



www.newromney-tc.gov.uk

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INTRODUCTION FROM THE TOWN MAYOR 2021-22

Welcome to this Annual Town Meeting of New Romney Town Council for the year 2021/22.

The last two years 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.

In March 2019, the Council quickly resolved to use digital resources to allow the Council to function using remote working and to hold remote meetings on Zoom, one of the few Councils in the District to do so. We also took the next step of sending out all of the papers for our Full Council meetings and Committee meetings in digital form and giving the same access to Residents via our website. Our website has also been overhauled in this period making it much more user friendly and making it easier to find meeting details, as well as other useful information. We also added a regular news section to the website and this is also copied to our Facebook page, to improve communications to our Residents.

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. Central to these efforts was the Romney Marsh Community Hub which was provided with £10,000 by New Romney Town Council in 2020 to help kick-start its community effort. Jon Wilson, his staff and volunteers have provided an invaluable service to the community to ensure the most vulnerable residents had their medication, food and other essentials to survive the pandemic.

In February 2021, we supported the establishment of the vaccination centre at New Romney Old School by Tayo Bella from New Romney Pharmacy. Over 30,000 people have benefitted from this facility and the service continues today. New Romney Pharmacy staff and Romney Marsh Community Hub volunteers were pivotal in the success of this venture. When Church Lane Surgery opened their doors for vaccinations, Romney Marsh Community Hub volunteers answered the call again and with the use of the 1st New Romney Scout Group Headquarters, they were also able to support the delivery of many thousands of vaccinations by the Church Lane Surgery staff.

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 and Nursery Project which was impacted by the pandemic and Brexit, resulting in escalating costs. The Council decided to stop the existing project design and move forward with a budget focused design.

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 Folkestone and Hythe District Council (FHDC) and will upgrade the facilities to the same high standard we have on The Greens and in Fairfield Road.

We took over the dilapidated toilet block on The Greens from FHDC. We were working with a group to have the facility refurbished and provide a new toilet but that group has now decided to move to the new FHDC Beach Huts at the front of Cost Drive Car park, when they are built.

We were pleased to be able to support the new High St commercial premises that opened in 2021, one of very few High Streets that are expanding. The use of Cinque Ports Place (Town Square) to allow the expansion of these businesses was agreed by the Town Council and now provides a very welcoming look to the centre of the High St.

We have upgraded one of the shelters on The Greens recognising the increasing use of our seafront by visitors and have plans to continue the work on other shelters in 2022. We have also installed new play equipment in the Fairfield Road play area, which has been a huge success.

We are establishing a Parish Council Highway Improvement Plan to consider road safety issues including speed limits and parking. We have held three community engagement events in the Assembly Rooms and have had over 100 Residents attend, resulting in over 70 suggestions which will be taken to the Council Task & Finish Group.

We have dropped the ball on High St Christmas lights, utilising those that have been in use for many years. Our Planning Clerk is working with KCC Highways to establish the condition of the street lighting poles, so we can then understand what we can fit and where we can fit it. Following on from the success of the Children's Christmas Card Competition last year, we are also proposing to hold a "Design a Christmas Light Competition" in 2022 and the winning design will be displayed in the Town.

I would like to thank our Council staff who continued to work remotely throughout the pandemic, our Councillors who adapted to the ZOOM platform to run Council business but are now back to face to face meetings.

Finally, I would like to thank the young people of our Town, the teachers and school support staff who have had to contend with unprecedented conditions over the last two years

The Right Worshipful the Mayor for 2021-22, Councillor Paul Thomas

TOWN COUNCIL SUCCESS STORIES

2021-2022 has been another busy and productive year for New Romney Town Council whilst the Town has been gradually coming out of the worst of the coronavirus pandemic, with further improvements to the locality being undertaken for the benefit of residents and the large-scale Community Hall and Sports Pavilion project continuing to progress slowly in the background. There have, as always, been a number of successes along the way that are definitely worthy of highlighting within this report:

- **CONTINUING THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL!**

Over the last three years, New Romney Town Council has established a number of working parties to investigate and propose action plans to Full Council for consideration and adoption. Many of the working parties have been on hold through the pandemic and are currently being re-established.

