



www.newromney-tc.gov.uk

town.clerk@newromney-tc.gov.uk



INTRODUCTION FROM THE TOWN MAYOR 2022-23

The last 12 months have certainly been a time of change for the Town and the whole Country. Having celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee in June with a fantastic event on the Greens, we were then plunged into a period of sadness and mourning on 8th September with the announcement of the death of Queen Elizabeth II, a role model for service and leadership. The Mayoress and I queued for eight hours to see Her Late Majesty laying in state and we then laid floral tributes from the residents of New Romney. This was followed with the Proclamation of the Accession of King Charles III to the throne on 10th September. On 6th November, we were also saddened to hear of the death of the Lord Warden, Admiral The Lord Boyce, and the Mayoress and I attended a small family funeral service in Walmer.

During the last 12 months, we have had the opportunity to continue the recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic. We have supported the restart of two foundational events in the Town, namely the Country Fayre and Light-Up New Romney, both of which attract huge numbers of visitors to the Town, as well as providing local residents with fantastic community events.

It is a fact that since the Energy Crisis, residents have been faced with higher bills and the Town Council has put financial support in place for the those most in need, with a donation of £6,000 to the Romney Marsh Community Hub, which has administered the support. We were also able to reduce the Council Tax burden on New Residents by reducing the New Romney Element of the Council Tax Bill by £3.61, the fourth year running we have not increased or have actually reduced the Council Tax.

In January, The Town Council agreed to move forward with the revised, budget led design of the Community Hall, Sports Pavilion and Nursery Project. The Council agreed to apply for planning permission and then to put the revised design out to tender. The agreed budget is £3.354M, which includes a £1M Public Works Loan, which has been agreed with the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. We have had extensive discussions with the Key Stakeholders on the revised design and will be holding a further Public Engagement event in the near future.

In the last 12 months, the Town Council has operated a GP Service Working Party, Chaired by Cllr John Rivers. We have held a number of meetings and have made great progress with representatives of two surgeries in the Town and the Primary Care Network. These have been so successful that the Council has decided to promote the Working Party to full committee status and have formed the Health and Well-Being Committee.

The Town Council has also recently issued the first version of its Parish Highway Improvement Plan. Following six Community Engagement events with residents, the Council has now agreed the first five action areas to focus on safety around schools, 20MPH zones for pedestrian safety and parking improvements. A fuller report is included in the Annual report document. Our Planning Clerk has been instrumental in driving and collating the report, as well as working very closely with KCC Highways Officers.

The Council has also worked closely with KCC Highways on the new Christmas Steet Lights, which are a huge improvement on the previous design and were switched on prior to the 2022 Light Up New Romney Parade. We also have a design for a Christmas Light from one of the local schoolchildren and, once manufactured, this will be displayed in the High Street at Christmas time.

The Town Council staff continue to provide an excellent service to the Town, with timely news and information posted on our Facebook page and Town Council website. The Council offices are now open four mornings a week to assist any residents with their concerns.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING POSTSCRIPT:

Finally, we have finished the year on a high, with the Coronation of King Charles III at Westminster Abbey and I was honoured to receive an invitation to attend the Coronation Ceremony as a “Baron of the Cinque Ports”. I would like to thank the Town Council staff who, aided by the Country Fayre Committee, ensured that the Town finished the weekend perfectly, by undertaking the organisation and management of “New Romney Celebrates” on St Martins Field, which was attended by over 1,000 people. Many thanks to the local participants who showcased their skills, talents and music and to the local businesses who supported the event with the loan of equipment and services.

Cllr Paul Thomas

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of New Romney & Chairman of New Romney Town Council 2022-23

TOWN COUNCIL SUCCESS STORIES

2022-2023 has been another busy and productive year for New Romney Town Council. Like the previous year, further improvements to the locality have been undertaken for the benefit of residents and the large-scale Community Hall, Sports Pavilion and Nursery project has continued to progress slowly in the background. There have, as always, been a number of successes during the course of the civic year that are definitely worthy of highlighting within this report:

- **CONTINUING THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL!**

New Romney Town Council’s Working Parties have continued to investigate and propose action plans to Full Council for consideration and adoption.

In the past year, in fact, New Romney Town Council has continued to work hard 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. Added to the above, the Council has been working hard to engage with local healthcare providers in response to issues raised by local residents regarding access to GP services locally.

Litter

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

Since resuming its work following the Coronavirus Pandemic, the working party has actively progressed the assessment and repair/replacement of a number of FHDC and NRTC bins within the Parish. Many of the defective sea front bins were replaced in the first instance, with many more then being replaced

within the Town Ward. The aim is that new bins will eventually have QR codes attached with which they can be identified should any issues arise – such as damaged or over-flowing bins. This will assist in making the reporting process much easier in the future.

Additional bin locations have also been identified and NRTC funding was recently approved for three new bins, the purchase and installation of which is now in hand. The Town Council now plans to review any issues regarding litter at least annually, in consultation with Litter Picking Watch Romney Marsh.

Dementia Friendly Council

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.

Many Councillors have received that training which, it is intended, will now be repeated following the May 2023 elections so that the new Council can continue to develop as a ‘Dementia Friendly’ Council. Cllrs Rivers and Thomas currently sit on the Romney Marsh Dementia Forum.

