

Cinque Port Town of New Romney



Mrs C. Newcombe
Town Clerk
and
Responsible Financial Officer

Town Clerk's Office
Town Hall
New Romney
Kent TN28 8BT

Tel: New Romney 01797 362348

Ref: MW/7001

10th April 2024

Dear Councillor,

A MEETING OF NEW ROMNEY TOWN COUNCIL'S PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, CHURCH APPROACH, NEW ROMNEY ON WEDNESDAY 17TH APRIL 2024 AT 6.45PM.

You are hereby summoned to attend the above-mentioned meeting of New Romney Town Council's Planning and Environment Committee to consider the under-mentioned business.

Signed:

Gemma Hall

Mrs Gemma Hall
Planning Clerk

Email: planning.clerk@newromney-tc.gov.uk

The afore-mentioned meeting will commence at 6.45pm.

Members of Public are welcome to join this meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: New Romney Assembly Rooms and New Romney Town Hall have restricted access for people with limited mobility; please enquire for details.

Anyone displaying any symptoms of Covid-19 should NOT attend the meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

1. Who can participate in a New Romney Town Council meeting?

Members of the Public and Press may attend this Council meeting, except at such times as certain sensitive personal, legal or contractual matters may be considered in private and confidential session, when Members of the Public will be required to leave the meeting.

A maximum of THREE members of public may also participate by submitting a question at a meeting. The question must relate to a matter affecting the parish of New Romney and/or its residents. Each submission must last no longer than 3 minutes in total.

Any such question should be delivered to the Council by way of a written statement submitted by email by midday on the day of the Council meeting - to be read out during the meeting. The question submitted should be mindful of the 3 minute speaking time available. The reading of the question will allow for any mid-sentence delivery to be completed before being stopped at the three minute deadline. If any Member of Public does not have access to email, a question can be submitted by email by a representative on their behalf.

Any such questions should be emailed to: planning.clerk@newromney-tc.gov.uk by midday on the day of the Council meeting.

2. How and when do I have to let the council know that I want to participate?

You will need to give written notice (via email or post) that you would like to participate by 3pm on the Friday before the meeting, providing your name and contact details and a summary of what your question subject will be. No late notifications can be accepted.

3. What happens if more than three local residents want to participate by submitting questions to the Council?

The system will operate on the basis of “first come, first served” as identified by the Clerk. You will be notified as soon as possible after your ‘notification of wish to participate’ has been received as to whether or not you will be able to participate (by reading out your submission).

4. What will happen at the Council meeting?

Your question will be read aloud during the agenda item: Public Questions. If it is possible for the Chairman to provide a response to your question at the meeting, he/she will do so. If it is not possible to provide a response at that time, a response will be provided in writing – usually within 28 days of the meeting taking place.

Agendas and reports for meetings will be available at least 3 working days and usually 7 weekdays before the date of the meeting on the Town Council website. Any supplementary sheets will be available the day before the meeting and can be viewed at www.newromney-tc.gov.uk

THE LAWS OF LIBEL AND SLANDER

- These laws are very strict.
- If, in public, you say something about a person that is not true, even if you believe it to be true, you may be sued and have to pay compensation. Therefore, you need to be very careful about any criticism you wish to make of people in any written submission.
- Councillors are able to speak more freely and bluntly while in Council or Committee meetings than members of the public.
- You, as a member of the public, do not have the same protection.

NEW ROMNEY TOWN COUNCIL
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
17th APRIL 2024
AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES:

To receive and note apologies of councillors unable to attend.

2. DISPENSATION TO PARTICIPATE:

To receive and note any applications granted by the Town Clerk, on behalf of the Town Council, for dispensation to participate in Meetings of New Romney Town Council.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillors to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Significant or Personal Interests they may have in items on the agenda this evening.

4. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

To consider formal adjournment of the meeting of the Committee for a maximum period of fifteen minutes to allow for an allocated public session.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

Members of the public may put questions to the Chairman of the Committee for a period of fifteen minutes regarding matters to do with the town of New Romney and its coastal areas of Littlestone and Greatstone, including items on the agenda. Any Councillors who have declared an "Other Significant Interest" in matters to be discussed at this meeting will also have the opportunity to speak within the session set aside for public participation, in accordance with the Town Council's Code of Conduct Item 5(3)(b), which reads as follows:

"Where you have an Other Significant Interest in any business of the Authority, you may... make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose."