In the past year, in fact, New Romney Town Council has resumed working on 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.

Litter

Following the Annual Town meeting in August 2019, the Council resolved to form a Litter Strategy Working Party.

'New Romney Litter Strategy' Working Party currently comprises of Councillors Thomas and Rivers and a representative from the local Litter Picking Group. They were tasked with researching and creating a 'New Romney Litter Strategy' for the benefit of local residents, businesses and visitors to the area; to be presented to Full Council for approval and adoption.

The working party have actively progressed the assessment and repair/replacement of FHDC and NRTC bins in the Town. Many of the defective sea front bins have been replaced, with many more ear-marked for replacement in the near future. Additional bin locations have also been identified and NRTC funding has been approved for new bins in 2022.

Dementia

In September 2019, the Council resolved to **"become a Dementia Friendly Council"**.

The Council resolved that (i) all New Romney Town Council Members shall undertake Dementia-Friendly Training and that (ii) New Romney Town Council shall take steps to become a Dementia Friendly Council, establishing a Working Party, currently comprising of Councillors Mrs Metcalfe, Rev Cn McLachlan, Rivers and Thomas.

Many Councillors have now received that training with the remainder due to be trained shortly. Cllrs Rivers and Thomas sit on the Romney Marsh Dementia Forum.

KCC recently changed the process for becoming a Dementia Friendly Council and NRTC are currently reviewing its approach to meet the revised criteria.

Climate Emergency

In September 2019, the Council resolved to declare **" a Climate Change and Ecological Emergency, with the aim of making its activities nett carbon neutral by 2030"**.

A working party was established currently comprising of Councillors Hiscock, Metcalfe, Tillson and Thomas.

The Council was the first in Kent to complete the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Carbon Footprint Calculator and identify potential areas for improvement.

The Council has also prepared a new Environmental Policy which is to be reviewed at the Planning Committee and then presented to Full Council for consideration and adoption.

Accessibility

In October 2019, the Council resolved to establish an **"Accessibility Working Party"** currently comprising of Councillors Rev Cn McLachlan, Rivers, Hiscock and Thomas. The working party were tasked with looking at the issues of accessibility to the Town Hall and Assembly Rooms and the need to

assess the recommendations of the relevant Access Audits recently commissioned by the Town Council and develop a resulting Action Plan.

The working party have made a number of recommendations to the Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GP) to carry out remedial work at the Town Hall and Assembly rooms.

The Council also resolved to hold Town Council meeting in the Assembly Rooms until the chair-lift access to the Council Chamber had improved reliability.

Parish Highway Improvement Plan

Kent County Council (KCC) has a [three step evaluation process](#) to evaluate all highway improvement proposals. The first step is to check the history of the site for crashes within the last three years which resulted in personal injury. (To count, these crashes must have been reported and validated by Kent Police, so the majority of minor collisions are not registered on the [crashmap](#) records).