Work has commenced on adapting Town Council buildings (Town Hall and Assembly Rooms) to make them more dementia friendly. Most recently, quotes have been approved to improve the lighting in the Assembly Rooms, reducing areas of shadow and, thereby, assisting to reduce confusion for dementia sufferers.



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 subsequently established and 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 been moving steadily towards becoming paper-free – with the majority of Town Council communications now being dealt with electronically and the use of paper in respect of routine Council business and transactions now being significantly reduced.

The Council has recently approved and adopted a new Environmental Policy, the next phase of which will be to develop Area Action Plans for each of its outdoor open spaces and to facilitate the re-cycling of its office waste.

Where possible, appropriate and practical, meetings other than Full Council and Committee meetings are held remotely to reduce the Council’s carbon emissions due to travel (eg working party meetings / meetings with outside bodies or other third parties).

Accessibility

In October 2019, the Council resolved to establish an **“Accessibility Working Party”**. The working party were tasked with looking at the issues of accessibility to the Town Hall and Assembly Rooms, to assess the recommendations of the relevant Access Audits commissioned by the Town Council and develop a resulting Action Plan.

A number of the working party's recommendations have been presented to the Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GP) to carry out remedial work at the Town Hall and Assembly rooms during the past year. Work completed to date has included the installation of entry doorbells at the rear entrance of the Assembly Rooms and the main Town Hall entrance so that assistance can be sought when required, and adaptation of the rear entrance at the Assembly Rooms to facilitate wheelchair entry.

The Council has been holding all Town Council meetings in the Assembly Rooms during the past year due to the unreliability of the chair-lift access to the Council Chamber. However, most recently, the Council has approved a quotation for the supply and installation of a new hybrid stair lift which will incorporate a two-in-one flatbed and chair lift, improving access to the Council Chamber for all, in particular, wheelchair users.

Parish Highway Improvement Plan

New Romney Town Council is pleased to report that, with assistance from Kent County Council, it has developed a **Parish Highway Improvement Plan for New Romney.**

The aim of the Parish Highway Improvement Plan is to look at all of the **Road Safety** issues we have in New Romney, Littlestone & Greatstone and develop a coordinated plan of improvements to address identified road safety shortfalls.

This allows us to identify and prioritise road safety improvements such as:

- Reduce Speed Limits
- Parking Restrictions
- Speed Monitoring
- Road Layout
- Signage
- And much more

Community Engagement

Six Public Community Engagement Events were held in The Assembly Rooms, New Romney, on:

- 30th November 2021
- 01st December 2021
- 12th March 2022
- 14th June 2022
- 28th June 2022
- 09th July 2022

These events were advertised on the Town Council's website and Facebook page, in the local press and on posters in Town Council noticeboards within the Parish.

During these events, New Romney Town Council Members and Officers were present to engage with local residents and discuss their concerns. At those events, 'key' issues and suggestions for improvement were listed on white boards to generate further discussion. We also encouraged residents to complete comments forms.

In total, over 150 members of public attended the 6 community engagement events.

Those who were unable to attend in person were invited to email planning.clerk@newromney-tc.gov.uk or submit a form via New Romney Town Council's website with any comments and concerns regarding our Highways. In total the Town Council received 77 Comments forms - each containing many different concerns/issues. These concerns and issues were broken down into the following table:

| Issue/Request | Area | Suggested Solution/Request | Comments received |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Street Signs | Anne Roper Close | Signage needs replacing | 1 |
| Speeding | Ashford Road | Speed Reduction | 4 |
| Problem Parking | Ashford Road | Stop lorries driving on pavements and stopping in no parking areas | 2 |
| Signage Issue | Ashford Road | Incorrect size '30' signs | 1 |
| Problem Parking | Ashford Road | Stop cars parking on grass verges | 3 |
| Crossing Request | Ashford Road | Ashford Road end of Highstreet needs a crossing | 1 |
| Problem Parking | Bleinheim Road | More bollards on grass verges | 1 |
| Crossing Request | Channel Watch | Pedestrian crossing request near Spar Greatstone | 2 |
| Dropped kerb request | Church Approach | Dropped kerb directly opposite St Nicholas Church | 1 |
| Speeding | Church Lane | Traffic calming needed - Speed humps & 20MPH | 3 |
| Problem Parking | Church Lane | First hour free parking in Church Road Car Park | 3 |
| Problem Parking | Church Road | More Parking Restrictions | 7 |
| Speeding | Church Road | Traffic calming, 20MPH, Speed Bumps and Chicanes | 2 |
| Speeding | Coast Drive | Speed Camera - more enforcement | 1 |
| More signage | Coast Road | More 30 MPH signage on coast road | 1 |
| Mud on Road | Cockreed Lane | More road cleans by developer | 1 |
| Speeding | Cockreed Lane | Speed Reduction | 1 |
| Problem Parking | Craythorne Lane | Double yellow line continuing from Craythorne Lane onto Rolfe Lane | 1 |
| Emergency Vehicle Access | Dunes Road | A road linking Dunes Road to Church Lane for Emergency vehicles | 1 |
| Road Surface | Dunes Road/All Greatstone | To be adopted by KCC and resurfaced | 3 |
| Speeding | Dymchurch Road | Reduce speed limit from 40mph to 30mph up to Marlie Farm | 1 |
| Speeding | Fairfield Road | Traffic Calming & 20MPH | 8 |
| Road Surface | Fairfield Road | Road resurfacing required | 1 |
| Problem Parking | Fairfield Road | More Parking Restrictions | 5 |
| Crossing Request | Fairfield Road | To allow children to cross busy road safely | 4 |
| Crossing Request | Fairfield Road | Pedestrian Crossing Request near to St Martin's Field | 1 |
| Problem Parking | Fairfield Road | Double Yellows requested at the turning to St Marys Road | 1 |
| Problem Parking | Fairfield Road | Double yellows requested at the junction with Walner Lane | 1 |
| Problem Parking | George Lane | More Parking Restrictions | 1 |
| Accident Hot Spot | Hammonds Corner | Roundabout needed | 6 |
| Problem Parking | High Street | First hour free parking in Church Road Car Park & More enforcement | 5 |
| Congestion | High Street | New Bypass from Mountfield Ind - Hammonds Corner | 5 |
| Speeding | High Street | Speed cameras - more enforcement needed | 4 |
| Congestion | High Street | Reduce the pavement width adj to Triton Lane - pinch point causes congestion | 1 |
| Dropped Kerb | High Street | The dropped kerbs are over an inch higher than the tarmac road - this needs reducing | 1 |
| Bus Route Change | Littlestone Road | Route needs to go back to Dunes Road as dangerous turning into Park Road/Victoria Road. | 2 |
| Crossing Request | Littlestone Road | Near new Co-Op | 1 |
| Speeding | Littlestone Road | Speeding up after speed camera | 1 |
| Bus Shelters Request | Littlestone Road | Bus shelters for Littlestone Road bus stops requested | 1 |
| Benches Request | Littlestone Road | Benches requested for near the bus shelter | 1 |
| Speeding | Lydd Road | Reduce speed further back along A259 to 30 MPH | 1 |
| Signage Movement | Lydd Road | Move electronic 30MPH sign at Lydd End to nearer Running Waters | 1 |
| Problem Parking | Lydd Road (A259) | Stop cars parking on A259 (near Londshore) as it causes congestion | 14 |
| Problem Parking | Lyons Road | More Parking Restrictions | 1 |
| Problem Parking | Madeira Road | Stop parking on grass verges | 1 |
| Problem Parking | Marsh Crescent | Parking on grass verges/pathways | 1 |
| Road Surface | Meehan & Hardy Road | Road resurfacing required | 1 |
| Problem Parking | New Romney | All car parks should be free | 1 |
| Speeding | New Romney | All residential roads should be 20MPH | 3 |
| Lighting request | New Romney | More street lighting requested | 1 |
| Faded road markings | Prescott House | Road markings need repainting as faded | 1 |
| Problem Parking | Priory Close | Double yellow lines requested | 1 |
| Speeding | Queens Road | Traffic Calming needed & enforcement | 3 |
| Speeding | Rolfe Lane | Reduction to 30 MPH and 20MPH | 6 |
| Problem Parking | Rolfe Lane | More parking enforcement | 1 |
| Lighting request | Rolfe Lane | More street lighting requested | 1 |
| Footpath request | Rolfe Lane | No footpaths or street lighting - dangerous for pedestrians | 5 |
| Road Markings | Rome Road | Double yellow lines need repainting | 1 |
| Speeding | Spitalfield Lane | Traffic Calming needed & Speed Reduction | 16 |
| Speeding | St Marys Road | Speed Ramps requested | 1 |
| Problem Parking | St Marys Road | Parking on pavements - more enforcement/restrictions | 1 |
| Problem Parking | Station Road | Extra/tightened parking restrictions for when the new Co-Op opens | 1 |
| Cycle Lane Request | Station Road | Cycle lane requested | 1 |
| Road Surface | Station Road | Road resurfacing required | 3 |
| Footpath Surface | Station Road | Uneven and broken and need resurfacing | 2 |
| Overgrown Hedge trim | Station Road | Hedge on path near Marsh Academy needs to be cutback | 1 |
| Problem Parking | Station Road | Cars parking on path - more enforcement/restrictions needed | 1 |
| Speeding | Station Road | Traffic Calming and enforcement | 1 |
| Problem Parking | Sussex Road | Double yellow lines requested & Stop cars parking on verges | 3 |
| Footpath request | Sussex Road | Continuation of footpath from Sussex Road - Ashford Road | 2 |
| Speeding | The Churchlands | Reduction to 20MPH/Speed Ramps | 5 |
| Problem Parking | The Churchlands | Increase length double yellow lines Churchlands from Church Road | 3 |
| Problem Parking | The Saltings | Double yellow lines requested & Stop cars parking near junction to Littlestone Road | 1 |
| Problem Parking | Tookey Road | Extend double yellow lines opposite | 2 |
| Faded road markings | Warren Road | Road markings need repainting and extending | 1 |

This table was then used to formulate New Romney Town Council's priorities for the Parish Highway Improvement Plan.

On Thursday 2nd February 2023, New Romney Town Council's Parish Highway Improvement Plan Working Party consulted with Kent County Council's Highways Improvement Plan team. Present at the meeting were Councillors P Thomas and P Coe, NRTC Planning Clerk and our Kent County Councillor, Tony Hills.