6. RE-CONVENING OF MEETING:

To formally re-convene the meeting of the Committee.

7. MINUTES (Encs*):

To approve the minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on 27th March 2024 (attached hereto).

8. PLANNING CLERK'S REPORT (Encs*)

To receive and note the Planning Clerk's report.

9. SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS (Encs*)

To consider planning applications attached hereto and including any received subsequent to issue of this Agenda and make any recommendations as deemed appropriate.

10. SCHEDULE OF LICENCING APPLICATIONS

To receive and note schedule of Licencing Applications.

**11. FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS
DECISIONS/MATTERS (Encs*)**

- (i) To received and note Hythe and Folkestone District Council's Reports, Decisions and Matters.
- (ii) Local Planning Appeal Decision.

12. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS (Encs*)

To receive written reports and, within the remit of the Committee, take any such action(s) thereon as may be deemed necessary.

- (i) Sea water quality and surface water flooding update, if available.

13. REPORTS OF WORKING PARTIES (Encs*)

- (i) To receive and note the written reports of any working parties reporting to the Planning and Environment Committee and to take any such action(s) thereon as may be deemed necessary.

MINUTES
of
A Meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee
Held in the Assembly Rooms, Church Approach, New Romney
on 27th March 2024
Commencing at 6.45pm

PRESENT:**Councillors:**

P Coe, P Carey, J Rivers, K Terry, S O'Hare, J Houston, and
 L Phillips

In the Chair:

Councillor P Coe

In Attendance:

Planning Clerk - Mrs G Hall

Members of public x 2

604/2023-24 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and noted, as below:

Councillor Davies - due to being unwell.

605/2023-24 **DISPENSATION TO PARTICIPATE**

No new applications for Dispensation to Participate had been received.

606/2023-24 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

All councillors present declared a personal interests in planning applications: 24/0261/FH & 24/0302/FH – as they are New Romney Town Council applications.

Cllr K Terry declared a personal interest in planning application: 24/0311/FH as the applicant is known to them.

607/2023-24 **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

It was not necessary to adjourn the meeting as no questions had been received in writing.

608/2023-24 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None received.

609/2023-24 **RE-CONVENING OF MEETING**

Not applicable.

610/2023-24 **MINUTES****Minutes of the Meeting Held on 6th March 2024**

The Chairman presented the **Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting Held on 6th March 2024**, a copy of which had been previously circulated to all Councillors.

Having duly considered the afore-mentioned minutes, it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Carey

SECONDED BY: Councillor Terry

RESOLVED– that the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on 6th March 2024 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.

Councillor Houston abstained from voting as he was not present for the meeting.

611/2023-24 **PLANNING CLERK'S REPORT**

The Planning Clerk's report, which had been previously circulated to all Committee Members, was duly received, and noted and read as under:

27TH MARCH 2024 **PLANNING CLERK'S REPORT**

(i) Parking near a junction – Spitalfield Lane/Lydd Road and Sussex Road/Ashford Road

Having received numerous emails and photos from residents regarding vehicles parking on/up to the junctions of Spitalfield Lane/Lydd Road and Sussex Road/Ashford Road these have now been forwarded onto Parking Services at Folkestone and Hythe District Council. FHDC Enforcement Officers will now investigate.

I have also notified our local Kent Police officer.

Update 26.03.24 - Response from the Police: They will visit the vehicle owners address and advise them not to park so close to the junction.

(ii) Planning Application: Y19/0254/FH – Land Adj Fairlight Terrace.

I received a query asking whether the building work has stopped due to the development being too close to the road. I have emailed the Planning department at Folkestone and Hythe District Council, and they are not aware of this but have forwarded my query onto Building Control who I am waiting to hear back from.

612/2023-24 **SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

It was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Rivers

SECONDED BY: Councillor O'Hare

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that NRTC Planning and Environment Committee comments, including those comments relating to additional planning applications received after publication of the agenda for this meeting, be submitted to FHDC Planning Department:

Application No

Location and Description

(i) [23/1897/FH](#)

9 Harwick Drive, New Romney,
TN28 8XB

Certificate of Lawful
Development (proposed) for
vehicular access onto an
unclassified road.