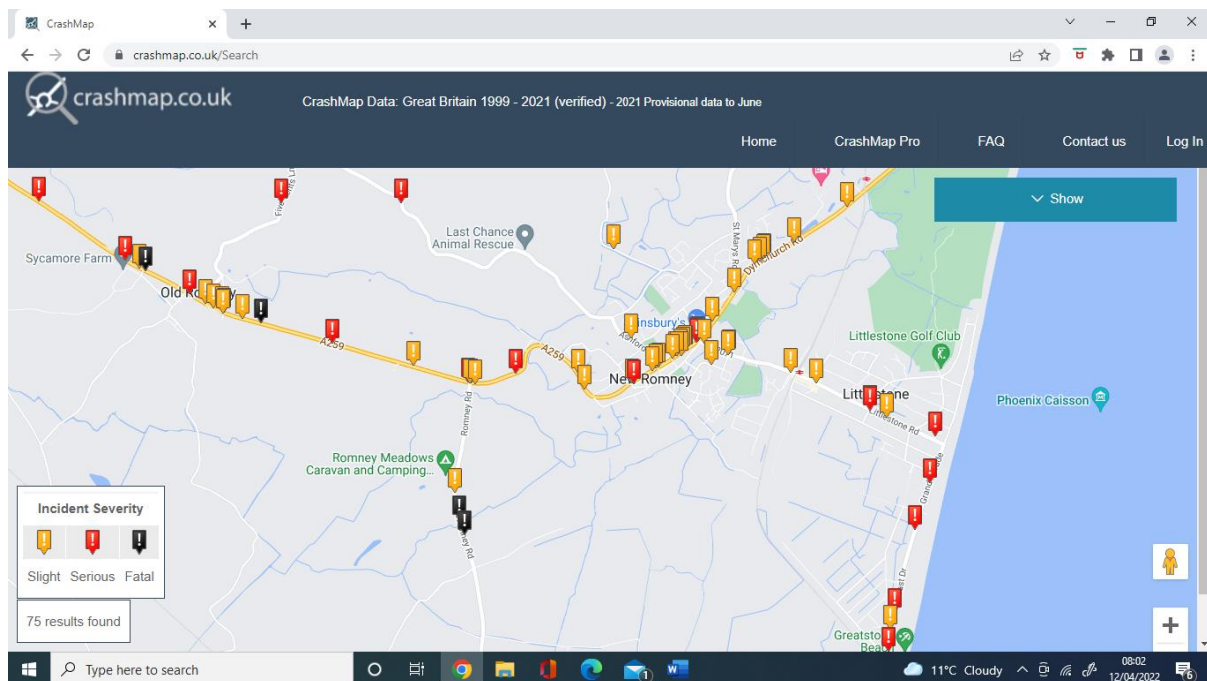
Therefore, KCC is unlikely to consider an improvement scheme for a site with no crash history, **unless there is support from community representatives**. KCC states that:

'To suggest safety changes to the highway, your first point of contact is your [local parish council](#) or local [district councillor](#) or your [county member](#). They will need the crash data you obtained in step 1 or your reasons for promoting the changes. It may also be that your county member or parish council are able to financially support your request.

If they are not supportive, then it would be very difficult for us (KCC) to prioritise your request and you should not contact us

If they are supportive they will contact us and let us know the extent of community support for change.'

Current Crash Map for New Romney.



A Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) is a method whereby KCC will consult with Parish Councils to create a plan for highway improvements in a parish area. The idea is for the Parish Council to list their ideas for improvements in priority order with as much information as possible to allow KCC officers to then investigate the ideas initially as a desk top study and then be able to discuss the ideas a little more in depth. The benefit of this approach is that there is then an agreed document setting out the various schemes and the recommended action going forward. However, it is how these schemes are funded where the issues arise. KCC have no specific allocation of funding for a HIP with any funding for a

scheme having to enter a bidding process within KCC. Therefore, it is very likely that there will be no, or limited, funding available from KCC. KCC see it as an opportunity to work with Parish Councils with the potential for possibly jointly funding projects or looking to Parishes to fund a scheme possibly in conjunction with the local KCC Member and his grant fund.

New Romney Town Council have carried out three Community Engagement Events at the Assembly Rooms, attended by over 100 residents and have over 70 Highway Improvement suggestions. The next step is for the Council Task and Finish Group to assemble these ideas into a prioritised plan, to be presented to KCC. Our KCC Councillor Tony Hills is aware of the project and we also have close links with our local KCC Highways manager.

Support for Ukraine

In addition to the on-going work of Town Council Working Parties as detailed above, at its most recent Full Council meeting, the Town Council has established a further Working Party to develop a strategy for supporting Ukrainian refugees coming into the area in practical terms. It is hoped that through the initial work of this Working Party, the Council will be able to work closely with individuals, community groups and outside agencies to develop and coordinate groups of volunteers within New Romney and its environs and establish a local support group which can come together to support those Ukrainian families who arrive in our area, working as a subset of the District Council support.

• IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LOCALITY

Fairfield Road Recreation Ground

After considerable delays as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic and logistical issues impacting suppliers, the Town Council was delighted to see the installation of the new multi-slide unit at Fairfield Road Recreation Ground. The new accessible unit, which replaced an old and unserviceable mound slide, provides multiple climb and slide opportunities for all ages and abilities and has proven to be a very popular addition to this play area.



