



New Romney Town Council – Press Release

Issued 28th May 2021



NEW ROMNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Delivering First Class Facilities for Romney Marsh

New Romney's proposed New Community Hall and Sports Pavilion receives Planning Consent

New Romney Town Council's ambitious plans for a landmark new Community Hall and Sports Pavilion received a major boost on Tuesday when Folkestone & Hythe District Council's Planning & Licensing Committee members voted unanimously to give consent for the development to proceed.

Local District Councillor and Planning Committee member, David Wimble, spoke forcefully in favour of the application and proposed that it be given consent.

It was noted that the proposal had received unequivocal endorsement from a range of key stakeholders such as Shepway Sports Trust and the South Kent Coast Clinical Commissioning Group. Town Mayor – Councillor Paul Thomas, was keen to reveal the heritage of the site and the intention that the new building would itself be a legacy to honour the Maude family who built the original Pavilion. Later, reflecting on the result of the meeting, Councillor Thomas, said: *"This is the culmination of years of hard work, particularly by the Project Lead, Councillor Patricia Rolfe and Town Clerk, Mrs Cathy Newcombe. We will now be able to provide New Romney with a modern, fit for purpose building to service the wider community need, something the Maude family would be proud of. It will be the foundation for further development of Sports and Social Groups, providing 21st Century facilities for residents of all ages, genders and abilities."*

Key to the decision was the evidence presented to the Committee that demonstrated strong support for the initiative by the local community. Project Leader, District Councillor Patricia Rolfe, highlighted this by observing that: *"The new Community Hall and Sports Pavilion's pleasing design and form has been developed in response to local residents and user feedback. Strong community endorsement is demonstrated through more than 7 stages of extensive and applied consultation with residents and businesses – each stage consistently evidencing local support."*

The application included designs for a new Community Hub which includes changing rooms and general facilities on the Ground Floor with a large Community Hall, two meeting rooms, kitchen and bar area on the first floor. Award winning local architect – Guy Hollaway has overseen the striking design for the new building working closely with the Town Council's dedicated Project Steering Group to ensure the facility would meet the needs of local residents. Additional community benefit is provided by the upgrading of the adjacent nursery building.

This exciting project will mainly be funded using the proceeds from the sale of an adjacent area of land owned by the Town Council. The application, therefore, included a residential development on that site with an appropriate housing mix providing 34 additional homes.

New Romney Town Council cares for, and is committed to serving the best interests of the local Community.