RECOMMENDATION

No Objection

Voting:

For Application:

7

Against Application:

0

Abstained:

0

(ii) [23/1696/FH](#)

Cinque Ports Arms,
1 High Street,
New Romney, TN28 8BU

Detached single dwelling.
**Recommend refusal –
contravenes policy T2 due to
lack of parking. More
detailed plans needed
regarding the measurements
of the location and floor plans.**

RECOMMENDATION

Voting:

For Application:

0

Against Application:

7

Abstained:

0

(iii) [24/0384/FH](#)16 Littlestone Road,
New Romney, TN28 8LR

Proposed carport.

No Objection**RECOMMENDATION****Voting:****For Application:****7****Against Application:****0****Abstained:****0**(iv) [24/0296/FH](#)Brooklands, Meehan Road
South, Greatstone, TN28 8SL

Detached Garage

No Objection**RECOMMENDATION****Voting:****For Application:****7****Against Application:****0****Abstained:****0**(v) [24/0166/FH](#)Ground Floor Business Property,
22 High Street, New Romney,
TN28 8BYListed Building Consent for
repairs to brickwork.**No Objection****RECOMMENDATION****Voting:****For Application:****7****Against Application:****0****Abstained:****0**(vi) [24/0254/FH](#)Craythornes,
Fairfield Road, New Romney,
TN28 8HUWorks to tree subject of TPO
No. 2 of 2006 - Oak removal of
epicormic growth, removal
of new branch growth to
previous reduction points, crown
reduction by 2 metres & removal
of any dead/diseased wood**No Objection****RECOMMENDATION****Voting:****For Application:****7****Against Application:****0****Abstained:****0**

(vii) [24/0317/FH](#)

The Old Coach House,
Church Close,
New Romney

Removal of garage doors to be
replaced with bay windows.

No Objection

RECOMMENDATION

Voting:

For Application:

7

Against Application:

0

Abstained:

0

(viii) [24/0311/FH](#)

Unit 4, Mountfield Road,
Mountfield Ind Est,
New Romney, TN28 8LH

External canopy over entrance
door, alterations and insertion of
new window.

No Objection

RECOMMENDATION

Voting:

For Application:

6

Against Application:

0

Abstained:

1

(ix) [24/0357/FH](#)

Land Rear of Imogene,
Station Approach,
Littlestone, New Romney,
TN28 8LU

Change of use from holiday let
to residential dwelling.

**Recommend Refusal – As per
condition on planning**

application: 23/0925/FH,

condition 4 – The holiday

accommodation hereby

permitted shall only be used

for bona fide holiday

purposes and shall not be

used by any person or group

of people for more than

28 days of the year. Reason:

As the accommodation is

considered unsuitable for year-round,

**permanent residential use by virtue of
its internal and external space.**

RECOMMENDATION

Voting:

For Application:	0
Against Application:	7
Abstained:	0

(x) [24/0261/FH](#)Town Hall, High Street,
New Romney, TN28 8BT.Installation of air conditioning to
first floor of rear elevation.**RECOMMENDATION****Did not comment as NRTC
application.**(xi) [24/0302/FH](#)Town Hall, High Street,
New Romney, TN28 8BT**Listed Building Consent for
the installation of air
conditioning to first
floor of rear elevation.****RECOMMENDATION****Did not comment as NRTC
application.**613/2023-24 **SCHEDULE OF LICENCE APPLICATIONS**

There were no licence applications for consideration.

614/2023-24 **FOLKESTONE & HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS/
DECISIONS/MATTERS**(i) A schedule of delegated decisions of Folkestone & Hythe District Council Planning
Department for the periods ending 14th March 2024 and 21st March 2024 were duly
received and noted.615/2023-24 **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**The report regarding Southern Water – Beach buoy Release Table, which had
previously been circulated to all Committee Members, was duly received and noted.

616/2023-24 **REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES****Parish Highway Improvement Plan**

The Parish Highway Improvement Plan update, which had previously been circulated to all Committee Members and was duly received and noted.

(i) Having duly considered the Report of the Parish Highways Improvements Working Party, it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Coe

SECONDED BY: Councillor Rivers

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – That the Finance and General Purposes Committee be requested to allocate a sum of £3000.00 from the Parish Highway Improvement Plan Reserve fund to cover costs associated with implementation of new 20MPH Traffic Regulation Order.

The Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and the meeting
Concluded **at 7.31pm**

Minutes prepared by the Planning Clerk

NEW ROMNEY TOWN COUNCIL
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
17TH APRIL 2024
PLANNING CLERK'S REPORT

(i) Cars parking too close to the junction – Spitalfield Lane.

