Spring Newsletter 2025



TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL PROJECTS

• Town Hall

Recreation Ground

SUPPORTING OUR HIGH STREET

- Shop Local Initiative
- Blue Plaque Scheme

POSITIVE SUSTAINABLE TENTERDEN





A MESSAGE FROM THE **MAYOR** OF TENTERDEN

As we step into spring, I am delighted to welcome you to the latest edition of the Tenterden Town Council newsletter. It has been a busy and productive time for our town, with exciting developments, ongoing projects, and continued efforts to enhance our community spaces.

One of the key projects progressing is the **Tenterden Recreation Ground Improvement** Project. The recent community survey gathered invaluable feedback, shaping the vision for this much-loved green space. Residents highlighted the importance of enhanced play facilities, improved pathways for better accessibility, and new recreational features catering to all age groups. In response to the feedback, a revised plan has been developed, relocating the pump track to a more suitable position to ensure better integration with existing facilities. An updated design by Mark Hanton, reflecting these improvements, is included in this issue. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their thoughts-your input ensures this space will serve the needs of Tenterden for generations to come.

In this edition, we also bring you updates on several key projects and community initiatives. The Town Council's budget and precept for 2025/2026 has been approved, with a modest increase to support essential services and community projects. Work continues on the Town Hall Renovation, ensuring this historic building is preserved while being modernised for future use. We have a packed calendar of upcoming events, including the 80th Anniversary of VE Day in May, the Spirit of Tenterden Festival in July, the Youth Event in August, and Remembrance Sunday in November–lots of opportunities to bring our community together. Following Tenterden's success in the Wilder Kent Awards, we remain committed to sustainability and protecting our natural spaces. We're also pleased to share details on local business initiatives, including the TN Card reward scheme, business e-permits, and ongoing efforts to support tourism and our High Street.

As always, I encourage you to stay engaged with your Town Council. Whether through public meetings, local events, or community initiatives, your voice shapes the future of Tenterden. Let's continue working together to keep our town thriving.

Cllr Sue Ferguson, Mayor of Tenterden



TENTERDEN TOWN HALL RENOVATION PROJECT

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

What is happening?

The Town Hall renovation project is well underway, with appointed contractors, Coleman and James, arriving on site last October. The renovation is expected to take 12-14 months to complete, during which time the Town Hall will remain temporarily closed. This is a complex project to deliver, and the Town Council's Project Management Working Group are working closely with the contractors during this period of transformation. We look forward to welcoming the community back into the building once these essential works are completed.

Get involved?

In the meantime, we are excited to announce a new project aimed at gathering memories and stories about the Town Hall from local residents. This initiative seeks to preserve the rich history of our Town Hall by collecting personal anecdotes and photographs. Whether you have a cherished memory of a special event held at the Town Hall or historical photographs that capture its past, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at: townhall@tenterdentowncouncil. gov.uk



Want to know more? Scan the QR code or visit our website.

TOWN COUNCIL, BUDGET & PRECEPT 2025/2026

In December, the Town Council considered and approved its budget and precept for the financial year 2025/2026.

The 'precept' is the town council's share of council tax collected by Ashford Borough Council.

The budget for 2025/2026 was set at £742,650. Income for the year has been estimated at £32,278.

The precept for the parish of Tenterden for 2025/2026 was set at £710,372 (compared with £693,780 in 2024/2025). This represents a below inflation increase, of 2.4%"

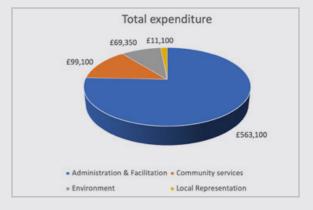
For Band D households, this amounts to £181.36 for the Tenterden parish element of annual council tax for the 2025/26 year, compared to £176.13 per year in 2024/25. The monthly cost of the precept to a Band D resident (based on a 12 month period), amounts to £15.11.

How is the money spent?

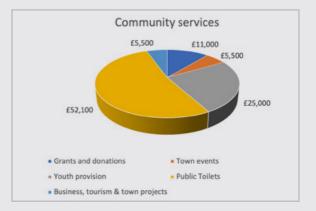
From town events and Christmas lights to youth facilities and public toilets, these pie charts show how the town council spends its funds.

