



TENTERDEN
TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET

No increase in town council precept

CORONATION PLANS

'Coronation in the Park'
Sunday 7th May

Become a Councillor

Make a change! Elections are coming!



TOWN COUNCIL PROJECTS UPDATE

An update on the town council's main projects.

TOWN HALL

As one of the major regeneration projects in Tenterden, the Town Hall Project was conceived in order to make the building community-based, accessible to all, and welcoming for the next 100 years, whilst addressing issues arising from the declining state of the building.

The project will address under-usage, the appalling heating system and lack of insulation, the extensive rising damp and unhealthy working conditions and the very limited community and lettable space.

The building has remained largely unchanged for the last 90 years. Changes will be made sympathetically and will preserve the building's heritage long into the future and are an important step towards enabling the town council to be carbon neutral by 2030.

What is happening? An application for planning permission to undertake these much needed improvements was submitted to Ashford Borough Council Planning Department in August 2022. At the time of writing, a decision is awaited.

Cost The current build cost has been estimated by the council's quantity surveyors at £2 million. This will be met partly through land sales from Tent1a land, with the remainder sourced from a loan by the Public Works Loan Board.

Planning application reference: PA/2022/2174

RECREATION GROUND

The planning application submitted to Ashford Borough Council in April 2021 sets out proposals for a new eco-friendly youth hub on the site of the existing pavilion, skatepark, multi-use games arena, and year-round tennis and netball facilities, and an extensive mixed-play adventure area along with improved planting, paths and seating areas.

What is happening? During the planning consultation process, an objection to removal of the current grass football pitch on the Recreation Ground, was lodged by Sport England. While this objection stands, Ashford Borough Council cannot approve the application, and any move to grant approval would be referred to the Secretary

of State for their consideration. The situation is further complicated by the lack of any decision on the Appledore Road football pitch land sale. Currently, the town council is actively considering how best to take the Recreation Ground project forward in light of these constraints.

Cost The cost of improvements for Phase 1 of the Recreation Ground re-ordering was calculated at £1,622,000 in 2019.

Planning application reference: 21/00724/AS

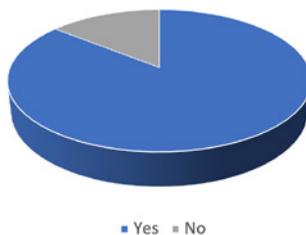
GOLDEN SQUARE ONE WAY SYSTEM

Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey undertaken in 2022 asking for feedback on proposals for a one-way system at Golden Square and East Hill. In excess of 430 responses were submitted, results are shown below.

Are you in favour of the one-way system?



Do you agree that public funds should be used for improvements of this kind?



What is happening? The Town Council agreed to fund the works required to implement the one-way scheme at Golden Square and is working with Kent County Council to achieve this.

Cost in the region of £27,000.

TENTERDEN WAR MEMORIAL PROJECT

Following extensive research carried out by the late Carol Douglas, into people from the parish of Tenterden, who sacrificed their lives in the two World Wars, but are not commemorated on the Tenterden War Memorial and further detailed research by the town council's War Memorial

Sub-Committee, 12 names have been identified for inclusion on the town's war memorial.

Tenterden Town Council is proposing the following names be added to the Memorial. All of those listed had either been born in the parish of Tenterden and are not remembered on another civic war memorial or were resident in Tenterden at the time of enlistment and are not remembered on another civic war memorial. All have been designated as "casualties" (war dead) by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Proposed names for addition to Tenterden War Memorial

Robert Bourner, Charles Edward Croft, James William Croft, William George Foreman, Joseph Gilbert, Charles Goodearl, Rowland Ewart Hook, Ebenezer John Ledger, Alfred Edward Sharp, Harold Robert Sharpe, George Weaver and Oliver Webb.

Comments are invited from the local community on the proposed additional names. If requested, further information can be provided on each of them. Please forward any comments marked "Tenterden War Memorial" by email to townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk

The next stage in this process is to request quotations from stonemasons for the inscription of the additional names on the steps of the War Memorial. Quotations would be sought prior to Listed Building consent being applied for from Ashford Borough Council.

For further information and details of other Town Council projects, please visit our website.



GREEN GUIDES

Visit our website and check out our new Green Guides, and find information on recycling the unrecyclable, and saving on energy bills. You can find a link to these guides on our Climate Action page www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/en/page/climate-change

TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET

No increase in the town council precept for 2023/2024.

