



www.newromney-tc.gov.uk

town.clerk@newromney-tc.gov.uk



INTRODUCTION FROM THE TOWN MAYOR 2020-21

Welcome to this Annual Town Meeting of New Romney Town Council for the year 2020/21.

The last 13 months have been the most difficult time for New Romney outside of the war years. We have battled against the Covid-19 virus and its impact on families in New Romney has been significant. We mourn the loss of a number of relatives, friends and acquaintances. We find ourselves living with the impact of this terrible virus, not only those suffering with long covid but also those living with its financial and mental health impact.

Since March 2019, so many people have gone the extra mile to help the most vulnerable members of our community. I would like to thank the Care Home staff, local Doctors' surgeries staff, NHS workers in local hospitals, Carers in the community, all of whom have put their lives on the line to help others. We can't forget the efforts of our local supermarkets, High Street shops and Pharmacies who stayed open during the pandemic and provided life-saving support to those residents who were shielding and vulnerable. Thank you to the keyworkers, postal service and Voluntary organisations who continue to support the community – Counselling, youth organisations, Rotary, Royal British Legion, Dementia groups and adults with additional needs. Central to these efforts was the Romney Marsh Community Support Hub. Jon Wilson, his staff and volunteers provided an invaluable service to the community to ensure the most vulnerable residents had their medication, food and essentials to survive the pandemic.

We must now look to the future. In New Romney, we will be moving forward with the next phase of the Community Hall/Sports Pavilion, which has progressed slowly behind the scenes during the pandemic. We have installed steel bollards around St Martins Field to prevent anti-social activities & unlawful encampments. We are taking over the dilapidated Station Road play-area from FHDC and will upgrade the facilities to the same high standard we have on The Greens and in Fairfield Road. We are supporting a new venture to open a Wing-Surfing School, utilising the dilapidated toilet block on The Greens, which will also provide a new public toilet facility. We are pleased to support the new High St commercial premises that will open in 2021, one of very few High Streets that are expanding. We have plans to upgrade the shelters on The Greens, recognising the increasing use of our seafront by visitors. We are establishing a Parish Council Highway Improvement Plan to consider road safety issues, including speed limits and parking, which will need resident input. We have dropped the ball on High St Christmas lights, utilising those that have been in use for several years but have proven to be less than inspiring, so we will put plans forward to address that in the coming year.

I would like to thank our Council staff who have continued to work remotely throughout the pandemic; our Councillors who have adapted to the ZOOM platform to continue to run Council business; our local school teachers and schools for remaining open; Eric Brown & the Litter Pickers for their support and tireless efforts to keep the town, beaches and countryside litter free. I would also like to personally thank a few younger people who continue to demonstrate that New Romney is "the little town with a big heart", Sadie, at Savage's greengrocers, Katie, in Deblyn's, Louise, at That Pet Shop and Hannah & Sarah at Bakery 64 as they continue to provide an invaluable service to the town.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor for 2020-21, Councillor Paul Thomas



TOWN COUNCIL SUCCESS STORIES

2020-2021 has been another busy and productive year for New Romney Town Council, despite the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, with further improvements to the locality for the benefit of residents and the large-scale Community Hall and Sports Pavilion project progressing slowly in the background. Once again, there is too much to mention within a single report, however, during the past year there have, as always, been a number of successes that are definitely worthy of highlighting:

- **RESPONDING TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

New Romney Town Council is extremely proud of its swift and continuing response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Right at the start of the national health emergency, the Town Council was quick to take action: First and foremost, by becoming involved, both financially and in practical terms, in the setting up of the New Romney Support Hub which has played such a central role in supporting the whole community throughout the pandemic. Simultaneously, arrangements were quickly put in place to issue all Councillors and Officers with electronic devices and provide appropriate peer training that would enable the continuation of Town Council business by remote means. It has not always been easy, with the expected technical glitches and learning opportunities along the way – but everyone has adapted quickly and with positivity to the ‘new way of working’ which has resulted in the Town Council being able, not only to continue engaging in routine business but, also, to progress some significant projects to improve our locality. The Town Council has also pro-actively taken on the role of ‘signposting’ local residents towards a range of information and support organisations throughout the pandemic, with a substantial increase in information regularly posted on social media and the Town Council website. Not only this, but the Town Council acted very swiftly to put in place risk assessments, signage and other measures, including regular, routine cleansing of equipment, to ensure that all of its open space amenities could continue to be enjoyed safely by the public, particularly in light of the increased need for fresh air and exercise for the sake of general well-being, during the pandemic.