The priorities identified within the Highway Improvement Plan were considered and it was agreed that 'Phase 1' of the Parish Highway Improvement Plan for New Romney should focus initially on Priorities 1 – 5.

A copy of the Plan has now been uploaded onto New Romney Town Council's Website. The document highlights New Romney Town Council's identified priorities and KCC's comments regarding actions that will be required to be undertaken by Kent County Council or New Romney Town Council to implement the Plan.

To view the Highway Improvement Plan for New Romney, please use this link:
http://www.newromney-tc.gov.uk/Parish_Highway_Improvement_Plan_41431.aspx

Updates to the Highway Improvement Plan will be uploaded to the Town Council website to keep all informed and up to date on our progress with its implementation.

New Romney Town Council would like to thank all those who have contributed to the development of New Romney's Parish Highway Improvement Plan with comments or suggestions. Your feedback has been invaluable and together we will make our local Highways safer.

GP Services

The Town Council's GP Services Working Party has been meeting regularly with local healthcare providers during the past year to try to ascertain what the Council can do to assist in alleviating the concerns of local residents in regard to accessing local healthcare provision. These meetings have not only opened up a platform for discussion and cooperative working, but also one through which communication channels can be developed with the wider public to signpost local residents to all that is available locally in terms of healthcare provision.

Report on the GP Services Working Party - November 2022 to April 2023

Members:

- Cllr John Rivers (Chair) – NRTC
- Cllr Metcalfe – NRTC and Church Lane PPG
- Cllr Hiscock – NRTC and Church Lane PPG
- Cllr Davies – NRTC and Oak Hall PPG
- Cllr Paul Thomas – NRTC chairman
- Oak Hall Practice Manager
- Invicta Health Practice Manager
- Invicta Health Clinical Director
- Representative – Marsh PCN
- NRTC Facilities and Communications Clerk - minutes

Overview:

The purpose of this working party is to assemble representatives of the major stakeholder groups, associated with the healthcare provision in our community, to work together, to support each other, to discuss local needs, and to improve communication where necessary. The overall aim is to improve the health and wellbeing of all of us.

Achievements so far:

- The PCN was set up to encourage working together:
 - This is moving forward and evolving.
 - Significant progress has already been made and there is more to go in the future.
 - It has helped to solve that of access to clinical teams.
 - Work to do, as this has created another issue, in that there are not enough spaces/ rooms/ or estate to accommodate these services. Work in progress. NRTC offering support.
 - Also, the local transport and travel challenges.
- Cancer carelines:
 - Lead person appointed by the Primary Care Network.
 - Service will be developed from April 2023.
- Home Visiting Team:
 - 7 members from March, of a mixture of grades, both nurses and paramedics, for this GP led service.
 - Home visiting is excellent on Romney Marsh.
 - A Pharmacy Technician also slots into the team to support home visits and care homes.
 - Positive feedback.
- A GP Assistant for the Marsh PCN:
 - Been employed, partly clinical and partly admin.
- Another Phlebotomist has been employed:
 - Diagnostic services have now improved.
 - Lessens demand to travel to Ashford.
 - Waiting times much reduced for this service.
- Diabetes Care:
 - New initiative starting its development journey.
- Palliative Care:
 - New initiative starting its development journey.
- Diagnostic Services:
 - Clear information to be gathered & publicised.
 - Local and further afield.
 - Blood tests (see above).
 - Ultrasound scans. Now improved after new provider appointed.
- Develop Future Information leaflets:
 - Straight talking.
 - Simple explanations.
 - Without jargon and acronyms.
 - Understandable by all.
- Developing Technologies:
 - 'One size' does not fit all.
 - Not all technologies are appropriate.
 - Looking at a range of technology.
 - Reaching groups of patients with poor public transport, etc.

The vision for New Romney:

- Bring all the health services into one Hub.
- The current challenge is to know where people are currently going to access the services, and what for.
- This is ongoing.
- NRTC are keen to play an integral part.

Cllr. John Rivers

• IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LOCALITY

St. Martin's Field



During the autumn of 2022, New Romney Town Council planted a silver birch tree on St. Martin's Field as part of the national initiative known as the 'Queen's Green Canopy' to commemorate Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. A semi-circular commemorative bench is due to be sited around the tree to complete the installation. Just recently, the Council has also purchased a commemorative bench which will soon be installed on St. Martin's Field to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.

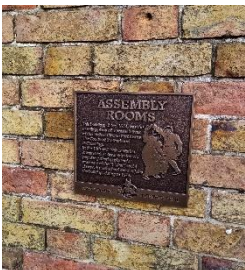
The Greens, Littlestone / Station Road Sports Field / Fairfield Road Recreation Ground

Lockable drop down bollards have been installed at all vehicular entry points at The Greens, Littlestone, Station Road Sports Field and Fairfield Road Recreation Ground to better protect these areas from unauthorised incursions so that they can be enjoyed by local residents and visitors to New Romney.



Princess Diana Memorial Garden (Flagstaff Land) The replacement of aging low-level post and chain boundary fence around the Princess Diana Memorial Garden is now nearing completion. The existing concrete bollards and chains were breaking down and past their serviceable life and the area was beginning to look very tired. The new boundary bollards in the Town's black and gold colours are looking very smart and certainly bring a new lease of life to the garden. New Romney Town Council is currently in discussion with New Romney in Bloom which may be able to provide some volunteer support to help transform the rockery beds and bring some much needed colour to the area.