In December, the Town Council considered and approved its budget and precept for the financial year 2023/2024. The 'precept' is the town council's share of council tax collected by Ashford Borough Council. The town council agreed that its expenditure for 23/24 year should be set at a level which results in no increase in the precept paid by Tenterden residents. 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. A precept for the parish of Tenterden for 2023/24 was set at £653,580 (compared with

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

£649,229 for 2022/23). While the precept total is rising, the amount paid by individual households in Tenterden will not increase, as there are more households eligible to pay council tax now, than there were a year ago. For Band D households, this amounts to £167.97 for the Tenterden parish element of annual council tax for the 2023/24 year, compared to £167.98 per year in 2022/23. Total anticipated expenditure for the year amounts to £683,900, of which £653,580 is met through the precept, and the remainder through income generation.

Administration & Facilitation	Community services	Environment	Local representation
Council administration £359,900	Grants and donations £11,000	Carbon reduction £5,000	Planning advice £2,500
Town Hall & council properties £49,450	Town events £4,500	Christmas lights £15,000	Civic services £8,000
IT & website £22,000	Youth provision £30,000	Gardening, grounds, facilities and play areas maintenance £64,450	
Insurance £29,000	Public Toilets £52,600		
Professional Fees £25,000	Friday market £3,000 <small>This expenditure will be offset by £3,000 in anticipated income.</small>	Kiln Field Nature Reserve £2,500	
TOTAL: £485,350	TOTAL: £101,100	TOTAL: £86,950	TOTAL: £10,500
TOTAL EXPENDITURE: £683,900	ANNUAL PRECEPT: £653,580	Annual cost to Band D resident: £167.97	Weekly cost to Band D resident: £3.23

The budget set by the town council, will result in **no** increase to Tenterden residents for the financial year 2023/2024

CORONATION PLANS

The Town Council will be hosting 'Coronation in the Park' to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III on Sunday, 7th May 2023 from 11am to 4pm on Tenterden Recreation Ground. This event is all about communities coming together for the 'Coronation Big Lunch' where you are welcome to bring along your own food and drink, or purchase food from local shops/businesses, or even enjoy choosing from the range of local food and drink stalls on the park, which are run by local businesses and fundraising organisations. There will also be live music to suit all ages, local dance groups, may pole dancing, local army groups, military vehicles and other fun activities yet to be announced. There will be stalls run by various local charities to create awareness and also raise much needed funds.

As part of the 'Big Help Out' initiative, we will have various stalls dotted around the park encouraging people to try volunteering for our local community. Any free time you can give to these amazing organisations is always appreciated and can be very rewarding.

We hope you can come along and be part of this special event. The event will still go ahead if it rains, so please come prepared with your brollies. For more information as it is published, please visit: www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/en/events or look out for posters around the town and on our noticeboards.



You now need
photo ID to
vote at a
polling station

PHOTO ID NEEDED TO VOTE AT LOCAL ELECTIONS IN MAY

From 4 May 2023, voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. Residents in the borough of Ashford are being urged to make sure they are ready to vote in May by checking they have an accepted form of ID.

Accepted forms of ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK, EEA or Commonwealth drivers' licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass. Voters can use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo.

Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for free ID online at voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk/ or by completing a paper form. If you need any help with applying or want to request an application form, email vote@ashford.gov.uk or call 01233 330 402.

The full list of accepted ID is available on the Electoral Commission's website, along with more information about the new requirement and details of how to apply for the free ID: electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