Renovation of Victorian Sea Shelter



New Romney Town Council has also completed 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.

Environmental Upgrades

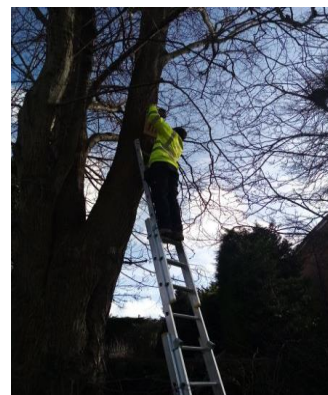
During the past year, New Romney Town Council has worked hard to improve the local environment in line with its commitment to becoming a more environmentally-friendly Council.



The Parish Caretaker team worked hard on improving the central flower bed on St. Martin's Field, planting a wide range of Pollinator friendly flowers and shrubs. These are now becoming more established and, as well as the flower bed looking very attractive for our local residents, it has also already become very attractive to our local BEE residents. The Parish Caretaking Team have also been working on creating a small wildflower area to the rear of the Assembly Rooms – again to support bees and other pollinators.

You may have seen our Caretakers out and about during the course of the past year installing 10 bird boxes around the parish – to support our local nesting birds – and, more recently, they have installed 3 bat boxes within the parish and it is hoped that soon, we might see that we have some bats taking up residence.

The Town Council also provided its Caretaking Team to assist Kent Wildlife Trust with the clearance of the East Sewer drainage ditch adjacent to the Station Road Sports Field which had become filled with fly-tipped litter. It was a real bonus to see ducks return to the freshly cleared ditch ... A sight that has not been seen for many a year!



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, including external refurbishment of the adjacent old community hall (currently used as a nursery school).



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. However, the Council then had to enter into protracted legal negotiations before the s106 Agreement, in its final form, was eventually completed on 24th February 2022 and formal planning consent was issued on 4th March 2022.

In the interim, the Town Council did put the project out to tender and engaged in a very detailed process, very much supported and assisted by its appointed Project Management Team. As a result, in October 2021, the Council received seven tender returns for the project, ranging in value from £3.9 million pounds to over £5 million pounds. This compares to a March 2021 cost estimate of just over £3 million pounds.

In November 2021, the Council selected three of these tenderers to present their detailed, costed project proposals to the Project Steering Group (PSG). Following this exercise, the Council selected a preferred tenderer to work with the Project Team to attempt to bring the building cost down to the available budget, using a value engineering approach.

At the Full Council meeting on 9th February 2022, the Project Team report was presented with an amended cost proposal but this still exceeded the currently available budget by nearly £200,000. The Council considered a range of options to address this shortfall, including use of reserves and borrowing additional money but these solutions were rejected in order to mitigate the potential for negative financial impact on local taxpayers. Consequently, due to the massive post-pandemic increase in building costs which was completely unprecedented and could not have been foreseen pre-pandemic, the Council decided to change its approach to the building of the Community Hall and Sports Pavilion and the enhancement of the adjacent Nursery building, and move forward with a project re-design that would deliver the new building within the available budget.

The Council accepted that this would introduce further delays to the project but acknowledged that it would ensure the new design is deliverable within the available budget.

In reporting this decision to local press, Council Chairman, Cllr Paul Thomas, said: "The Council remains committed to delivering a high quality, fit for purpose facility that will meet the needs of the community. The Council has a very healthy budget and has the benefit of the previous project work to act as a solid foundation for success. The Council will be providing each home with an explanatory leaflet on the current situation and the future plans". That explanatory leaflet has been printed and its delivery to Royal Mail for door to door distribution is currently in hand. It is hoped that local residents will receive the leaflet during the early part of May.

GRANT FUNDING SUPPORT

During 2021-22, New Romney Town Council has awarded grant funding as follows:

St. Martin's Field Charity	-	£4,000.00
New Romney in Bloom	-	£ 500.00
Light Up New Romney	-	£ 500.00
HIKent	-	£1,000.00
New Romney Country Fayre	-	£ 750.00
JAM on the Marsh	-	£1,500.00

COMMUNITY EVENTS



During 2021-2022, the coronavirus pandemic continued to impact on many aspects of community life but gradually live events resumed in the Town and New Romney Town Council was able to go ahead with the Speaker's Day parade and church service in October 2021 – albeit that the weather, in the end, scuppered the full-scale event, which had to be reduced down to a much shorter procession into church. Nevertheless, it still provided a much loved historic spectacle for those who braved the weather!