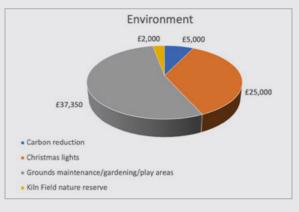
BUDGET	£742,650
INCOME	£32,278
PRECEPT	£710,372

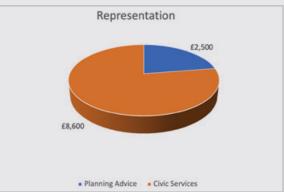












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An ambitious project to deliver much needed improvements to the Tenterden Recreation Ground.

EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS AT TENTERDEN RECREATION GROUND

The Tenterden Recreation Ground is set to undergo a significant transformation, with plans for an ambitious revamp aimed at enhancing facilities for all users. The recently held public consultation on the plans has now closed and results analysed.

Our survey results showed that over 60% of online respondents were either 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the proposed improvements. This means that the Masterplan, with one important amendment (read on for details) can now be submitted for planning approval.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The ambitious project includes a variety of new and upgraded amenities designed to cater to all age groups. Key features of the proposed plans are:

• New and Refurbished Play

Equipment: The children's play area will see new installations and upgrades, with nearby picnic and seating areas.

• Youth Hub and Skate Park: A new youth hub and skate park will provide a vibrant space for teenagers and young adults.

• Sports Facilities: The project includes new courts for tennis, netball, and hockey, replacing the existing football pitch near the leisure centre.

• Pump Track: A pump track is also part of the plans.

• Improved Infrastructure: The scheme will incorporate a muchneeded drainage strategy, updated toilet facilities, and enhanced planting to support biodiversity.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The public consultation, held from January 6th to February 2nd, 2025, generated a fantastic response with 471 online surveys completed and over 70 residents attending our inperson consultation at Highbury Hall on January 11th.

Town Councillors were keen to hear from the town's younger residents and to this end, local school children were invited to share their views, with two focus group sessions attended by children aged 7 to 11 held at Tenterden Junior School and St. Michael's Primary school. In addition, Town Councillors attended a Sk8side session to hear young people's views on the plans. The

views of local organisations were also sought, with a small number of stakeholders invited to share their thoughts.

Survey results have now been analysed and can be viewed in full on the Town Council website. While there was strong support for inclusion of the pump track, responses also highlighted some concerns. The most strongly voiced of which, related to its location. Councillors, keen to retain the facility for the benefit of the town's younger residents voted to keep the pump track in the plans, but to relocate it at a new position alongside the skate park, with appropriate measures taken to ensure the safety and security of users. The area vacated by the pump track will be converted back to green space.

FACILITIES FOR TENTERDEN FOOTBALLERS

The Town Council is committed to maintaining the current Recreation Ground football pitch until such time as alternative facilities are available elsewhere. Discussions to allow the Town Council to assume management responsibilities for the new sports facilities being delivered by Vistry Homes at the Appledore Road development while already underway, are currently at their early stages. The council is embarking

on creation of a business plan, with professional support to allow it to enter into any agreement over the sports pitches with an accurate picture of the financial implications and practicalities for delivery.

NEXT STEPS

The Town Council is now working with landscape architect and planning consultants to prepare a planning application for submission to Ashford Borough Council.

KEEP UP TO DATE

For more information, news, updates and to view the Masterplan, visit the Tenterden Town Council's website or subscribe to our Facebook page. facebook.com/ TenterdenTownCouncil



Want to know more? Scan the QR code or visit our website.

KILN FIELD NATURE RESERVE

This beautiful reserve offers a tranquil escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, providing a sanctuary for both wildlife and visitors alike.

We are excited to announce our upcoming **pond dipping sessions** These sessions are a fantastic opportunity for families, nature enthusiasts, and curious minds of all ages to explore the diverse aquatic life that thrives in our pond. Whether you're a seasoned naturalist or a first-time explorer, pond dipping is a fun and educational activity that everyone can enjoy.

Dates are to be confirmed but are expected to be in May this year and at a day/time when children can attend. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for details or register your interest now.

During these sessions, you'll have the chance to discover a variety of pond creatures, from water beetles to dragonfly nymphs, and learn about their unique roles in the ecosystem. Our knowledgeable staff will be on hand to provide fascinating insights and answer any questions you may have.

Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to connect with nature and learn more about the incredible biodiversity of Kiln Field. To express your interest in attending, please email us at townhall@ tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk. For more information about Kiln Field Nature Reserve, visit our website.