- **CONTINUING THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL!**

In the past year, New Romney Town Council has actually been heading up its own internal campaigns to improve access to its services and premises, to be supportive of those dealing with dementia, to reduce its own contributions to the global climate emergency and to improve the image of the Town for residents and visitors alike by developing a Town Litter Strategy. To this end, a number of Town Council working parties were established and have been working on exploring these issues with a view to bringing appropriate recommendations back to the Council.

Accessibility

As part of New Romney Town Council’s forward planning, we commissioned a professional report looking into accessibility issues of premises under the control of NRTC.

Once the report was received, we set up a working party with a small team of Councillors to look into its findings and to assess what we could do to improve public access to the Town Hall and the Assembly Rooms and some aspects of the High Street.

We wanted to ensure that everyone had equal opportunity to visit and take part in our Town and NRTC business.

As the buildings are all listed, some changes cannot be considered, but the working party has identified many easy fix items that could be carried out at little or no cost using our Town Caretaker and his assistant.

The Town Council had already secured two disabled car parking places in our high street, and they are now fully operational, we also looked into drop kerbs and pedestrian crossings with additional functions for disabled residents and visitors, these are ongoing with KCC & FHDC.

Currently our Town Hall has poor access for those of us that have difficulty with steps and stairs. In addition to some low-cost, easy fixes already mentioned, we identified some additional relatively easy fixes, changing the two Town Hall entry doors round, installing a hearing loop, with a 70/30 stable door to allow better access for wheelchair users, and altering one of the toilets into an ambulant style with additional hand rails and equipment, and a call facility for emergencies.

The biggest issue is access to the Town Hall upper chamber; currently we have a stair lift, but no flat deck for wheelchair users, we are currently asking professional lift companies for advice on this. We are planning to look into the facilities at the Assembly Rooms within the next year.

The wish list is quite large, and it is a project for the next few years, most of the changes can be made at low or nil cost which we are now taking action on – by bringing the Working Party recommendations to Full Council in the very near future.

Our end wish is that we continue to make our Town a better place for all.

Cllr John Picco

- **ICT DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY!**

Pre-Pandemic



Just days before we all went into the first Covid-19 lock-down, in March 2020, New Romney Town Council (NRTC) issued laptops to Councillors and staff. This was, principally, to abide by the new GDPR rules but, in effect, came at the right time in order to enable Councillors and staff to maintain safe and effective communications. It also meant that the Town Council was able to meet virtually via Zoom.

There were some teething troubles, as the pre-planned training was unable to go ahead, but, because of this forward planning by your Council, the decision-making, work and responsibilities of NRTC were all maintained, as they still are.

The Next Stage

Last year, NRTC agreed to upgrade our IT system which, due to many pressures over time, was predominately 12 years old, so out of date and ineffective. Not what a modern and forward thinking Town Council could rely upon.

The Council took the bold decision to completely upgrade their IT equipment, software, and file storage capabilities, including secure backups and sharing facilities, telephony and broadband. Basically, what all current medium-sized businesses and local authorities would expect to have in place. These updates will also support our staff in being able to work as efficiently as they would like to, and save time in the process: e.g. The computer will not crash half-way through writing a report!

What is happening now?

The ultrafast broadband has now been installed. This will allow staff to be able to use the new secure Cloud storage system, work remotely when required, and generally use the internet to efficiently update our web pages and social media. It will also facilitate looking at planning applications on-line, for example, and allow us to be much greener as a Council, as we will not need to print out anywhere near as much as we once did.

Secondly, there will be new network cabling installed throughout the offices, allowing staff to make good use of all the equipment, and the internet, when required. There will also be Wi-Fi access available when needed. Staff will be using the latest laptops for their work, which will plug into the network via docking stations. This gives the Town

Council built-in resilience, allowing staff to continue to work at home, when necessary, by simply taking home their laptop. The laptops will securely connect to the Cloud system, whilst being encrypted for GDPR purposes.