The Council also provided a free community Christmas Concert in the Parish Church and this was very well attended and very well received.

New Romney Town Council also supported a number of Community events – whether financially or in kind, including:

New Romney Lantern Parade

RBL New Romney Remembrance Day Service



THE GREENS, LITTLESTONE

The Greens, Littlestone, is an area of informal, open space which is owned and maintained by the Town Council. Whilst it is predominantly used for community recreational activity, it is also 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. On Thursday 2nd June, 2022, New Romney Town Council will be hosting a Queen's Jubilee Beacon Lighting event on The Greens, Littlestone, including an evening of activities and light entertainment – leading up to the lighting of the beacon itself. Look out for the posters on social media, in Town Council noticeboards and on the Town Council website.

During 2021-22, the following events took place at The Greens:

- No public events

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 and predominantly used for community recreational activity. 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 2021-22, the following events took place at St. Martin's Field:

- No public events

ASSEMBLY ROOMS, NEW ROMNEY

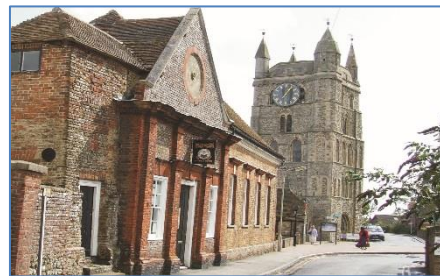
The Assembly Rooms in Church Approach, New Romney, are let on a regular basis to a range of local groups and organisations as well as for use by private persons.

The Assembly Rooms have now re-opened as New Romney moves away from the worst of the coronavirus pandemic.

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.

The routine plot inspection process resumed during the 2021 growing season and it is clear that Tenants have really taken pride in their work

and the Allotment Gardens are looking lovely!

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 2021-22, served as Representatives on Outside Bodies, as follows:

Organisation	Town Council Representative 2021-22
Steward for Damian Collins MP	Cllr Mrs B Lonbay Kapoor
Town / Coast Ward Councillor Surgery Attendants	Cllr Mrs B Lonbay Kapoor, Cllr R Tillson, Cllr D W Wimble, Cllr M Hardy
Emergency Contacts for Shepway District Council	Town Mayor – Cllr P Thomas Deputy Mayor – Cllr Mrs P Metcalfe
Floodline Contacts for Environment Agency	Cllr P Thomas, Cllr J Rivers, Cllr Miss J Hiscock
Kent Association of Local Councils	Cllr P Thomas, Cllr P Coe
Lydd Airport Consultative Committee	Cllr P Coe, Cllr Rev Cn S McLachlan
Dungeness Site Stakeholder Group	Cllr A Rodriguez, Cllr P Coe
NHS / South Kent Coast Clinical Commissioning Group	Cllr J Rivers
Southlands Almshouse Trust	Cllr P J Coe, Cllr Rodriguez, Cllr Rev Cn McLachlan
Confederation of Cinque Ports	Town Mayor – Cllr P Thomas, Deputy Mayor – Cllr Mrs P Metcalfe, Town Clerk – Mrs C Newcombe
Romney Marshes Area Internal Drainage Board	Cllr P Coe, Cllr Ms W Nevard
Environment Agency	Cllr P Coe, Cllr Ms W Nevard
New Romney Allotment Association	Cllr Miss J Hiscock, Cllr R Tillson
New Romney Coastal Community Team	Town Mayor – Cllr P Thomas, Cllr R Tillson
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 Community Warden for New Romney 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 2021 due to the on-going impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. However, they did resume, along with the MP surgery - and a new addition, a Community Warden's Surgery, in January 2022.