BUSINESS AS USUAL

The Town Hall may be temporarily closed, but services continue to operate as normal. Town Council Administrative Staff are busy working behind the scenes, and can be contacted as follows:

IN PERSON

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 11am in the Coffee Pad on Sayers Lane . The 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 2pm to 4pm at Highbury Hall.

Nestled in the heart of Tenterden, Kiln Field Nature Reserve is a hidden gem waiting to be explored

BY TELEPHONE

Monday to Friday, 9-4.30 on 01580 762 271.

BY EMAIL

townhall@tenterdentowncouncil. aov.uk

ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL, CUSTOMER SERVICES

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



WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT TENTERDEN WILL ONCE AGAIN PARTICIPATE IN THE WILDER KENT AWARDS, HAVING **WON A GOLD AWARD IN 2024.**

The Wilder Kent Awards, organized by Kent Wildlife Trust, celebrate the efforts of communities across Kent in promoting wildlife conservation and enhancing natural habitats. Last year, Tenterden's dedication to biodiversity and innovative environmental projects earned the prestigious Gold Award.

The Wilder Kent Awards have several criteria that participants must demonstrate having met, along with different award tiers (commendation, bronze, silver, and gold).

THE CRITERIA ARE:

1. To protect and restore nature

Actions that provide food, shelter, and water to support wildlife.

2. Sustainability and **Carbon Reduction**

Initiatives that reduce carbon footprints and promote sustainable practices.

3. Inspire and Collaborate

Efforts to engage and educate the community about wildlife conservation.

The more criteria a community meets, the higher the award tier they can achieve. Each action taken helps to create a more climate-resilient environment and supports local wildlife.

While Tenterden Town Council will be responsible for collating and submitting the town's entry, this award is for the town as a whole. The success of our entry relies on the collective efforts and contributions of all community members, including local groups, schools, and organisations.

GET INVOLVED

If you are a local charity, school or community organisation, we want to hear from you. Tell us what you are doing, to:

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

To tell us what you have been doing, e-mail: admin@ tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk providing photographic evidence wherever possible. The spring deadline for submission is 1st May. There will be further deadlines for summer, autumn and winter activities and these will be advertised on our website and Facebook page, once confirmed.



SUSTAINABLE TENTERDEN



GREEN FUN DAY, **13TH APRIL** 10:00-16:00, £1 ENTRY TENTERDEN TOWN STATION

Get ready for a joyful day out! Discover wildlife encounters, eco kids crafts, quizzes, music, green living ideas and plenty of tea and cake. Perfect for wildlife enthusiasts, creative minds, and families looking for Easter holiday fun.

WHAT'S ON?

Free kid's face painting What will your child become today? From ferocious tigers to mystical unicorns, our professional face painter will bring their imaginations to life.

Activities & crafts Make and enjoy all things green with environmentallythemed activities and kid's crafts! There'll be a spotting trail, quizzes, crafts and more.

Build a tree Add your leaf to the green pledge tree. Write a small pledge that you can make to become more green. Small things like remembering to switch the lights off or taking a reusable bottle when you go out. We don't need a handful of people to be perfect eco-bods; we need hundreds of local people doing small, good things.

Go wild with Tenterden Wildlife Discover close encounters with local wildlife and learn from enthusiastic nature specialists.

Raffle Get your ticket to be in with the chance to win a brilliant line-up of green prizes and sought-after Mr Doodle merchandise.

Plus Pre-loved toys, nature talks, live music and more!

Tickets £1 entry. Tickets are available at the station on the day (ages 3+). All tickets are redeemable for £1 off at the café or shop. Or visit sustainable-tenterden.org.



Organised by Sustainable Tenterden - a charity moving Tenterden towards a more sustainable future.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING

Kent County Council is committed to ensuring that all residents can transition to electric vehicles (EVs) with ease. For those unable to charge at home or work, the council aims to provide reliable and affordable public charge points within walking distance of homes.