Thirdly, the Town Council phone system will be moving away from the traditional 'copper line' standard to an IP system (Internet Protocol), where phone calls will be managed through the internet. This will give more efficiency to staff, Councillors, and members of the public, allowing individual staff answerphones, when necessary, direct dialling (where applicable), and more 'lines' for staff to be able to use (more than two 'outside lines' when required). It also means that, once again, NRTC's resilience is increased, as these phones are mimicked on staff laptops. This means, should staff be working away from the office, not only can they use their laptops as if they were still sitting in the Town Hall, they can also use their office phone at the same time. The office number is automatically transferred to the laptop, without even the caller realising, and will maintain a good audio quality.



Summary

This investment was desperately required and the work should be completed by the end of June. It will allow NRTC to move forward in terms of efficiency and the levels of service we will be able to provide our community over time.

Cllr John Rivers

• IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LOCALITY

St. Martin's Field Protection

Following three unlawful incursions on St Martin's Field in recent times, the Town Council undertook to investigate potential methods of protection to assist in preventing future incidents and to help ensure that the field remains freely available for the enjoyment of local residents.

Various options for protecting the field were investigated, following which, quotations were then sought from a range of suppliers for supply and installation of bollards.

In the end, a local company, WeWeld, was selected to manufacture, supply and install bollards around the perimeter of St. Martin's Field. The Town Council has worked closely with WeWeld to develop the specifications and this has resulted in a product in the adopted corporate Town colours of black and gold that has helped to maintain the openness and historic status of the area, whilst providing a robust deterrent against future incursions.



The Council, in appointing WeWeld to undertake this project, was pleased to be able to support local industry, particularly in light of the financial impact of the coronavirus pandemic on local businesses and it has been particularly pleasing to receive the positive comments that have been forthcoming from local residents about the resulting installation.

Renovation of Victorian Sea Shelter

New Romney Town Council has also recently approved the full renovation of the Victorian Sea Shelter at The Greens, Littlestone. The Council is particularly keen to improve this area for the benefit of local residents and visitors alike and to provide facilities befitting of an English seaside town that welcomes tourists from far and wide. It is intended that, in due course, the nearby, more modern sea shelter will also be refurbished or replaced.

Renovation of Town Hall House Foyer and Gaol Cell areas



Work has been on-going to refurbish the entrance foyer at Town Hall House, adjacent the Town Hall. Whilst the property is, in the main, a residential property, the entrance foyer has been separated from the current tenancy to allow the Council to make provision, going forward, to re-open the Town Gaol Cell to the public for occasional visits in association with visits to the Town Hall Upper Chamber which was, of course, the Town's Courtroom in days gone by. The renovation is nearing completion and it is hoped that it will be possible to open the Courtroom and Gaol Cell to visitors on Country Fayre Day 2022.

IMPROVING LOCAL LEISURE FACILITIES AND BUILDING COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Strengthening Foundations for a New Community Hall and Sports Pavilion

Led by the Town Council's Project Steering Group and despite the Coronavirus Pandemic, work has slowly continued behind the scenes to progress the development of a new Community Hall and Sports Pavilion on the Station Road Sports Field.



The project Planning Application was formally submitted to Folkestone & Hythe District Council – the local Planning Authority, in April 2019. Since that time, the District Council, in line with its statutory obligations, consulted various stakeholders. Due to the complexity of the application, this took quite some time and the application was not, in the end, brought to the District Council Planning Committee for consideration until March 2020. The Town Council was subsequently delighted to be able to report that the application had been approved subject to planning conditions, including a s106 Agreement.

In light of the fact that formal Planning application has been granted, the Council has now been able to commence applying for grants to help fund any shortfall in the cost of the project and, having previously undertaken public consultation, will, in accordance with the subsequent formal Council resolution, also apply for a Public Works Loan as a backstop that will guarantee delivery of this new landmark community amenity.

Moving forward, despite the impact of the pandemic on working practices, the Project Steering Group has continued to engage in legal and other negotiations in order to be able to move the project slowly forward to the next stage. Thus, in consultation with the Council's Planning Consultants, Design Team and Project Management Team, the project is now being guided through to the next stages - which involve the development of construction tendering contracts, assessment of tender applicants, and appointment of contractor.