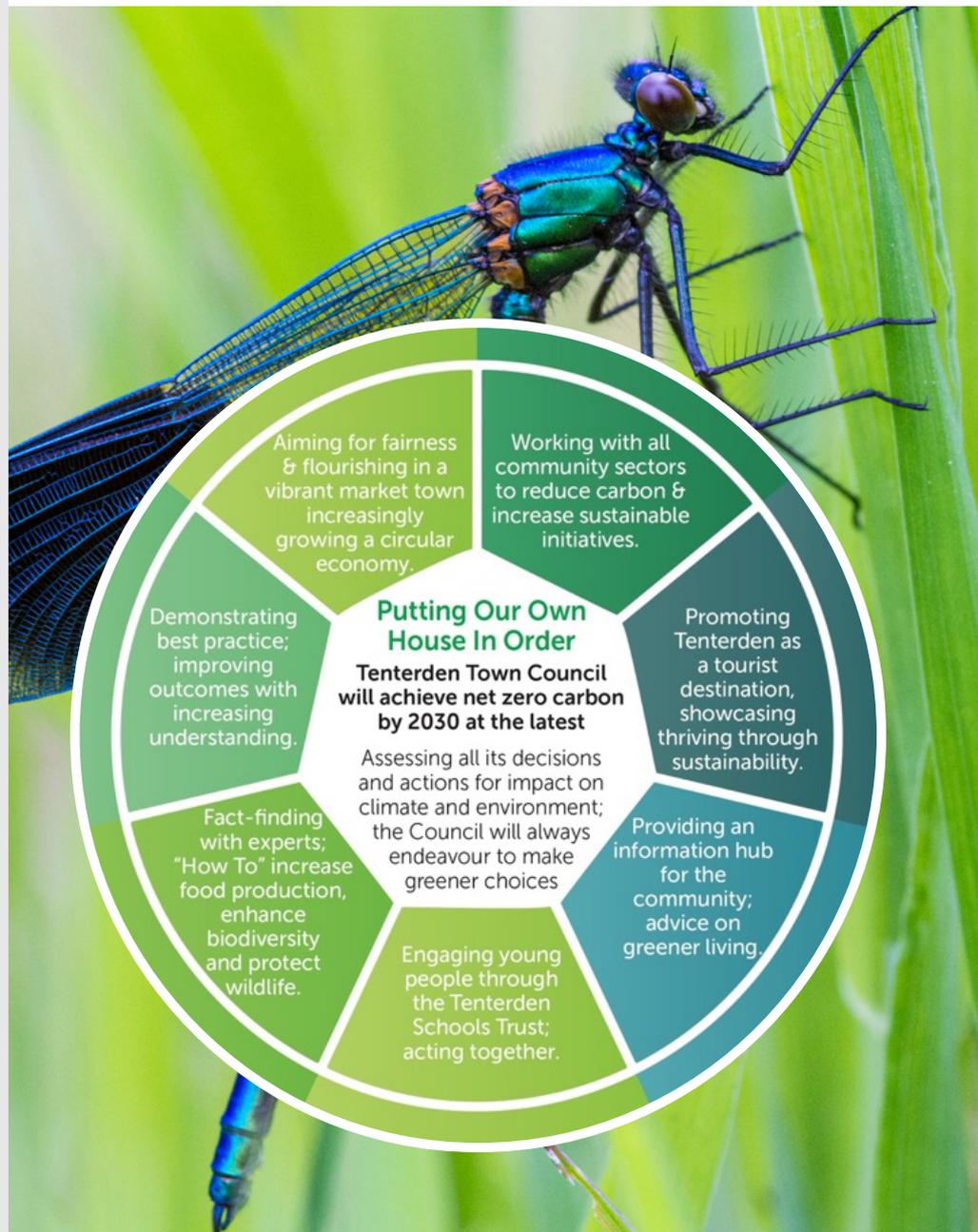
THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

On Monday 13th February 2023, councillors voted to approve a Climate Action Plan, which sets out the council's response to climate challenges and focuses on actions in the upcoming 5-year period. The Plan is intended as a "living document" that will be revised to reflect progress to date and changes in our knowledge about climate change and developments in technology.

The Climate Action Plan was subject to a period of consultation at the end of 2022 and the council wishes to thank everyone who responded, either by completing our online survey or by writing to the council.

Almost 57.5% of respondents to the online survey, agreed with all the commitments that the council set out and an additional 30% of respondents agreed with most of these. Over the coming months, the Climate Action sub-committee will review additional comments made during the consultation process and will begin scoping out the cost and means of delivery of the plan.

If you are interested in learning more about the work of the Climate Action sub-committee or want to be involved in anyway – please email townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk



MAKE A CHANGE! BECOME A COUNCILLOR

On Thursday 4th May, elections will take place for Ashford Borough Council Ward Members and for Tenterden Town Council, councillors (for information - the next KCC election will be in 2025). Deadline for nominations: 4pm, Tuesday 4th April 2023

Could you help your community by standing for election onto the Town Council? Here are some questions and answers to help give you the facts you need to help make your decision.

CAN I STAND FOR ELECTION?

To stand for election to a local council you must be:

- A UK or Commonwealth citizen; or be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland; or be a citizen of another Member State of the European Union
- At least 18 years old
- An elector of the council; or in the past 12 months occupied land or other premises in the area the council serves (as owner or tenant); or work in the area the local council serves (as your principal or only place of work); or live within three miles of the town council's boundary.