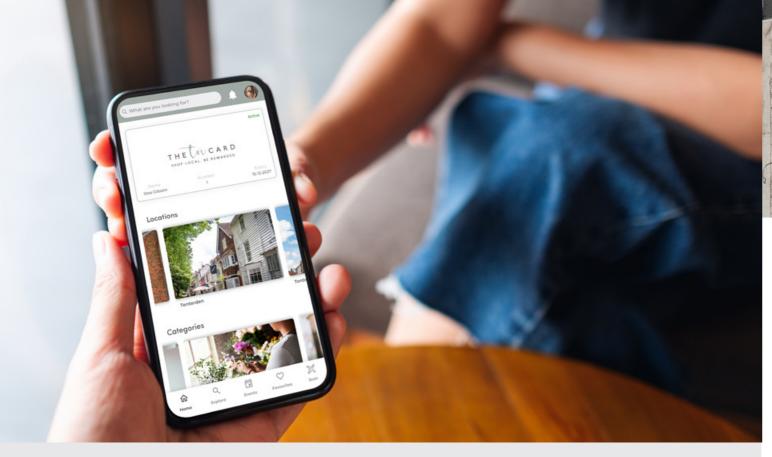
In collaboration with various District, Borough, Town, and Parish Councils, around 200 public charge points have already been installed, primarily in car parks, offering a cost-effective alternative to rapid charge points. However, with the expectation that 80% of new cars sold in Great Britain will be zeroemission by 2030, increasing to 100% by 2035, there is still much work to be done.

Excitingly, Kent County Council has secured Government funding for Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) to significantly expand the number of public charge points in the county. Over the coming years, thousands of public on-street charge points will be installed for residents without off-street parking, enabling local charging.

A charge point operator will be appointed in the coming months to manage the network.

Residents' input is crucial in identifying potential locations for on-street charging points. If you own an EV or are considering making the switch, you can nominate your street for a public charge point using the interactive map provided. Even if your street has already been nominated, additional nominations are helpful to gauge interest levels. While not every suggested street may be suitable, all suggestions will be thoroughly investigated.

For more details and to nominate your street, visit KCC's website: letstalk.kent.gov.uk/on-street-ev



SHOP LOCAL – BE REWARDED

Tenterden residents now have a new exciting reward scheme that saves them money when supporting local.

Jess Gibson set up the TN card five years ago as a way to support Kent's independent businesses while saving people money when shopping locally. A Social Enterprise, it gives members (card holders) access to exclusive savings at 1000 Kent businesses while providing free marketing for participating High Street and leisure businesses. Plus, 10% of every membership supports Mind, the mental health charity.

Jess says, "I launched the TN card because I'm passionate about seeing our High Streets thriving. In an online world, our small independents are all about people, social connection and personal service, and supporting them is better for our planet too. Tenterden is a very special town and since the TN card has launched in Tenterden, I've loved getting to know the town and many of its wonderful independent businesses'.

Since launching five years ago, the TN card has grown rapidly in geography, scale and product offering, and now has a fully interactive app, its own podcast series, monthly member evenings, business events and awards, and a huge directory of member-only rewards across the TN postcodes from shopping, beauty and health discounts to savings at coffee shops, bars and restaurants, theatre deals and discounted days out.

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP OFFER FOR TENTERDEN RESIDENTS:

The TN card is only £24.99 per year or £2.99 per month, and right now, Tenterden residents can get 50% off an annual membership! Simply visit thetncard.com (click on "join") and use the code LOVETENTERDEN50 (valid until 30 April 2025, Tenterden residents only) at checkout. 10% will be donated to Mind.

Check out these Tenterden businesses who have so far joined The TN card:

THE BEAUTY RITUAL **BESPOKE BUTCHERS BOUTIKA BRUNCH & BREW CECI'S CORNER CHAPEL DOWN** THE LEMON TREE MANES HAIR SPACE MCCANNS TAPROOM **MY TENTERDEN** POTTERS HOME DIGITAL **RAFFMAN & HUCKSTER ROCKITS SENSORY &** SOFT PLAY CENTRE **TENTERDEN TROUT WATERS** WAYFARER WINES

With more independents coming on board this Spring.

For more information visit www.thetncard.com or download the TN card app.





TENTERDEN CUSTUMAL PROJECT CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Help us bring Tenterden's historic Custumal to life.

A custumal is a historical document outlining the customs. laws, and regulations governing a town or region. Authorised by Stephen Cowper circa 1557, Tenterden's Custumal details the duties of town officials and includes English copies of various charters and council meeting records. Written on fine cloth paper with unique watermarks, it features richly decorated pages and is one of the treasures of Kent Archives. Currently, there is no copy of this important historical document in the town.

