existing methods of communication: speaking to councillors, attending meetings, newsletters and – often overlooked – the large number of people who phone or visit the Town Hall.

Alongside the usual functions of the council - from maintaining the Recreation Grounds and Millennium Garden to looking after our grass verges and green areas, maintaining the Community Emergency Plan to acting as a consultee on planning applications - we have been heavily engaged on the regeneration projects made possible by the funds received from selling our part of the Tent1A development site.

More details are shown on the page opposite, as well as the Community Chest set up to help fund local clubs and organisations.

I have attended what seem to have been innumerable events in the town and further afield, representing Tenterden and the town council to the outside world.

I am also pleased to have raised, with sterling support from the Town Hall staff and my fellow

councillors, over £3,000 for my chosen charities, half for Community First Responders and the other half for Tenterden Cricket Club.

Of course - and as always - there is still a lot for the council as a whole to do, and I look forward to playing my part in the future.

Cllr Pam Smith writes....



When I was elected as the new Mayor at the council's annual meeting in May, I pledged to serve the town with "dedication, enthusiasm, tact and diplomacy" - and I shall.

I was previously Mayor in 2015 and 2016, so I know what the job entails, and I look forward to continuing the work carried out so effectively by my predecessor, Cllr Justin Nelson, over the past 12 months and adding some aspirations of my own.

In addition to progressing the projects being funded by the Tent1 money - the redesign of the Recreation Ground, essential refurbishment of the Town Hall, a potential cinema and maximising the use of our public halls - I also want our new Police Forum to help solve some of the social problems we face, particularly vandalism.

And as urgent repairs are being made to our Town Hall, neglected for far too long in previous years, I would like to see wider public use of its facilities.

I will continue to be out and about as much as possible in Tenterden and St Michael's, because I believe all our elected representatives should be accessible to local people as much as possible.

I have lived in the town for 29 years, been a councillor for 12, and together with my husband Terry we have run our antiques and holiday home business for 27 years.

I also act as a volunteer and fundraiser for the Tenterden Social Hub, am deputy chair of St Michael's Village Hall, and a member of Rotary.

Tenterden is very close to my heart, as it's where we have raised our three girls - and we're about to repeat the process with our new grand-daughter Ellie.

£6,500 IN GRANTS

In addition to grants from the Community Chest, the town council has given more than £6,500 in grants to local causes in the past year.

They include:

- £2,000 for the Youth Cafe held at Highbury Hall and run by Zion Baptist Church, to help fund an additional youth worker.
- £1,150 to St Michael's School PTA for the Tenterden 5k and 10k Run in June.
- £1,000 to support the St Michael's Village Community Group 'Tributes in the Park' music event in July.
- £1,000 as an annual grant for Tenterden Museum.
- £800 for a mower for the Archery Club.
- £270 for part-funding repairs and tuning of the piano in St Mildred's Church, adding to a private donation.
- £150 each to St Michael's Church and St Mildred's for the maintenance of their clocks.

TWO NEW TOWN COUNCILLORS

Tenterden has two new town councillors - John Crawford and Matthew Freeman.



Cllr Crawford is particularly interested in the issue of low-level crime and anti-social behaviour - he is one of the leading supporters of the town's new Police and Crime forum - as well as health and wellbeing through the Leisure Centre and open green spaces



Matthew Freeman, at 30 the youngest member of the Town Council, has lived in the town since he was six months old, attended the junior school and Homewood School, and worked for Old Dairy Brewery and Tesco before starting his own small ice cream business.

He said: "We know that many people see town councils as stuffy organisations, and I hope that I can bring a more youthful perspective to debates. In particular, I would like to see how facilities for Tenterden's young people can be improved."



SID TO SLOW DOWN SPEEDING DRIVERS

A new £7,000 Speed Indicator Device (SID), which flashes motorists breaking the limit, has been bought by the town council to help deter speeding motorists in Woodchurch Road, Beacon Oak Road and Smallhythe Road.

Kent County Council, as the roads' authority, has specified these as the only suitable locations following a town-wide survey.

EXCELLENT RESPONSE FOR COMMUNITY CHEST FUNDS

Tenterden Town Council has received 18 applications for funding local projects from its Community Chest scheme.

The £165,000 Community Chest fund was set aside from the money received from housing developers to help fund smaller projects around the town.