Emails from residents received with photographs of vehicles parking too close to the junction at Spitalfield Lane. The images were forwarded onto Kent Police and Folkestone and Hythe District Council's parking enforcement team who will send more enforcement officers to investigate.

The following message was also issued on social media by Kent Police:

PARKING ISSUES!!

Hello all.

I've had some parking issues raised to me recently from yourselves and in particular both areas that keep coming up are in New Romney. I appreciate that there are parking issues in every village and town up and down the country but I will use New Romney as a good example.

The junction of Fairfield Road where it meets St Mary's Road regularly has vehicles being parked right up to the junction forcing drivers coming along Fairfield Road towards St Mary's Road into the lane of oncoming vehicles that turn into Fairfield from St Mary's Road and this can become hazardous if a vehicle is turning left into Fairfield due to both drivers not realising that each other are about to meet on the same side of the road. Obviously we have to drive to the conditions and adjust our driving to the hazards, nevertheless, it is also every motorists responsibility to park legally and safely which would then negate the above issue especially at this particular junction.

I have spoken with the landlord of The Plough PH who was very understanding and suggested that he put a post on his Facebook page and perhaps a couple of posters within the pub to remind his customers to park responsibly in case it is some of them who are parking irresponsibly.

The Highway Code Rule 250 states the following

Cars, goods vehicles not exceeding 2500 kg laden weight, invalid carriages, motorcycles and pedal cycles may be parked without lights on a road (or lay-by) with a speed limit of 30 mph (48 km/h) or less if they are:

- at least 10 metres (32 feet) away from any junction, close to the kerb and facing in the direction of the traffic flow*
- in a recognised parking place or lay-by.*

There is a similar issue at the junction of Spitalfield Lane where it meets Lydd Road (A259) where some vehicles are parking too close to the junction making it difficult for drivers to pull out onto Lydd Road and also those drivers approaching Lydd Road from Spitalfield Lane are again forced into the opposite lane not knowing if a vehicle is turning left into Spitalfield Lane from the Lydd direction.

I know that there are a million and one arguments to be had over the 'whys and wherefores' of parking issues but my request is quite simply, please park responsibly and legally to make it easier for all.

These Parking Lot Fails Will Make You Wish You Didn't Have a Car ...

Thank you.

Steve.

Message Sent By

Steve Putland

(Kent Police, Police Constable, Folkestone Neighbourhood Beat Officer)

(ii) Consultation on Revised Validation and Guidance Requirements for Planning Applications determined by Kent County Council

I have responded to KCC on behalf of New Romney Town Councils Planning and Environment Committee advising 'no comment' and 'keep us updated' as per the Chairman's instructions.

NEW ROMNEY TOWN COUNCIL
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
17TH APRIL 2024
SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS
FOR CONSIDERATION

Application No

Location and Description

(i) [24/0446/FH](#)

1 Lonbay Drive, New Romney, TN28 8AB

Works to tree subject of TPO No2 of 2006
T1 Macrocarpa reduction by a max of 2.5
metres off height & 1 metre off lateral
spread.

RECOMMENDATION

Voting:

For Application:

Against Application:

Abstained:

Additional planning applications received:

(ii) [24/0385FH](#)

17 High Street, New Romney, TN28 8BN

Listed building consent for replacement of
1 x window and door and internal/external
repair work to single storey extension.

RECOMMENDATION

Voting:

For Application:

Against Application:

Abstained:

(iii) [24/0451/FH](#)

16 Littlestone Road, Littlestone,
New Romney, TN28 8LR

Works to trees the subject of TPO No.5 of
1975 T1 Oak crown reduction back to
previous cuts max 1.5metres.

RECOMMENDATION

Voting:

For Application:

Against Application:

Abstained:

NEW ROMNEY TOWN COUNCIL
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
17TH APRIL 2024

DELEGATED DECISIONS OF FOLKESTONE & HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCIL

For the Period Ending 14th March 2024

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| (i) <u>24/0152/FH</u> | 105 Littlestone Road, Littlestone, New Romney,
TN28 8LP |
| <u>DECISION:</u> | Work to tree the subject to TPO No. 08 of 1998 T1 Sycamore
crown reduction by a max of 5 mts off height approx 2 mts max
lateral spread
Approved with conditions.
(NRTC – No Objections subject to works carried out to BS3998
standard) |
-

For the Period Ending 18th March 2024

- | | |
|--|--|
| (i) <u>23/2017/FH</u> | 3 The Churchlands, New Romney, TN28 8LE |
| <u>DECISION:</u> | Single storey garden annexe
Approved with conditions.
(NRTC – Recommend approval). |
| (ii) <u>24/0097/FH</u> | Land Adjoining 113 Queens Road, Littlestone, TN28 8LT |
| <u>DECISION:</u> | Detached bungalow with pitched roof built to Passivhaus
standard.
Approved with conditions.
(NRTC – No Objections) |
-

Delegated Decision Alignment Report's 2021, 2022 & 2023.