Our project aims to create a facsimile of the Custumal, complete with full-colour illustrations, transcripts, and reference materials. Funded by the Oxus Foundation and Tenterden and District Local History Society. Kent Archives has been asked to image the document using

their new book cradle, especially designed for reproducing images of fragile documents and local artist Anna Saunders will reproduce the illustrations.

We need volunteers to help transcribe the Custumal and explore its historical context, including Tenterden's status as a Cinque Port and the evolution of the Custumal. If you enjoy research and local history, please do join our team of dedicated volunteers. The outcome of the project will be the making of a book, copies of which will be presented, by the project team, to the Town Council, the Oxus Foundation, Tenterden and District Local History Society, Tenterden and District Museum, Tenterden Library, and Kent Archives.

Want to know more? E-mail townhall@ tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk

LOCAL GOVERNMENT **RE-ORGANISATION**

Plans for local government reorganisation involving the creation of single or unitary councils in Kent, will have significant implications for our community. The town council is closely monitoring developments to ensure that interests of our residents are well-represented. We are committed to responding

promptly and effectively on the town's behalf, addressing any changes that may arise. Our priority is to maintain the quality of services and support for all residents during the transition.

At the time of publication, the number and composition of unitary councils in Kent is to be determined

TENTERDEN BUSINESS E-PERMIT

Tenterden Business e-Permit allows a vehicle to park in Bridewell Lane car park and at the rear of the Leisure centre car park Monday to Saturday.

Tenterden Business e-Permit is valid for 12 months

Who can apply for an e-Permit? Tenterden Business e-Permit must be made by a business based or trading in the borough of Tenterden.

How much does an e-Permit Cost? £594.00 for 12 months

Visit: Tenterden Business Parking e-Permit at www.ashford.gov.uk/ parking

ARE YOU A BUSINESS IN **TENTERDEN?**

Virginia Hodge is the Business and Tourism Officer for Tenterden.

Virginia's role is to provide information, advice, and guidance to Tenterden businesses and tourism organisations, to promote the town as a hub for local people, visitors, and tourists and to develop links within the borough council and with towns/ villages in the surrounding district.

Contact Virginia by email towncoord@tenterdentown council.gov.uk or call 01580 762271 / 07915 226568.

Sign up to the Tenterden Business Newsletter



TENTERDEN FESTIVAL

FHE SPIRIT OF TENTERDEN FESTIVAL

THE SPIRIT OF TENTERDEN **FESTIVAL RETURNS** TO TENTERDEN RECREATION **GROUND THIS** JULY, BRINGING **THREE DAYS OF FUN TO THE** TOWN.

The festival showcases live music on the stage, children's and family entertainment in the display arena and on the festival ground, food retailers and producers, artisan/ creative craft stalls and festival shopping, street food, charity and community stalls, dog show, tea tent, bar, cocktails and a real ale bar! A true celebration of local talent, produce and culture, the

event offers something for all ages, from family-friendly activities to lively daytime and evening music. Whether you're a resident or visiting for the first time, the Spirit of Tenterden Festival is the perfect way to soak up the town's welcoming atmosphere and enjoy a great summer weekend with friends and family. Keep an eye out for the full programme of events and make sure you don't miss out!

Spirit of Tenterden Festival 4-6 July www.spiritoftenterden.co.uk is a festival run by the community for the community. It has been designated as a Town Event by the Town Council and as such receives an annual grant towards running costs.

Find out more scan the QR





TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS 2025

The Town Council will be hosting several events this year starting with the 80th Anniversary of VE Day on Thursday, 8th May 2025. The event will take place on Tenterden Recreation Ground from 8.30pm which will start with a Service of Celebration by Churches Together, followed by the lighting of the Town's Beacon from 9.20pm, to mark the end of the war in Europe and WWII as a whole on 8th May 1945. At 9am on 8th May, the Proclamation will be read out by the Town Crier by the Town's Beacon. More information will be released as plans are confirmed.

On Sunday, 10th August 2025 from 11am to 4pm, we are hoping to host again the hugely successful Youth Event on Tenterden Recreation Ground. This event will showcase Tenterden's Youth Clubs and will include music/singing, dancing and club demonstrations to name a few, plus there will be some free activities on offer.

The Annual Civic Service will take place at 12 noon in St. Mildred's Church on Sunday, 21st September 2025. This will be preceded by a short parade from the Town Hall area to the Church of the Youth Groups, Town Council and visiting dignitaries.