Says Town Clerk Phil Burgess: "We are delighted with the excellent response. The Community Chest was designed as a way of involving local residents, giving them a real say on how we spend our money".

The applications were scheduled to be assessed in June by a cross-community forum of eight local people and three councillors, and it is proposed that the final funding decisions will be made by public vote following a public exhibition at the Town Hall.

YOU ARE INVITED . . .

. . .to come and see Tenterden Town Council in action, and to have your say. The annual Tenterden Town Meeting will be held at the Town Hall, 7.30pm on Monday 25th June.

The meeting is an opportunity for residents to ask the Town Council questions from the floor, and learn more about the council's achievements and objectives.

If you would like to ask a question, it would be helpful to notify the Town Hall in advance so that the response is as full and informative as possible.

In addition we have set up a series of informal Coffee Mornings at the Town Hall on 18th August, 20th October and 15th December, where you can meet your local councillor, and talk about any issues you may have.

And you are always welcome to attend any of the formal meetings of the Town Council or its committees.

The Planning Committee considers all applications affecting property in Tenterden, from a single house extension to a major housing development.

The Internal Committee meets to discuss finances, 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', for instance tending the verges in cemeteries.

Proposals put forward by these committees are then discussed, approved or sent back for further consideration by the Town Council.

Here is the schedule of Town Council and committee meetings for the rest of this year . . .

MEETING SCHEDULE 2018

Date (ALL MONDAYS unless specified)	Internal	Planning	Town Council	External
16 th June 2018 (Sat)				Meet Your Councillors Coffee Morning - 10am - 12 noon
25 th June 2018				ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - 7.30pm
9 th July 2018				Town Council, Planning, Internal, External - from 7pm
13 th August 2018				Planning, External, Internal - from 7pm
18 th August 2018 (Sat)				Meet Your Councillors Coffee Morning - 10am to 12 noon
10 th September 2018				Town Council, Planning, Internal, External - from 7pm
8 th October 2018				Planning, External, Internal - from 7pm
20 th October 2018 (Sat)				Meet Your Councillors Coffee Morning - 10am to 12 noon
12 th November 2018				Town Council, Planning, Internal, External - from 7pm
10 th December 2018				Planning, External, Internal - from 7pm
15 th December 2018 (Sat)				Meet Your Councillors Coffee Morning - 10am to 12 noon

HOW TO CONTACT THE TOWN COUNCIL

Tenterden Town Council welcomes comments and feedback on its activities. This 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 St, Tenterden TN30 6AN

Website: www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk.

In person: Visit the Town Hall, 9am-3pm, Mon to Fri.

Mike Carter (West)	Caxton Cottage, 12 West Cross, TN30 6JH	01580 388709	cldr.carter@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
John Crawford (South)	2 Stace Close, TN30 6RP	07779 630013	cldr.crawford@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Jean Curteis (St. Michael's)	38 Henley Fields, TN30 6EL	07799 765730	cldr.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	cldr.ferguson@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Matthew Freeman (St. Michael's)	70 Wayside Avenue, TN30 6PA	01580 761230	cldr.freeman@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Nikki Gooch (South)	24 Longfield, TN30 7NH	01580 764349	cldr.gooch@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Harry Hickmott (St. Michael's)	High Force, Grange Road, TN30 6EE	01580 766496	cldr.hickmott@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Roy Isworth (South)	11 Elmfield, TN30 6RE	07585 022154	cldr.isworth@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Callum Knowles (South)	57 Shrubcote, TN30 7BG	07810 155686	cldr.knowles@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Lisa Lovelidge (South)	57 Shrubcote, TN30 7BG	07733 318836	cldr.lovelidge@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Ken Mulholland (St. Michael's)	Dering Court, Grange Road, St. TN30 6DT	01580 762827	cldr.mulholland@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Justin Nelson (North)	66 Rogersmead. TN30 6LF	01580 765313	cldr.nelson@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Pam Smith (St. Michael's)	The Old Malthouse, Swain Road. TN30 6PS	01580 765081	cldr.smith@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Alan Sugden (North)	60 Rogersmead. TN30 6LF	01580 765581	cldr.sugden@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk

KEEPING TENTERDEN TIDY

Many thanks to the 17 members of the public, councillors and Town Hall staff, who volunteered for a town litter-pick on Sunday 13th May. The exercise will be repeated on Sunday 14th October, and local residents are invited to join in.