2021

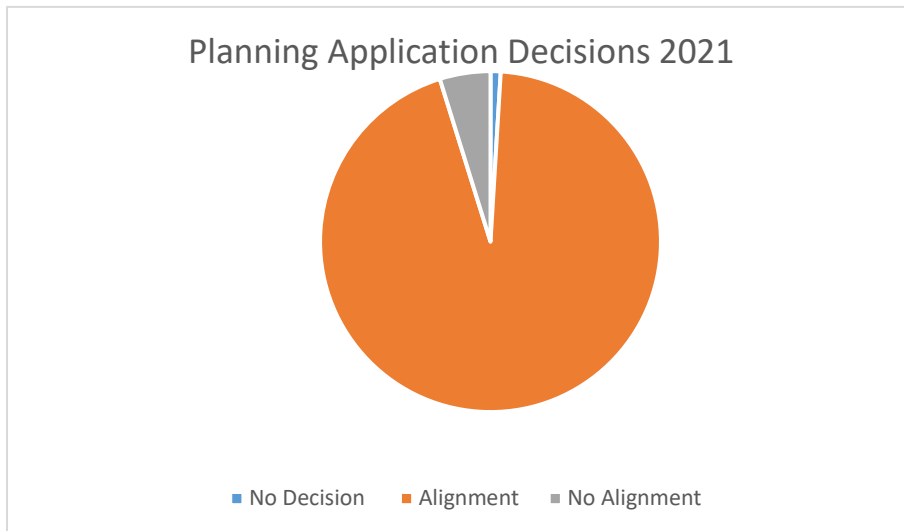
Total applications received: 104

No decision received: 1

Alignment: 98

No Alignment: 5

95.15% Alignment



2022

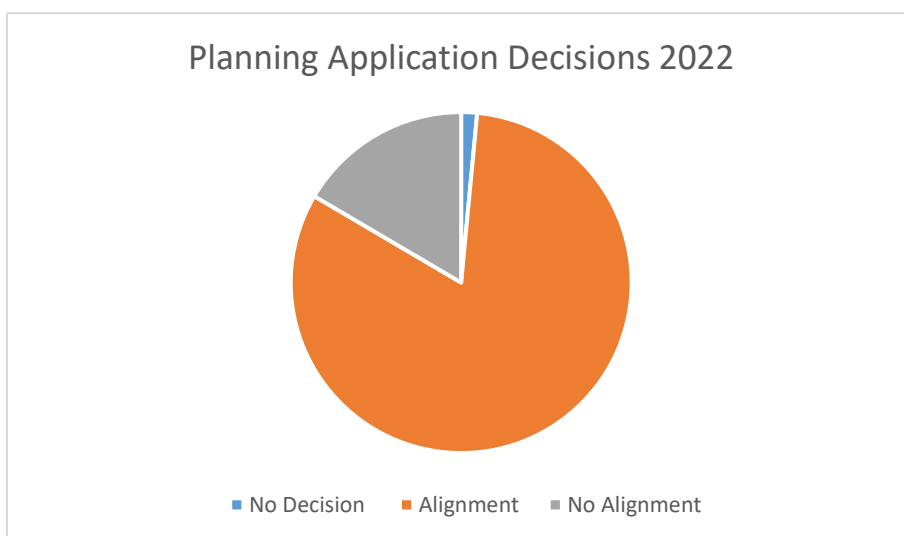
Total applications received: 133

No decision received: 2

Alignment: 109

No Alignment: 22

83.21% Alignment



2023

Total applications received: 87

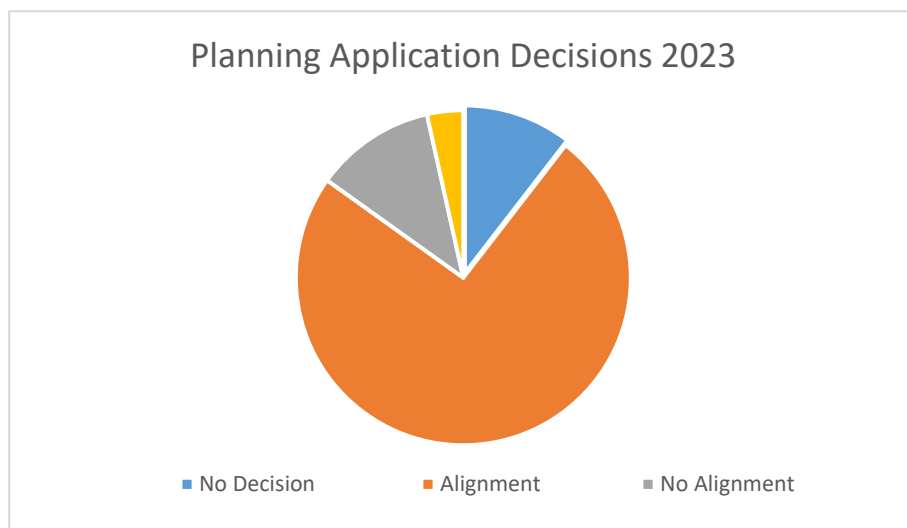
No decision received: 9

Alignment: 65

No Alignment: 10

Did not comment: 3

77.38% Alignment



Please note that our alignment is likely to increase once the outstanding applications have had decisions made.

No Alignment for 2023:

(i) [23/0032/FH](#) – 21 Broadlands Avenue, New Romney

NRTC: Rec Refusal - Contravenes planning policy HB8 regarding bulk, scale and appearance. Inadequate changes to footprint from the previous application.

FHDC: Approved – FHDC did not acknowledge our objections in the officers report. Please see officers report (too lengthy to copy re: HB8).

(ii) [23/0065/FH](#) – 28 Blenheim Drive, New Romney

NRTC: No Objection

FHDC: Refused - The proposed dormer, by virtue of its design, materials, size, proportions, bulk, scale and siting in a prominent location, would represent a visually detrimental addition to the host property, that would harm the character and appearance of the dwelling and the visual amenity of the wider street scene. The development would therefore be contrary to policies HB1 and HB8 of the adopted Places and Policies Local Plan 2020.

(iii) [23/0155/FH](#) – 13 Coast Drive, New Romney

NRTC: No Objection

FHDC: Refused - The proposed extension to the existing balcony, by virtue of its increase in size, depth, width and location close to the neighbouring property, would give rise to significant overlooking, resulting in an unacceptable loss of privacy and consequent harm to the residential amenity to the occupiers of neighbouring properties. The proposal is therefore contrary to policies HB1 and HB8 of the Places and Policies Local Plan 2020.