The only exceptions to this are if you are employed by the Town Council, or have been declared bankrupt, or have been sentenced to prison for more than three months.

WHAT IS THE TOWN COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FOR?

We have no statutory responsibility to carry out services, which frees us to spend our time and resources directly on projects for the betterment of the town. The Council decides how a portion (known as the 'precept') of your Council Tax is spent.

HOW OFTEN ARE MEETINGS HELD?

At present council and committee meetings are held once a month on Monday evenings; all councillors are expected to attend. You may in addition, join one or more of the council's sub-committees. These specialise in a particular area of council business and meet when the need arises

HOW MUCH WILL I BE PAID?

Nothing! Councillors are members of the public who give their time and expertise freely, although expenses directly arising from Council work can often be reclaimed. It is important to note though, that you will not be considered a volunteer as you will be the holder of a public office.

WHAT WILL I DO ON THE COUNCIL?

As a local councillor you can become a voice for your community and make real change. Local councillors are the champions of their community who invest time in local projects and issues to the benefit of residents and the town.

Local councillors attend to local needs of residents, local groups and businesses, collectively make decisions on local services, collaborate with district and borough councils to adhere to local needs, and progress vital projects to invest in the future of the community.

HOW MUCH WILL I NEED TO DO?

As much or as little as you like! The minimum requirement is that you must attend Town Council meetings. You are of course welcome to become more involved in projects undertaken by the Council, and Councillors are encouraged to take on a special area of interest each year.

WILL I HAVE TO MAKE DECISIONS ON MY OWN?

No, you will be a member of the Council, and all decisions are made collectively by majority vote, or in some cases by the Town Clerk. Not even the Mayor has the power to make unilateral decisions on behalf of the Council.

HOW LONG WILL I BE ON THE COUNCIL FOR?

A council term is four years, but you are of course welcome to stand again at the next election.

HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL I BE WORKING WITH?

There are sixteen councillors, and nine members of staff, based at the Town Hall.

WILL PEOPLE KNOW WHO I AM?

Yes, your name, contact information and photograph will be made public, so that members of the public can approach you with matters they would like the Council to consider.

ARE THERE RULES TO FOLLOW FOR A COUNCILLOR?

Yes, this is called the Code of Conduct

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCILLORS

You **MUST**

- Act in accordance with the Council's requirements.
- Make sure that the Council's resources are not used for political purposes.
- Disclose any personal interest you have in matters discussed by the Council.

You **MUST NOT**

- Attempt to bully or intimidate anybody.
- Do anything to compromise the integrity of anybody working on behalf of the Council.
- Disclose information given in confidence (unless required to by law).
- Prevent anybody from accessing information they are entitled to.
- Do anything that would bring the Council into disrepute.

I'M INTERESTED, SO WHAT DO I DO NOW?

You can register your interest with the Town Clerk's office in the Town Hall, or by directly contacting Legal and Democratic Services at Ashford Borough Council (ABC is responsible for running the election). You will then be supplied with nomination papers.





TENTERDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

TENTERDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

LIMES LAND (LL)

It was acknowledged that the original timeline for the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) has unfortunately suffered significant delay as a direct consequence of the LL planning application and decision, as well as the ongoing application by Homewood School to release their playing fields to facilitate access to the LL approved planning application site. The Steering Committee (SC) agreed that Tenterden Town Council (TTC) should use a Freedom of Information request to DfE regarding the Homewood School application to sell playing fields and a timescale for decision. Pending the outcome of this request, the SC may require legal advice on how to proceed with the Plan considering the current status of Homewood School's application. An authorization request was issued to TTC on 6th February to avoid any delays in obtaining the funding should this be necessary.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSES (REG 14)

It is important to point out that it has not been the processing of public responses which has caused delays. It has been the need to await clarity on the status of Limes land. Until there is clarity on this, it has not been possible to respond to all the comments made on the NP or for the Steering Committee to recommend a Regulation 15 Neighbourhood Plan to the Town Council. It is hoped that there will be clarity in order for the revised version of the Neighbourhood Plan to be brought forward to the Town Council meeting in June.

We have been advised by both ABC and our planning consultant that next release of information will be the Reg 15 document. This will be a comprehensive document including a record of the public consultation responses received at Reg 14 and associated responses from the TTC and others. We are not permitted to release this

information in a piecemeal manner prior to this submission.