Exciting times!

GRANT FUNDING SUPPORT

During 2020-21, New Romney Town Council has awarded grant funding as follows:

St. Martin's Field Charity	-	£4,000.00
New Romney in Bloom	-	£ 500.00
T S Veteran New Romney Sea Cadets	-	£1,500.00

COMMUNITY EVENTS

During 2020-21, the coronavirus pandemic impacted on every aspect of community life and 2020-21 became the year of the 'Virtual Celebration'! New Romney Town Council supported a number of Community events – whether financially or in kind, including:

Virtual New Romney Country Fayre

Virtual New Romney Lantern Parade

Virtual commemorative services and / or activities: VE Day, VJ Day and Remembrance Day



THE GREENS, LITTLESTONE

The Greens, Littlestone, is an area of informal, open space which is owned and maintained by the Town Council and is made available for a range of community events and activities, including fun-fairs, fun runs and similar, as well as the very popular Emergency Services Day. Some of these events and activities benefit local organisations or charities by providing them with opportunities for fund-raising, whilst others provide entertainment for local residents.

During 2020-21, the following events took place at The Greens:

- No public events – in accordance with coronavirus pandemic legislation and guidance
-
-

ST. MARTIN'S FIELD, NEW ROMNEY

St. Martin's Field, New Romney, is a more formal area of open space which is owned and maintained by the Town Council and managed by St. Martin's Field Charity. It is also made available for a range of community events and activities, including fun-fairs, fun runs and similar. Like events at The Greens, Littlestone, some of these events and activities benefit local organisations or charities by providing them with opportunities for fund-raising, whilst others provide entertainment for local residents.

During 2020-21, the following events took place at St. Martin's Field:

- No public events – in accordance with coronavirus pandemic legislation and guidance
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ASSEMBLY ROOMS, NEW ROMNEY

The Assembly Rooms in Church Approach, New Romney, are let on a regular basis to a range of local groups and organisations as well as for use by private persons.

The Assembly Rooms are currently closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, but preparations are in hand for re-opening safely, in accordance with coronavirus legislation and guidance.

For booking enquiries or further information, please go to the Town Council website: www.newromney-tc.gov.uk

or contact the Facilities and PR Clerk at the Town Hall.

Email: facilities-pr.clerk@newromney-tc.gov.uk Tel: 01797 362348



CHURCH LANE ALLOTMENTS



The Town Council is responsible for Church Lane Allotment Gardens and is pleased to report that whilst there currently remains only a short waiting list for plots, the take-up by new tenants as plots become vacant continues to be steady.

New plot identification numbers have recently been installed for ease of identification when potential incoming tenants wish to view the plot on offer to ascertain suitability for needs in respect of size or other matters. These will also assist Council Officers in carrying out their duties..

If you are interested in renting an allotment garden plot or for further information, please go to the Town Council Website: www.newromney-tc.gov.uk or contact the Facilities & PR Clerk at the Town Hall.

Email: facilities-pr.clerk@newromney-tc.gov.uk Tel: 01797 362348

REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

New Romney Town Council appoints Members as representatives to other organisations. The Town Council would like to thank those Members who have, during 2020-21, served as Representatives on Outside Bodies, as follows:

Organisation	Town Council Representative 2020-21
Steward for Damian Collins MP	Cllr Mrs B Lonbay Kapoor
Town / Coast Ward Councillor Surgery Attendants	Cllr Mrs B Lonbay Kapoor, Cllr Rev Cn S McLachlan, Cllr D W Wimble, Cllr M Hardy (Reserve)
Emergency Contacts for Shepway District Council	The Mayor – Cllr P Thomas Deputy Mayor – Cllr Mrs P Metcalfe
Floodline Contacts for Environment Agency	Cllr P Thomas, Cllr J Rivers, Cllr J Picco, Cllr Miss J Hiscock
Kent Association of Local Councils	Cllr P Thomas, Cllr P Coe
Lydd Airport Consultative Committee	Cllr P Coe, Cllr J Picco, Cllr Ms W Nevard
Dungeness Site Stakeholder Group	Cllr A Rodriguez, Cllr P Coe
NHS / South Kent Coast Clinical Commissioning Group	Cllr Mrs P Rolfe, Cllr J Rivers
Southlands Almshouse Trust	Cllr P J Coe, Cllr Rodriguez, Cllr J Picco
Confederation of Cinque Ports	The Mayor – Cllr P Thomas, Deputy Mayor – Cllr Mrs P Metcalfe, Town Clerk – Mrs C Newcombe
Romney Marshes Area Internal Drainage Board	Cllr P Coe
Environment Agency	Cllr P Coe, Cllr Ms W Nevard
New Romney Allotment Association	Cllr Rev Cn S McLachlan
Romney Marsh Forum	Cllr Mrs P Metcalfe, Cllr Miss J Hiscock
Mayoral Representative	No permanent representative – appointed as and when required at the discretion of the Mayor