(iv) [23/0454/FH](#) – Red Cottage, New Romney

NRTC: Rec Refusal – Contravenes policy T&C Planning GPD, Sched 2. Part 1, Part i.

FHDC: Lawful- The Parish Council's comments are acknowledged, however this type of application can be determined under delegated power under the scheme of delegation set out in the Council's Constitution.

Considering the above, this development is considered to constitute permitted development under Schedule 2, Part 1, Class A and Schedule 2, Part 2, Class B of the Town and Country Planning (General

Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended). It is therefore recommended that a certificate be issued.

(v) [23/0554/FH](#) – 1 Lonbay Drive, New Romney

NRTC: No Objection

FHDC: Refused - The Macrocarpa is a mature, healthy and prominent specimen, which contributes significantly to the visual amenity of the area. It has not been adequately demonstrated that the felling of the tree is necessary and in the absence of such justification, its removal would result in unnecessary and significant harm to the visual amenity of the area and the character and appearance of the street scene.

(vi) [23/0556/FH](#) – West Lawn, Lydd Road, New Romney

NRTC: No Objection

FHDC: Refused - The conifer is a mature, prominent specimen with no signs of any immediate health issues. The tree makes a significant contribution to the visual amenity of the area. It has not been adequately demonstrated that the felling of the tree is necessary and in the absence of such justification, its removal would result in unnecessary and significant harm to the visual amenity of the area, the character and appearance of the street scene and the special character of the conservation area.