Remembrance Sunday will take place on Sunday, 9th November 2025 at 10.50am the Tenterden War Memorial; there will be a parade of organisations from **Recreation Ground Road starting** off at 10.30am and there will be a road closure in place for the duration of the event.

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

Find out more scan the QR







CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY 2024

The Town Council hosted another successful Children's Christmas Party on Sunday, 15th December 2024 at the Sinden Theatre in Tenterden. Approximately 75 children plus their nominated chaperones had an early start arriving from 8.30am to enjoying gingerbread Christmas tree decorating, face painting and other crafts before watching Spark Live's Productions performance of Sleeping Beauty.

The Children's Christmas Party is organised by Cllr. Kayleigh Brunger-Randall and supported by her merry band of elves. The Town Mayor Cllr. Sue Ferguson also made a guest appearance and wowed the children with her bright red mayoral robe and civic regalia. Heartfelt thanks to all local businesses, Trusts, Community Champions and Volunteers who supported the event this year. With a special thank you to the Brissenden Trust for financing the event for a second year running! Putting local families first and creating lasting happy memories.

BLUE PLAQUE SCHEME

You may have seen blue plaques on buildings marking famous previous residents or interesting historical facts?

Tenterden Town Council are delighted to announce that these will be coming to Tenterden soon so visitors and residents can seek out the Tenterden plaques to discover, find out and learn about the stories of real Tenterden people and their trades – in an enjoyable and fun way.

The Town Council in partnership with the Tenterden Local History Society and At Here Before Us will be working on this exciting new project to design a number of bespoke blue plaques (in the form of internal window vinyls) for Tenterden's historic buildings.









I'm Game

Calling men aged over 60, would you like to meet like-minded people for a social gathering and play some traditional games? Including scrabble, shove ha'penny, crib.

Maybe you could help someone learn a game you enjoy too.

If so we'd love you to join our new I'm Game club!





Join CARM at EC30, Recreation Ground Rd Tenterden on the 1st Thursday of the month 2.30pm – 4pm.

So don't delay pick up the phone today! **01233 758122** or email office@carmromneymarsh.org.uk



Charity Number 1184552

TENTERDEN REPAIR CAFE

DATE:

The first Saturday of the month throughout 2025 **TIME**:

11ME.

13:00 to 15:30

LOCATION:

Highbury Hall, Highbury Lane, Tenterden TN30 6LE

BOOKING:

There is no need to book, just drop in

COST:

Repairs are free. We accept cash or online donations if you want to donate to our running costs. Tea and cake are on sale (cash only).

MORE INFORMATION: sustainabletenterden.org or scan the QR code.

Want to know more? Scan the QR code or visit our website.



TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings take place at Highbury Hall and start at 7pm.

PLANNING COMMITTEE – scheduled for the first Monday of each month (check website for details on bank holidays).

TOWN COUNCIL/FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – takes place on the second Monday of every month except August.

Agendas and minutes are available to view on our website.

REPORT IT.

Many people get confused (understandably) on who to phone if they have an issue or wish to report a fault. Below is a short list which you might find useful of the main issues that are reported to us at the Town Council, and details of who to contact.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

Telephone: 03000 418181 or report online: www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report • Potholes • Damaged footpaths • Overhanging trees

or branches on the highway • Streetlights and signage

ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Telephone: 01233 331111 or www.ashford.gov.uk • Missed bin collection • Grass cutting (not including Town Council land) • Council Tax • Benefits • Planning enquiries

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Telephone: 01580 762271 or email townhall@ tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk

 General enquiries about Tenterden
General enquiries about the Town Council and its projects
Enquiries or comments regarding Town Council land/ property
Tenterden Recreation Ground, including play park and tennis courts
St Michaels Recreation Ground, including play park
Recreation Ground Football Pitch
Sports Pavilion
Public Toilets (Recreation Ground, Station Road & St. Michaels Recreation Ground)
Kiln Field Nature Reserve
Coombe Lane Cemetery
Millennium Garden
East Cross Garden

ASHFORD ADVICE (CITIZENS ADVICE)

Help to resolve problems. They can deal with any issue, from anyone, spanning debt and employment to consumer and housing plus everything in between. Telephone: 01233 626185 or https://ashfordadvice.org/