TIMELINE

(assuming LL doesn't cause further delays)

The SC are aiming to complete all final working drafts required for the REG 15 submission by the 15th March 2023. The documents will include the following:

- Updated Evidence Documents
- Reg 15 Neighbourhood Plan
- Basic Conditions Statement
- Community Engagement Statement (which will include SC response schedules)

The SC will meet on 21st March to approve this set of documents to ensure good governance.

It is intended that with the much-appreciated design input by Gravity (on a voluntary basis), the final presentation set of the documents will be completed by 21st April.

The completed documents would then be issued to TTC by the



TENTERDEN FRIDAY HIGH STREET MARKET

Our High Street Friday Market returns on the 10th March. After the rush of Christmas our stallholders take a well-deserved winter break during January and February, ready to return fully stocked in early spring.

Our market takes place every second and fourth Friday of the month, with different stallholders on each rota, so make sure you visit each market to see everything on offer! Stalls are usually set up and ready to trade by 8.30am and remain open until 2.30pm.

Most of last year's stallholders are returning, with a variety of goods including photographic restoration and video conversion; sustainable and eco-friendly candles, wax melts and air fresheners; designer trainers and t-shirts; embellished flip flops and hand crafted jewellery; refillable personal care items and household cleaning items; bird boxes, owl boxes, post boxes, insect boxes, door stops and plants; vintage antiques and collectibles sourced from UK and France; homemade chutneys, relishes, cheese; home interiors and accessories; bric-a-brac; ethical, sustainable jewellery and hand carved ornaments made from Tagua nuts, Panama hats and recycled tops with an ethnic touch; eco-friendly gift-wrapping, cards and stationery; Welsh wool throws and lightweight scarves homemade and ethically sourced. We also have a new stallholder selling sealed bottles of chilli sauce.

Details of our market can be found on our website including how to become a stallholder: www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/en/page/high-street-market

end of April on a 'Confidential' basis as a result of the election period being active. Approval would then be sought at the TTC 13th June Special Meeting (allowing approximately 6 weeks for councillors to review the documents).

Following TTC approval, the following documents will be submitted to Ashford Borough Council (ABC):

- Updated Evidence Documents
- Reg 15 Neighbourhood Plan
- Basic Conditions Statement
- Community Engagement Statement (which will include SC response schedules)

Once the documents are submitted to ABC, the next phase, REG 16, will be carried out by ABC. They will organise a 6-week process. It would be expected that the TTC actively promote this Stage to make the local residents aware of proceedings, via social media, websites, printed banners, posters etc.

Siggi Nepp, Chair - TNP



TOWN HALL SERVICES

MONDAY

Barclays Bank, from
9.30am til 3.30pm
(no appointment needed)

MONDAY & TUESDAY

Ashford Citizens' Advice
Monday and Tuesday
9.30am til 11am (subject
to advisor availability)

TUESDAY

Ashford Borough
Council's Welfare
Intervention Team from
10am til 12pm
(no appointment needed)

THURSDAY

Ashford Borough
Council's Customer
Services Officer,
9.30am – 3.30pm
(no appointment needed)



CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

On Monday 13th February, the town council voted to adopt the Civility and Respect Pledge, recognising that civility and respect should lie at the heart of public life and that good governance is essential to ensuring healthy democracy at all levels. The pledge is a fundamental part of the Civility and Respect Project, an initiative of the National Association of Local Councils, working in partnership with local government groups and associations to put civility and respect at the top of the agenda in our sector.

CONTACT THE TOWN COUNCIL:

E-MAIL: townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk

PHONE: 01580 762271

WEBSITE: www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk

TWITTER: twitter.com/tenterdentc

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

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

Our Welfare Intervention Officers will now be running a drop in session at Tenterden Town hall

Every Tuesday - 10am to 12 noon

Need advice from a Welfare Intervention Officer – pop along to one of their drop in sessions at [Tenterden Town Hall, 24 High St, Tenterden TN30 6AN](#)

- Council Tax advice, including Council Tax debt advice
- Help to claim Council Tax Support or Housing Benefit
- Help to claim Discretionary Housing Payments or Council Tax Exceptional Circumstances Payments
- General housing advice, including advice regarding rent arrears
- Referrals for homelessness advice
- General advice around all welfare reform such as the benefit cap, Universal Credit and other benefit changes

For help please contact us today:
welfareinterventionteam@ashford.gov.uk