Town Trail Installation Commenced



Following the winding up of 5th Continent, New Romney Town Council has taken receipt of a number of plaques which form a New Romney Town Trail. The first of these plaques have been installed by the Council's Parish Caretaker at the New Inn (now Costa) in the High Street and at the Assembly Rooms in Church Approach and it is intended that further plaque installations will follow shortly.

Environmental Upgrades

A Tree Nursery has recently been developed adjacent the Allotment Gardens in Church Road. With the Council first having arranged for preparation of the area, the 1st New Romney Scout Group recently spent a weekend planting approximately 40 saplings, which had been provided by the Woodland Trust, in the newly established tree nursery. It is envisaged that once the saplings are adequately established, they can be distributed for re-planting within the parish.



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, work has again continued throughout the 2022-23 civic year to progress the development of a new Community Hall and Sports Pavilion on the Station Road Sports Field.



In January, having reviewed the status of the community hall, sports pavilion and nursery project, the Town Council agreed to move forward with the revised, budget led design of the Community Hall, Sports Pavilion and Nursery Project. The Council agreed to apply for planning permission and then to put the revised design out to tender. The agreed budget is £3.354M, which includes a £1M Public Works Loan. Borrowing approval has been agreed by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

The revised design actually provides for two separate new-build buildings, with the new community hall and the new sports pavilion being accommodated within one two-storey building and the nursery school facility being accommodated in an adjacent single storey building. Previously, it was only intended that the old building housing the nursery school receive an external facelift, so the community benefit to be provided by the revised design is actually increased in comparison with the original design, as local children will now stand to benefit from greatly improved accommodation that will provide a much nicer learning environment, complete with its own secure outdoor play area.

Since January, we have been engaged in further extensive discussions with the Key Stakeholders (New Romney Football Club, New Romney Cricket Club, Baby Seashells Nursery) on the revised design to be sure that the needs of the key stakeholders have been accounted for at the highest level possible within the revised design whilst ensuring that the needs of the wider community in providing a new, purpose built and fully accessible community hall remain paramount to the project.

The finalisation of the design drawings have recently been undertaken for the planning submission pack and, following consultation with a Highways consultant to minimise any potential issues arising, it is intended that the revised planning application will be submitted to the Folkestone & Hythe District Council Planning Department for consideration in the coming weeks. The submission of the project's revised planning application is a major step in moving the project forward to the point whereby it can, once again, be put out to tender.

The original formal planning consent for the community hall, sports pavilion and nursery project was issued on 4th March 2022, following a protracted period working its way through the planning process and the subsequent associated legal process. It is hoped that the revised application will be determined

within a much shorter timeframe being as the project already has formal consent for development. The Council has also had a draft s106 Agreement prepared to accompany the revised planning submission in order to assist in reducing the time required to legally link the revised application to the original planning consent and associated s106 Agreement.

The Council remains committed to delivering a high quality, fit for purpose facility that will meet the needs of the wider community. The Council has a very healthy budget and has the benefit of the original project planning consent to act as a solid foundation on which to build and achieve success.

GRANT FUNDING SUPPORT

During 2022-23, New Romney Town Council has awarded grant funding as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----------|
| St. Martin's Field Charity | - | £2,000.00 |
| New Romney in Bloom | - | £1,000.00 |
| Light Up New Romney | - | £ 400.00 |
| New Romney Country Fayre | - | £1,000.00 |

COMMUNITY EVENTS

During 2022-2023, life was getting back to normal for us all following the coronavirus pandemic and live community events resumed in the Town.



PLATINUM JUBILEE BEACON LIGHTING

New Romney Town Council was delighted to organise and host a beacon-lighting event on The Greens, Littlestone, as part of the national event to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Local residents enjoyed an evening of entertainment from Marsh Morris, U3A Swing Band and DJ David Wimble. A variety of catering vans provided food and beverages for visitors - and children were entertained with a fancy dress competition and craft tent where they could decorate their own Jubilee Crowns. The

evening concluded with the official beacon-lighting ceremony preceded by the specially commissioned bugle call performed by local trumpeter, Del Jones. It turned out to be a particularly windy and chilly evening, nevertheless, the event attracted a large number of local residents who braved the weather to stay and enjoy the whole evening!



PASSING OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II AND ACCESSION OF HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III



On receiving the sad news of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, New Romney Town Council was well prepared to implement national protocol and lead the Town in its participation in national mourning. Flags were lowered in respect and the Town Council opened up a formal Book of Condolence for the Town of New Romney, the pages of which were subsequently sent to Maidstone to be bound with the Lieutenancy pages.



The death of Her late Majesty and the accession of King Charles III was formally proclaimed by the Right Worshipful the Mayor of New Romney, Councillor Paul Thomas. The historic tradition of blowing the Horn of Salence to 'call the Town together' to hear the reading of a proclamation or to receive important news was revived for this important occasion.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Council also provided a free community Christmas Concert in the Parish Church, which was, this year, performed by Kent Police Band. It was a fabulous evening of festive music, which provided a lovely way to head into the Christmas season.