COUNCILLOR SURGERIES:

Regular Monthly Surgeries are held for the Town and Coast Wards of New Romney, at which residents can meet Members of the Town Council and, by appointment, the MP for the Romney Marsh, to discuss any issues that they may wish to raise.

Councillor & MP Surgeries were NOT held during 2020-21 due to the Coronavirus pandemic. However, it is envisaged that Councillor Surgeries will resume, along with the MP surgery, from June 2021.

Town Ward and Coast Ward:

The Assembly Rooms, Church Approach, New Romney

MP and Town Councillor Surgery – First Friday in every Calendar Month (except August)

COUNCILLOR DETAILS

New Romney Town Council consists of a full membership of sixteen Councillors, with eight Members representing each of its two Wards.

In **2020-21**, the Membership of New Romney Town Council was as follows:

Town Ward:

Councillor Mrs P S Rolfe
Councillor W D Wimble
Councillor A Rodriguez
Councillor Mrs B Lonbay Kapoor
Councillor J Phipps – resigned 08/10/20
Councillor Rev Cn S McLachlan
Councillor J Cramp – resigned 10/02/21
Councillor J Rivers
Councillor J Davies – since 09/04/21
Councillor P Carey – since 09/04/21

Coast Ward:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of new Romney
Councillor P Thomas
Councillor Miss J M Hiscock
Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs P Metcalfe
Councillor Ms W Nevard
Councillor J Picco
Councillor M Hardy
Councillor R Tillson
Councillor P J Coe

For information about the work of a local council and the role of a councillor and for details about how to apply to become a Town Councillor, please visit the Town Council website: www.newromney-tc.gov.uk

Alternatively, please contact the Town Clerk:

town.clerk@newromney-tc.gov.uk Tel: 01797 362348

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS 19 JUNE 2020 UP TO AND INCLUDING 21 APRIL 2021

NB - It should be noted that due to the Covid pandemic not all agreed meetings have been held and those listed hereto have been remote meetings.
It should also be noted that some Councillor absences were the result of technical issues preventing access to remote meetings.

FULL COUNCIL

Coast Ward

Councillor P D Thomas
Councillor J D Picco
Councillor P J Coe
Councillor J M Hiscock
Councillor Mrs P Metcalfe
Councillor R Tillson
Councillor M Hardy
Councillor Ms W Nevard

POSSIBLE

12
12
12
12
12
12
12
12

ACTUAL

10
12
9
11
12
10
8
6

Town Ward

Councillor P S Rolfe	12	4
Councillor A Rodriguez	12	12
Councillor J Rivers	12	10
Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan	12	10
Councillor Mrs B Lonbay-Kapoor	12	9
Councillor W D Wimble	12	4
Councillor J Ebrey-Cramp	8	0
Councillor J Phipps	4	4
Councillor J Davies	1	1
Councillor P Carey	1	1

STANDING COMMITTEES

<u>Finance & General Purposes Committee</u>	<u>Possible</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Councillor R Tillson	6	2
Councillor Mrs P Metcalfe	6	6
Councillor J Ebrey-Cramp	5	0
Councillor Miss J Hiscock	6	5
Councillor Ms W Nevard	6	4
Councillor J Picco	6	6
Councillor J Phipps	1	1
Councillor J Rivers	6	5
Councillor A Rodriguez	6	5
Councillor P Thomas	6	6
Councillor P Coe	6	6
Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan	6	3