(vii) [23/0605/FH](#) – Unit 7 Learoyd Road, Mountfield Road, New Romney

NRTC: No Objection

FHDC: Refused - The proposal, by virtue of the insufficient number of parking spaces provided, would give rise to inadequate off street parking facilities within the site, resulting in vehicles being parked on the highway in a manner that would generate an obstruction to the public highway particularly for larger vehicles. The proposal is therefore detrimental to highway safety and convenience and is contrary to policies HB1 and T2 of the adopted Places and Policies Local Plan (2020).

(viii) [23/0744/FH](#) – 53 High Street, New Romney

NRTC: No Objection

FHDC: Refused - The proposed replacement shop front, by virtue of its modern design and materials, would harm the special character and appearance of the Conservation Area, and to the appearance of the host building. The application would therefore be contrary to policies HB1, HB8 and RL10 of the adopted Places and Policies Local Plan 2020.

(ix) [23/0801/FH](#) – 16 Cherry Gardens, Littlestone, New Romney

NRTC: Rec Refusal - Contravenes policies HB6 and RM1 condition 5. There is a lack of information on drainage, concerns on access and ecology.

FHDC: Approved - The development contravenes policies HB6 and RM1 condition 5 (condition 5 states that a SUDs strategy shall form a fundamental constituent of the design concept for the site and is submitted to the satisfaction of the LPA). There is a lack of information on drainage, concerns on access and ecology.

Officer comments: Policy HB6 relates to scheme for local needs housing and is not relevant to this application which is not proposing local needs exception housing. Criterion 5 of RM1 requires the applicant to submit a SUDs strategy to the satisfaction of the LPA. Whilst this application is in outline the applicant sets out in the submitted FRA the expected SUDs strategy based upon a worst case scenario approach.

(x) [22/1536/FH](#) – Forest Cottage, Cockreed Lane, New Romney

NRTC: Rec Refusal – Not enough information of past use, lack of reports on land, no information on area of curtilage.

FHDC: Approved – Officers report states no comments received from NRTC. See officers report for additional information.

NEW ROMNEY TOWN COUNCIL
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
17TH APRIL 2024
ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

(i) FYI - Please see the Romney Marshes Area IDB Annual newsletter below:

Romney Marshes Area IDB Annual newsletter **April 2024**

The 2023-24 season

For the first time the Board's annual maintenance programme was briefly suspended owing to the dangerous conditions created by the wettest October in decades. Water levels remained high across the district for most of the following autumn and winter with rainfall well in excess of the LTA (Long Term Average). A drier than average January provided some respite and the receding water levels enabled Board Contractors to complete desilting of 2km of the Lydd Petty Sewer. With February came 335% of the rainfall we would normally expect which delayed completion of the Abatridge Lesser Sewer desilting until March. The wet autumn and winter meant misery for some residents especially in Lydd and New Romney where the foul system failed necessitating 24/7 tanker operations. Mobile sanitation units were required in Lydd for the duration. The extended rainfall event tested water treatment facilities and the period was punctuated with frequent emergency releases of effluent. The elevated water levels across the district frustrated the EA's weedcutting effort. When water levels dropped some rate payers reported the cutting to be substandard. Though we agree we ask you to be mindful that in deep water the EA's weed baskets are less effective than the adapted baskets of the Board's contractors. The EA is also struggling to replace experienced operators as they retire. They can only work with what they have got. Despite the dreadful winter conditions the EA were able to complete desilting works on the Denge Main and the Five Waterings, the latter of which was an impressive sight that garnered praise from rate payers and Board staff. The district continues to benefit from our diligent and ever-present Bailiff David Cooke. We cannot overstate how vital this man is to the delivery of our function and we hope you all appreciate his supreme effort. After once again working tirelessly all summer and autumn to keep our annual maintenance programme on schedule he then had to deal with the challenges arising from the exceptionally wet and stormy autumn and winter. For his sake we can only hope this year is more forgiving.

The 2024/25 season

Our new website should be operating soon and we hope the new format will be a more effective communication tool with more information relevant to rate payers and the broader stakeholder group with whom we engage. Though the EA have once again had their budget trimmed by central Government they are still hopeful of delivering

their full annual maintenance programme and scheduled desilting works. Board staff are encouraged by the EA's commitment to their ongoing programme to refit their pumping stations and several are currently being brought up to standard. At every opportunity Board staff reiterate to the EA how vital the pumping stations are for maintaining the established water levels across the district, but the fact remains that it's easier to make a case for some pumping stations than for others. This is also the case for flood embankments as with the cost of repairs remaining high year on year the Board is periodically consulted by the EA regarding the removal of flood banks. The Board's position on 'reconnecting rivers with flood plains' by this method remains one of steadfast objection. In most cases if rate payers support reconnecting their land to Main River the existing infrastructure can be operated to achieve this without making irreversible changes to our flood defences. Once embankments have been breached and extra flood storage capacity has been created it will be impossible to restore them as it will increase flood risk downstream.