This annual event was, as usual, well attended and very well received.



OTHER EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

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

New Romney Country Fayre

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 funfairs, fun runs and similar. 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 hosted a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon Lighting event on The Greens, Littlestone, which included an evening of activities and light entertainment – leading up to the lighting of the beacon itself.

During 2022-23, the following events took place at The Greens:

- Platinum Jubilee Beacon Lighting
-

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 funfairs, 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 2022-23, the following events took place at St. Martin's Field:

- New Romney Country Fayre
-

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.

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

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

Email: fc.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 undertaken during the 2022 growing season once again evidenced how much pride Tenants have taken in their work and the Allotment Gardens are continuing to look really 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 & Communications Clerk at the Town Hall.

Email: fc.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 2022-23, served as Representatives on Outside Bodies, as follows:

| Organisation | Town Council Representative 2022-23 |
|---|---|
| Steward for Damian Collins MP | Cllr B Lonbay Kapoor , Cllr P Coe |
| Town / Coast Ward Councillor Surgery Attendants | Cllr B Lonbay Kapoor, Cllr R Tillson, Cllr W D Wimble, Cllr M Hardy |
| Emergency Contacts for Shepway District Council | Town Mayor – Cllr P Thomas Deputy Mayor – Cllr J Rivers |
| Floodline Contacts for Environment Agency | Cllr P Thomas, Cllr J Rivers, Cllr J Hiscock, Cllr P Carey |
| Kent Association of Local Councils | Cllr P Thomas, Cllr P Coe |
| Lydd Airport Consultative Committee | Cllr P Coe, Cllr J Davies |
| Dungeness Site Stakeholder Group | Cllr P Coe, Cllr W D Wimble |
| NHS / South Kent Coast Clinical Commissioning Group | Cllr J Rivers, Cllr J Hiscock |
| Southlands Almshouse Trust | Cllr P J Coe, Cllr Rodriguez, Cllr B Lonbay Kapoor |
| Confederation of Cinque Ports | Town Mayor – Cllr P Thomas, Deputy Mayor – Cllr J Rivers, Town Clerk – Mrs C Newcombe |
| Romney Marshes Area Internal Drainage Board | Cllr P Coe, Cllr W Nevard |
| Environment Agency | Cllr P Coe, Cllr W Nevard |
| New Romney Allotment Association | Cllr J Hiscock, Cllr R Tillson |
| New Romney Coastal Community Team | Town Mayor – Cllr P Thomas, Cllr R Tillson |
| Romney Marsh Forum | Cllr P Metcalfe, Cllr J Hiscock |
| New Romney in Bloom | Cllr Rev Cn McLachlan |
| 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.

Surgeries resumed in 2022 following a pause during the Coronavirus Pandemic, along with the MP surgery - and a new addition, a PCSO Surgery, in January 2022.

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)

Town Hall, High Street, New Romney

Kent Police PCSO surgery – dates as per published poster

COUNCILLOR DETAILS

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

In 2022-23, the Membership of New Romney Town Council was as follows:

Town Ward:

Councillor J Rivers
Councillor W D Wimble
Councillor A Rodriguez
Councillor B Lonbay Kapoor (resigned 11/10/22)
Councillor Rev Cn S McLachlan
Councillor J Davies
Councillor P Carey
Councillor S Hodges
Councillor E Carr (since Dec 2022)

Coast Ward:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of new Romney Councillor P Thomas
Councillor J M Hiscock
Deputy Mayor, Councillor P Metcalfe
Councillor W Nevard (resigned 3/8/22)
Councillor M Hardy
Councillor R Tillson
Councillor P J Coe
Councillor Mrs J Paice (resigned 17/11/22)
Councillor K Terry (since Oct 2022)

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
23 MAY 2022 UP TO AND INCLUDING 29 MARCH 2023

| <u>FULL COUNCIL</u> | <u>POSSIBLE</u> | <u>ACTUAL</u> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| <u>Coast Ward</u> | | |
| Councillor P D Thomas | 11 | 9 |
| Councillor P J Coe | 11 | 11 |
| Councillor J M Hiscock | 11 | 10 |
| Councillor P Metcalfe | 11 | 8 |
| Councillor R Tillson | 11 | 9 |
| Councillor M Hardy | 11 | 1 |
| Councillor Ms W Nevard (resigned) | 4 | 2 |
| Councillor Mrs J Paice (resigned) | 8 | 1 |
| Councillor K Terry | 5 | 5 |

Town Ward

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|
| Councillor A Rodriguez | 11 | 10 |
| Councillor J Rivers | 11 | 10 |
| Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan | 11 | 7 |
| Councillor B Lonbay-Kapoor (resigned) | 6 | 6 |
| Councillor W D Wimble | 11 | 8 |
| Councillor J Davies | 11 | 9 |
| Councillor P Carey | 11 | 9 |
| Councillor S Hodges | 11 | 3 |
| Councillor E Carr | 3 | 3 |