<u>Planning Committee</u>	<u>Possible</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Councillor P Thomas	10	10
Councillor J Picco	10	10
Councillor P Coe	10	10
Councillor R Tillson	10	4
Councillor Mrs P Metcalfe	10	10
Councillor J Rivers	10	8
Councillor D Wimble	10	4
Councillor Ms W Nevard	10	9
Councillor J Ebrey-Cramp	7	0

<u>Personnel Panel</u>	<u>Possible</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Councillor Mrs P Metcalfe	9	9
Councillor P Thomas	9	9
Councillor Miss J Hiscock	9	9
Councillor J Phipps	3	1
Councillor R Tillson	9	6

FINANCIAL SUMMARY**2020/21 Budget Analysis**

The Town Council's income and expenditure for the year 2020/21 is on target to balance. The cost of New Romney Town Council's services for a Band D property for the financial year was £131.08 equating to £10.92 per month or £2.52 per week.

The Town Council's Precept for the year 2021/22 in the amount of £361,000.00 represents an annual cost of £131.08 for New Romney Town Council's services for a Band D property for the year – which is a ZERO PERCENT increase on the previous year.

Analysis of Proposed Income and Expenditure for 2021/22

<u>Income</u>	<u>£</u>
New Romney Town and Coast Tax Payers	361,000.00
Hire of Land and Properties	16,307.00
Allotment Rents	2,000.00
Hut & Winch Site Rents	5,000.00
Other Income	<u>7,810.00</u>
Total Income	<u>360,740.00</u>

Expenditure

Finance & General Purposes Committee	
Sports Field and Maude Pavilion	2,350.00
Fairfield Road Recreation Ground	4,252.00
The Greens	4,210.00
Flagstaff Land	946.00
Allotment Gardens	2,430.00
Land at Coney Banks	50.00
Town Square	80.00
Garden of Remembrance	350.00
Assembly Rooms	8,930.00
Community Hall	3,255.00
Town Hall	14,875.00
Town Hall House	3,350.00
Insurances	9,000.00
Legal & Professional Fees	20,000.00
Donations	9,000.00
Subscriptions	3,600.00
Office Equipment	3,000.00
Computer Maintenance	4,000.00
Phone/Internet	2,000.00
Printing & Stationery	1,000.00
Public Clock	300.00
Postage and Petty Cash	1,500.00
Admin & Miscellaneous (inc. Mayor's/Civic Allowance)	18,250.00
Bank Charges	1,000.00
Payroll Outsourcing	750.00
Reserve Fund Contributions	67,839.00
Councillor Training	2,000.00
Contingency	10,000.00
PWLB Loan Repayment inc Interest	44,500.00
Other	200.00
Personnel Panel	147,850.00
Planning Committee	<u>250.00</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>392,117.00</u>

The Town Council is fully accountable to residents each year at the Annual Town Meeting at which time any questions may be raised.

The fully audited accounts for 2019/20 are available at the Town Hall for perusal by prior arrangement.

The Town Council has an approved Capital Spending Plan and an approved Investment Policy which are reviewed annually, details of which are available from the Town Hall by prior request.



Another Busy Year for New Romney Town Council

If you still wonder what your Town Council does, here are, once again, just a few examples of what New Romney Town Council did for the benefit of local residents during the past year:

JANUARY 2020:

- * Supported inaugural steering group meeting of the Romney Marsh Dementia Friendly Community, as part of becoming a Dementia Friendly Council.

FEBRUARY 2020:

- * Practical support provided to New Romney in Bloom
- * Agreed hand-over of Station Road Play area from FHDC to NRTC.

MARCH 2020:

- * Emergency remote Town Council Working Practices approved and implementation commenced to ensure continuation of Council Services for local residents in light of Coronavirus Pandemic.

- * NRTC Community Hall and Sports Pavilion planning application formally approved by the District Council subject to associated s106 Agreement – to be finalised and agreed.

- * Funding approved for VE Day 75 Commemorations

- * Funding approved for the establishment of the Romney Marsh Community Support Hub, to support the most vulnerable members of our community

APRIL 2020:

- * Coronavirus Financial Support for local groups tenanted Town Council premises approved.

- * Oversight of service development and roll-out at Romney Marsh Community Support Hub

MAY 2020:

- * Coronavirus cleansing regime developed and

- implemented for all Town Council outdoor play and exercise areas.