Town Ward and Coast Ward:

The Assembly Rooms, Church Approach, New Romney

MP, Town Councillor and Community Warden 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 **2021-22**, the Membership of New Romney Town Council was as follows:

Town Ward:

Councillor Mrs P S Rolfe (resigned 15/12/21)
Councillor W D Wimble
Councillor A Rodriguez
Councillor Mrs B Lonbay Kapoor
Councillor Rev Cn S McLachlan
Councillor J Rivers
Councillor J Davies – since 09/04/21
Councillor P Carey – since 09/04/21
Councillor Mrs S Hodges – since 03/03/22

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 (Resigned 23/08/21)
Councillor M Hardy
Councillor R Tillson
Councillor P J Coe
Councillor Mrs J Paice – since 11/11/21

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 23 MARCH 2022

NB - It should be noted that due to the Covid pandemic not all agreed meetings have been held and those held from 19 June 2020 to 05 May 2021 were remote meetings.

It should also be noted that some Councillor absences were the result of technical issues preventing access to those remote meetings.

FULL COUNCIL**POSSIBLE****ACTUAL****Coast Ward**

Councillor P D Thomas	26	24
Councillor J D Picco(Resigned 23/08/21)	16	13
Councillor P J Coe	26	23
Councillor J M Hiscock	26	25
Councillor Mrs P Metcalfe	26	25
Councillor R Tillson	26	22
Councillor M Hardy	26	11
Councillor Ms W Nevard	26	15
Councillor Mrs J Paice	6	2

Town Ward

Councillor P S Rolfe(Resigned 15/12/21)	22	10
Councillor A Rodriguez	26	25
Councillor J Rivers	26	22
Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan	26	19
Councillor Mrs B Lonbay-Kapoor	26	15
Councillor W D Wimble	26	11
Councillor J Ebrey-Cramp (Resigned 10/02/21)	8	0
Councillor J Phipps (Resigned 08/10/20)	4	4
Councillor J Davies	16	16
Councillor P Carey	16	8
Councillor Mrs S Hodges	1	1

STANDING COMMITTEES**Finance & General Purposes Committee****Possible****Actual**

Councillor R Tillson	13	9
Councillor Mrs P Metcalfe	13	12
Councillor J Ebrey-Cramp (Resigned 10/02/21)	5	0
Councillor Miss J Hiscock	13	10
Councillor Ms W Nevard	13	8
Councillor J Picco (Resigned 23/08/21)	8	6
Councillor J Phipps (Resigned 08/10/20)	1	1

Councillor J Rivers	13	12
Councillor A Rodriguez	13	12
Councillor P Thomas	13	12
Councillor P Coe	13	13
Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan	13	5
Councillor P Carey	7	4
Councillor J Davies	7	5

<u>Planning Committee</u>	<u>Possible</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Councillor P Thomas	23	23
Councillor J Picco (Resigned 23/08/21)	15	10
Councillor P Coe	23	22
Councillor R Tillson	23	9
Councillor Mrs P Metcalfe	12	12
Councillor J Rivers	23	18
Councillor D Wimble	10	4
Councillor Ms W Nevard	23	21
Councillor J Ebrey-Cramp (Resigned 10/02/21)	7	0
Councillor P Carey	13	8
Councillor J Davies	13	10
Councillor Mrs J Paice	4	1

<u>Personnel Panel</u>	<u>Possible</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Councillor Mrs P Metcalfe	14	14
Councillor P Thomas	14	13
Councillor Miss J Hiscock	14	14
Councillor J Phipps (Resigned 08/10/20)	3	1
Councillor R Tillson	14	10
Councillor J Davies	5	5

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2021/22 Budget Analysis

The Town Council's income and expenditure for the year 2021/22 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 2022/23 in the amount of £363,553.00 represents an annual cost of £131.01 for New Romney Town Council's services for a Band D property for the year – which is a 0.06% DECREASE on the previous year.