STANDING COMMITTEES

| <u>Finance & General Purposes Committee</u> | <u>Possible</u> | <u>Actual</u> |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|
| Councillor R Tillson | 6 | 5 |
| Councillor P Metcalfe | 6 | 6 |
| Councillor J Hiscock | 6 | 6 |
| Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan | 6 | 4 |
| Councillor P Thomas | 6 | 5 |
| Councillor J Rivers | 6 | 5 |
| Councillor P Carey | 6 | 6 |
| Councillor P Coe | 6 | 6 |
| Councillor J Davies | 6 | 6 |
| Councillor A Rodriguez | 6 | 5 |

| <u>Planning Committee</u> | <u>Possible</u> | <u>Actual</u> |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Councillor P Thomas | 13 | 13 |
| Councillor P Coe | 13 | 12 |
| Councillor R Tillson | 5 | 2 |
| Councillor J Rivers | 13 | 9 |
| Councillor W D Wimble | 13 | 6 |
| Councillor P Carey | 13 | 10 |
| Councillor J Davies | 13 | 12 |
| Councillor M Hardy | 7 | 0 |
| Councillor J Paice (resigned) | 6 | 0 |
| Councillor S Hodges | 7 | 1 |
| Councillor K Terry | 7 | 6 |

| <u>Personnel Committee</u> | <u>Possible</u> | <u>Actual</u> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Councillor P Metcalfe | 7 | 4 |
| Councillor P Thomas | 7 | 7 |
| Councillor J Hiscock | 7 | 6 |
| Councillor R Tillson | 7 | 3 |
| Councillor J Rivers | 7 | 4 |

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2022/23 Budget Analysis

The Town Council's income and expenditure for the year 2022/23 is on target to balance. The cost of New Romney Town Council's services for a Band D property for the financial year was £131.01 equating to £10.92 per month or £2.52 per week.

The Town Council's Precept for the year 2023/24 in the amount of £374,894.00 represents an annual cost of £127.40 for New Romney Town Council's services for a Band D property for the year – which is a 2.76% DECREASE on the previous year.

Analysis of Proposed Income and Expenditure for 2023/24

| <u>Income</u> | <u>£</u> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| New Romney Town and Coast Tax Payers | 374,894.00 |
| Hire of Land and Properties | 19,593.00 |
| Allotment Rents | 2,500.00 |
| Hut & Winch Site Rents | 6,200.00 |
| Other Income | <u>10,021.00</u> |
| Total Income | <u>413,208.00</u> |

Expenditure

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Finance & General Purposes Committee | |
| Sports Field and Maude Pavilion | 2,458.00 |
| Fairfield Road Recreation Ground | 3,952.00 |
| The Greens | 13,106.00 |
| Flagstaff Land | 1,412.00 |
| Allotment Gardens | 2,522.00 |
| Land at Coney Banks | 50.00 |
| Town Square | 80.00 |
| Garden of Remembrance | 300.00 |
| Assembly Rooms | 9,143.00 |
| Community Hall | 2,340.00 |
| Town Hall | 17,448.00 |
| Town Hall House | 3,449.00 |
| Insurances | 6,500.00 |
| Legal & Professional Fees | 10,000.00 |
| Donations | 6,000.00 |
| Subscriptions | 4,000.00 |
| Office Equipment | 2,750.00 |
| Computer Maintenance | 7,000.00 |
| Phone/Internet | 2,500.00 |
| Printing & Stationery | 750.00 |
| Public Clock | 300.00 |
| Postage and Petty Cash | 1,500.00 |
| Admin & Miscellaneous (inc. Mayor's/Civic Allowance) | 15,487.00 |
| Bank Charges | 500.00 |
| Payroll Outsourcing | 650.00 |
| Reserve Fund Contributions | 46,000.00 |
| Councillor Training | 4,000.00 |
| Contingency | 10,000.00 |
| PWLB Loan Repayment inc Interest | 57,337.00 |
| Other | 100.00 |
| Personnel Panel | 182,900.00 |
| Planning Committee | <u>250.00</u> |
| Total Expenditure | <u>413,208.00</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 2021/22 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 Working Hard For Our Community



New Romney Town Council has continued its hard work for the benefit of our community and local environment so that New Romney remains a desirable place to live, work and visit:

JANUARY 2022:

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

FEBRUARY 2022:

* Three bat boxes installed within the Town to support local biodiversity

MARCH 2022:

*Formal planning consent gained for the Community Hall, Sports Pavilion and Nursery project

*Application for a Public Works Loan to part fund the Community Hall, Sports Pavilion and Nursery project submitted to Parish Borrowing

*Formal decision to halt the Community Hall, Sports Pavilion and Nursery project in its current form and resume as a 'budgetted' project to mitigate the risk of additional financial burden on local taxpayers

*Engagement with local GP surgeries initiated with the aim of assisting in resolving issues raised by local residents regarding healthcare provision for New Romney and surrounding Romney Marsh towns and villages

*Concluded public engagement events and commenced drafting of Highways Improvement Plan for New Romney

APRIL 2022:

* NRTC Pride of New Romney Awards presented at Annual Town Meeting

*Successfully lobbied for new handrail at Church Road Car Park to assist those with mobility needs

MAY 2022: * Improvement works to beach area in front of beach huts commenced

* Installation of new telecoms system at Town Hall completed to improve Town Council public access

*Community Hall, Sports Pavilion & Nursery project update leaflet distributed by Royal Mail to all households in New Romney to help keep residents informed of project progress

JUNE 2022:

*Hosted public 'Platinum Jubilee Beacon Lighting' event on The Greens for local residents

*Hosted Civic/Jubilee Church Service in St. Nicholas Church for the New Romney community

*Hosted Town Mayor's Jubilee Afternoon Tea for local residents nominated for their service to the community

JULY 2022:

*Supported JAM on the Marsh Festival.