- * Social distancing and hand hygiene banners and signage designed, fabricated and installed at all Town Council outdoor play and exercise areas.

- * Supported remote VE Day Commemoration

JUNE 2020:

- * First formal remote Town Council meeting held, resuming routine Council business for the benefit of the local community.

JULY 2020:

- * Supported remote JAM on the Marsh Festival.

- * Supported remote New Romney Country Fayre.

- * Grant funding secured for High Street Commemorative Bench to be sited near Methodist church

- * Actively supported safe re-opening of High Street following initial coronavirus national lockdown

AUGUST 2020:

- * Supported remote VJ Day commemoration

- * Awarded start up support for New Romney in Bloom

SEPTEMBER 2020:

- * NRTC lobbied Kent Police in respect of unauthorised events occurring in the local coastal area and requested a follow-up meeting in 2021.

OCTOBER 2020:

- * Independent internal and external annual audit process completed, confirming clean bill of health in respect of financial and procedural matters once again!

- * Improvements to drainage ditches at Station Road Sports Field approved.

- * Protective measures for St. Martin's Field approved.

NOVEMBER 2020:

- * Supported remote Annual Royal British Legion Remembrance Service and Burma Star Service.

DECEMBER 2020:

- * Installation of Town Christmas Tree.

- * Illumination of New Romney Festive Lighting.

- * Supported remote Light Up New Romney event.

- * Supported, in principle, a water-sports centre project proposed to be established at The Greens, Littlestone, which would benefit local residents and support local tourism.

JANUARY 2021:

- * Fabrication of bollards for protection of St. Martin's Field commenced.

- * Culmination of close liaison with local Primary Care Network (PCN) and Community Support Hub to expedite Coronavirus Vaccination Site and local rollout of Coronavirus Vaccine for Romney Marsh.

- * Carried out improvement works at New Romney Allotments.

Spotlight on Healthcare on Romney Marsh

New Romney Town Council has continued to work with local PPG (Patient Participation Group) and PCN (Primary Care Network), to ensure healthcare provision is maintained and aligned with demand, despite the constraints, primarily related to the impact of the Pandemic.

Our District Councillors have continued to progress the New Primary Care Health Hub Project for New Romney, which is a much needed facility.

We also continue to support the Romney Marsh Day Centre in obtaining the necessary funding to secure its future.

New Community Hall and Sports Pavilion in Focus

The Town Council has continued to build upon the good foundations laid over the past three or four years to progress the detailed design and development of a new Community Hall and Sports Pavilion on the Station Road Sports Field.

Led by the Council's Project Steering Group the project reached a major milestone as a formal planning application was submitted to the District

Council and, in March 2020, planning consent was approved subject to finalisation of a section 106 agreement.

Discussions regarding the section 106 agreement are currently in hand. This has been a major achievement, particularly in light of all of the additional difficulties as a result of the global pandemic and moves to remote working systems.

Several grant funding applications are now also being progressed with a view to moving the project forward again as soon as planning matters have been concluded.

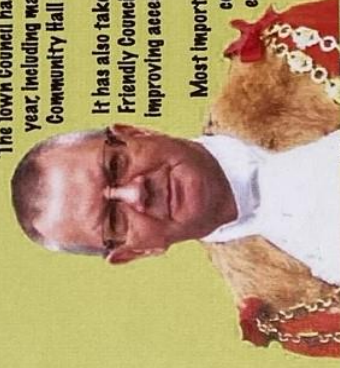
– and, as always, all this whilst maintaining and improving a large portfolio of public buildings and open spaces, providing grant funding for deserving local organisations and projects, responding to consultations and enquiries and engaging in a wide range of routine local government business etc.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of New Romney, Councillor Paul Thomas, observes:

"The Town Council has continued to progress a range of significant matters over the past year, including making further substantial progress in respect of the proposed new Community Hall and Sports Pavilion."

It has also taken on the initiatives of working towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Council and becoming net carbon neutral as well as working on improving accessibility to its public buildings.

Most importantly, we have been extremely pro-active in supporting the local community through the coronavirus pandemic so that we can all help each other and come out of this terrible health emergency stronger and better – all of which will assist in making our local community a better place to live, work and visit."



**New Romney Town Council
Working Proactively, For And With The Community**