Analysis of Proposed Income and Expenditure for 2022/23

<u>Income</u>	<u>£</u>
New Romney Town and Coast Tax Payers	363,553.00
Hire of Land and Properties	16,672.00
Allotment Rents	2,000.00
Hut & Winch Site Rents	5,000.00
Other Income	<u>7,625.00</u>
Total Income	<u>394,850.00</u>

Expenditure

Finance & General Purposes Committee	
Sports Field and Maude Pavilion	2,360.00
Fairfield Road Recreation Ground	4,300.00
The Greens	5,440.00
Flagstaff Land	953.00
Allotment Gardens	2,522.00
Land at Coney Banks	50.00
Town Square	80.00
Garden of Remembrance	350.00
Assembly Rooms	8,470.00
Community Hall	2,250.00
Town Hall	14,555.00
Town Hall House	3,370.00
Insurances	9,000.00
Legal & Professional Fees	20,000.00
Donations	7,000.00
Subscriptions	4,000.00
Office Equipment	3,000.00
Computer Maintenance	4,000.00
Phone/Internet	2,000.00
Printing & Stationery	800.00
Public Clock	300.00
Postage and Petty Cash	1,500.00
Admin & Miscellaneous (inc. Mayor's/Civic Allowance)	15,500.00
Bank Charges	600.00
Payroll Outsourcing	750.00
Reserve Fund Contributions	61,000.00
Councillor Training	2,000.00
Contingency	10,000.00
PWLB Loan Repayment inc Interest	44,500.00
Other	100.00
Personnel Panel	163,850.00
Planning Committee	<u>250.00</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>394,850.00</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 2020/21 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.



New Romney Town Council

Keeping up the good work!



New Romney Town Council has had another busy year supporting the community and working to improve the local environment for the benefit of local residents during the past year:

JANUARY 2021:

*Granted formal permission for the Foiling Collective to set up a water sports business at The Greens, Littlestone to encourage local engagement in active pastimes and support local tourism and employment

FEBRUARY 2021:

*Actively supported local residents in raising and resolving highways and other issues with Pentland Homes

MARCH 2021:

*NRTC took over responsibility for the public toilet block at The Greens, Littlestone

*Confirmed support of the FHDC Beach Huts initiative at Littlestone Car Park, supporting local tourism and employment

*Refurbishment of Victorian Sea Shelter at The Greens approved

*Worked with Kent Wildlife Trust to facilitate the renovation of the East Sewer at Station Road Sports Field to improve drainage, ecology and biodiversity

*Bee Bombs purchased for distribution to primary school children in New Romney to support local ecology and biodiversity

APRIL 2021:

*Installed bollards around St Martin's Field to protect the area for the enjoyment of local residents and visitors to the Town

*Actively supported and assisted Romney Marsh Litter Pickers and Kent Wildlife Trust in clearing litter and fly-tipped items from ditches around Station Road Sports Field

*Actively supported and assisted Kent Wildlife Trust in planting pollinator friendly plants along the bank of the East Sewer to support local ecology and biodiversity

*Refurbishment of St. Martin's Field Flower Garden undertaken, including pollinator-friendly planting to support local ecology and biodiversity

MAY 2021:

*Supported the Royal British Legion VE Day service

*Town Mayor appointed as the 664th Speaker of the Cinque Ports

JUNE 2021:

*Face to face public Town Council meetings resumed

*Upgrade of Town Hall IT systems approved to modernise service provision and communications

*Actively supported Town Square proposals for outdoor seating to support local traders and encourage tourism

JULY 2021:

*Supported JAM on the Marsh Festival.

*Approved participation in Queen's Platinum Jubilee Commemorations 2022

AUGUST 2021:

*Additional Town Bench purchased for installation in New Romney High Street

*Adaptations to rear entrance of Assembly Rooms approved to improve accessibility

*Successfully campaigned for the extension of the 30mph speed limit in Ashford Road, New Romney

*Supported the Royal British Legion VJ Day service

SEPTEMBER 2021:

*New Romney Community Emergency Plan approved, adopted and published

OCTOBER 2021:

*Actively supported and assisted with annual wildflower management at The Greens, Littlestone to benefit local ecology and biodiversity

*Approved development of a New Romney Highways Improvement Plan

*Community Hall and Sports Pavilion Tendering Process completed

NOVEMBER 2021:

*Supported Annual Royal British Legion Remembrance Service and Burma Star Service

*Highways Improvement Plan consultation and public drop-in sessions undertaken

*Allotment Gardens clear-up completed

*Town Square Outdoor Seating Area Formally Established

DECEMBER 2021:

*Installation and illumination of Town Christmas Tree – generously supplied by George Stevens.