*Supported New Romney Country Fayre

AUGUST 2022:

* Repairs to public clock auto-wind mechanism completed and clock functioning again

SEPTEMBER 2022:

*Book of Condolence opened in respect of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – now bound with the pages of the Lord Lieutenant's Book of Condolence and held at the Kent Archive

*NRTC approved funding of a future visit to the Town by the KCC Dementia Bus

*Public Proclamation Ceremony held at the New Romney Garden of Remembrance in respect of the Accession of King Charles III 'Tommy' silhouette repaired and reinstated on New Romney Garden of Remembrance

OCTOBER 2022:

* 'Queen's Green Canopy' Tree planted on St. Martin's Field to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee

*Vehicular bollards installed at Fairfield Road Recreation Ground to improve site security and better protect the area for the enjoyment of local residents

*Vehicular bollards installed at Station Road Sports Field to improve site security and better protect the area for the enjoyment of local residents

*Financial support provided to facilitate 'Snug in the Hub' winter warm space initiative at Romney Marsh Community Hub

*Further engagement with local GP surgeries with the aim of assisting in resolving issues raised by local residents regarding relating healthcare provision for New Romney and surrounding Romney Marsh towns and villages

NOVEMBER 2022:

*Supported Annual Royal British Legion Remembrance Service

and Burma Star Service

*Highways Improvement Plan consultation and public drop-in sessions undertaken and Drafting of Highways Improvement Plan for New Romney commenced

*Provided, installed and illuminated new Town Centre Festive Lighting.

DECEMBER 2022:

*Provided, installed and illuminated Town Christmas Tree

*Supported Light Up New Romney event.

*Provided free Community Christmas Concert

*Commenced installation of new bollards around the Princess Diana Memorial Garden, Littlestone Road, to better protect the area for the enjoyment of local residents.

*Continued engagement with local GP surgeries initiated with the aim of assisting in resolving issues raised by local residents regarding relating healthcare provision for New Romney and surrounding Romney Marsh towns and villages

JANUARY 2023:

*Plans for King Charles III Coronation Commemorations in hand *Installation of new bollards around the Princess Diana Memorial Garden completed

*Successfully acquired borrowing approval to part-fund the proposed Community Hall, Sports Pavilion and Nursery project Spotlight on Healthcare and Wellbeing on Romney Marsh

New Romney Town Council has continued to work closely with Romney Marsh Community Hub and has provided financial support for providing a winter warm space for local residents during the winter months during the energy and cost of living crisis.

The Council has also been engaging proactively with Invicta Health with the aim of assisting in any way possible in alleviating issues that affect local healthcare provision and communicating availability of a range of healthcare provision to local residents.

New Community Hall and Sports Pavilion in Focus

The Town Council has continued to progress the Community Hall, Sports Pavilion and Nursery project despite a number of setbacks along the way. The project has now gone through a re-design phase in order that it can be delivered within a fixed budget. Following renewed Town Council commitment to delivery, the submission of a new planning application is imminent so that the project can be put out to tender once again

... and, as always, all this has been achieved 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!

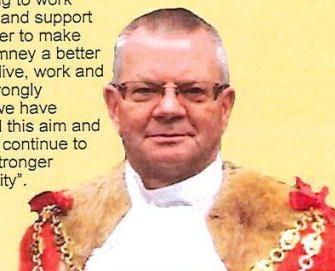
The Right Worshipful the Mayor of New Romney, Councillor Paul Thomas, observes: "New Romney Town Council has responded positively to external events that had a potential negative impact on its current and future plans.

It has taken the positive step of re-visiting the design and costs of the New Community Hall/Sports Pavilion/Nursery building. Very recently it agreed to move forward to the planning stage with a revised design of the budget led project.

It has been working pro-actively with the Romney Marsh Community Hub and providing financial support to help residents of all ages with the impact of rising energy costs.

We have listened to residents concerns during the consultation phase of the New Romney Parish Highway Improvement Plan and will be finalising it with Kent County Council before the end of the year.

Last year we said we wanted to come out of the coronavirus pandemic better and stronger, by continuing to work together and support each other to make New Romney a better place to live, work and visit. I strongly believe we have achieved this aim and can now continue to build a stronger community".





NEW ROMNEY CELEBRATES!

THE CORONATION OF
KING CHARLES III

BIG CORONATION PICNIC

ST MARTIN'S FIELD, NEW ROMNEY—FREE ENTRY

SUNDAY 7th MAY 1PM—6PM

DJ AJ & SHAUN TALL
Townsend Dance

Face Painting

Children's craft tent

**East Kent Pipe
Band**

**Community Bake-
Off Competition**

Kinetic Circus Skills

**Romney Marsh
Morris**

Snow Princess

**Marsh Academy
P16 Band**



Plus ice-cream, popcorn and other refreshments

**Bring a picnic with a chair and table or blanket, and
enjoy an afternoon filled with fun and entertainment**



For further details contact NEW ROMNEY TOWN COUNCIL
01797 362348 email town.clerk@newromney-tc.gov.uk