*Illumination of New Romney Festive Lighting.

*Supported Light Up New Romney event.

*Provided free community Christmas Concert

*Installed 10 bird boxes – generously supplied by Kent Wildlife Trust – around the Parish to support local ecology and biodiversity

JANUARY 2022:

*Installation of new multi-slide unit at Fairfield Road Recreation Ground completed

*Plans for Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022 Commemorations in hand



Spotlight on Healthcare and Wellbeing on Romney Marsh

New Romney Town Council has continued to work with Romney Marsh Community Hub to promote the wide range of facilities, services, groups and activities provided to support general health and well-being in the local community. We also continue to actively support the Romney Marsh Covid Vaccination programme and to undertake routine covid cleansing of all outdoor NRTC play and exercise equipment.

New Community Hall and Sports Pavilion in Focus

The Town Council has continued to progress the Community Hall, Sports Pavilion and nursery refurbishment project. Led by the Council's Project Steering Group, protracted negotiations went on during 2021 to finalise the required section 106 agreement. Along with the earlier lengthy planning process and the on-going global coronavirus pandemic, this further delayed progress on the project. However, a tendering pack was, nevertheless, approved and published and the project tendering process was undertaken in September/October 2021, the outcome of which is currently being reviewed.

... 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.

New Romney Town Council leads, it listens and it works!

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 on-going work towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Council and becoming nett carbon neutral as well as improving accessibility to its public buildings.

It has also commenced the development of a Highways Improvement Plan and a New Romney Litter Strategy. Most importantly, we have continued to be pro-active in supporting the local community through the coronavirus pandemic so that we can all help each other and emerge from it 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 Local Community



NEW ROMNEY TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY HALL, SPORTS PAVILION & NURSERY PROJECT



New Romney Town Council Commits to Community Hall / Sports Pavilion Re-Design

Where we are at

- The Community Hall and Sports Pavilion Project, including nursery building refurbishment, was put out to tender towards the end of 2021
- It became clear that anticipated pre-covid project costs had risen by nearly a million pounds
- Efforts were made in early 2022 to work closely with a preferred contractor to reduce costs
- It was not possible to reduce costs to a level that was affordable without having a negative financial impact on local Council Tax payers
- It was decided that the Community Hall, Sports Pavilion and Nursery project could not be delivered in its current form

Why we are here

- No Deal Brexit
- Planning Delays
- Covid Pandemic
- All of the above have created delays and price rises that could not have been anticipated when the Town Council project started 5 years ago in 2017 and even 2 years ago pre-covid

What we are doing

- **It has been decided that the project will now be re-designed so that it can be delivered within a fixed budget**
- The project will have to be put out to tender again
- The project may require amended or further planning permissions
- The delivery of the project – which it was hoped would happen by the end of 2022 – will now be delayed to allow for this

BUT

- **New Romney Town Council remains committed to delivering a high quality, fit for purpose facility that meets the needs of the Local Community and which the Local Community deserves.**
- **New Romney Town Council has a very healthy budget and is committed to delivering the Community Hall, Sports Pavilion and Nursery Project within this available budget.**

If you have any comments on the above, please email town.clerk@newromney-tc.gov.uk



Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June 2022

New Romney celebrates the Queen's Platinum Jubilee



THURSDAY 2ND JUNE
Free open-air evening of light entertainment on The Greens, Littlestone, from 6.30pm, leading up to the lighting of the Jubilee Beacon at 9.45pm



SATURDAY 4TH JUNE
Town Mayors Jubilee Afternoon Tea with guests drawn from community nominations (Look out for the nomination form)



SUNDAY 5TH JUNE
Combined Jubilee and annual Civic Service, St Nicholas Church, New Romney

SUNDAY 5TH JUNE
Jubilee Big Lunch - Hold your own Street or Garden Party (apply to KCC for street closures by 31st March)



OCTOBER 2022 ONWARDS (date TBC)
Jubilee Tree Planting Ceremony, as part of the 'Queen's Green Canopy'



LOOK OUT FOR MORE INFORMATION AS DETAILS BECOME FINALISED