Environment Agency news

An important message from the EA – 'Due to decreasing resource and increasing financial pressures, we need to be more efficient in the delivery of weed cutting and associated bank flailing. Whilst previously we've managed to avoid tracking on standing crops (and will continue to wherever possible), there may be times it will be necessary in order to complete our annual maintenance in a timely fashion. EA officers will endeavour to communicate with land occupiers before any such movements occur. If this is not possible and crops are damaged then please contact our Estates Department by email at: estatessouth@environment-agency.gov.uk. We hope we can count on your understanding on this matter.

General information

EA incident reporting – There are now two phone numbers for contacting the EA. For general enquiries use 03708 506506. To report matters including flooding, pollution or failing assets use the incident reporting line 0800 807060.

Office visits – To avoid wasted journeys please ring ahead before visiting the office as staff may be out on site or attending meetings. Our office number is 01797 227000.

Unconsented works - Please be aware that the Board has powers to enforce the removal of unconsented works. All works in or within 8m of an IDB adopted watercourse require Board consent, as do most works within the trapezoidal section of any

Ordinary Watercourse. If in doubt please ask and we will gladly advise. Our new website will include detailed watercourse consenting guidance.

Mineral lick tubs – Although we are grateful that the volume has reduced, these items remain the most common cause of culvert blockages; please gather up your empties before they become an obstruction. Bear in mind that they can also jam open flaps and doors which in a tidal situation especially poses an obvious and significant flood risk.

Drain markers – Unless your drains are clearly marked with posts projecting above the summer reed growth they may get damaged; as will our contractor's plant. We can accept no responsibility for the damage of unmarked drains or drain markers of insufficient length.

Padlocks – We are well aware of the need for rural security, but should you opt to fit or change padlocks or combinations on any access used by the IDB, please make a key available to us, or pass us the combination at your earliest convenience to prevent our staff / contractors having to crop chains / padlocks.

Payment of rates – The Board appreciates that these are testing times but chasing unpaid bills ultimately incurs cost to the Board which puts an inflationary pressure on the following years rates so we really do appreciate prompt payment of rates. In response to requests from our Rate Payers we are now equipped to accept debit and credit card payments over the phone and in person. Please let us know if your billing address changes so that we can keep our records up to date, also check your rate demand thoroughly to ensure sure the land shown under your account accurately reflects what you own or rent. If you have any queries please contact the office on 01797 227000.

Environmental update

Beavers- Contrary to the popular narrative; this recently protected species penchant for unsolicited engineering will only frustrate the water level management effort that defines the Board's function. At some point they will mysteriously appear within the district so please be vigilant and report any sightings; there is only a limited window for dam removal. The River Stour IDB's lower catchment is seeing increasing beaver damage as are some Dutch Waterschappen who collectively are spending millions on translocations and repairing beaver damage.

Burning reed residues- Please do not burn cut reed; the residues provide refuge for a variety of valued and protected species throughout the year and burning tends to kill them. Bankside burning breaches IDB Byelaw 8 – 'Lighting of fires'.

American mink eradication project – There are sadly no updates regarding the launch of this project. Removing mink

from the district will benefit multiple species hence mink control is an IDB Biodiversity Action Plan action. Key to the projects success will be the support of our Rate Payers, in particular regarding the granting of access to enable trapping. Updates will be posted on our new website.

An update from the High Weald National Landscape (formerly the High Weald AONB) : Funding for High Weald farmers

The Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) grant programme will end on 31 March 2025 so the year ahead will be the last opportunity for landowners located within the High Weald to secure significant funds for site improvements that cannot be funded by maintenance budgets or agri-environment schemes. FiPL funds both capital costs and one-off revenue costs, offering grants up to £250,000 with intervention rates of 40% to 100%. So far 110 land managers within the High Weald have received a total of £1.3 million with grants ranging from £500 to £100,000.

Popular projects

- Infrastructure to support more nature-friendly grassland management, e.g. electric fencing, water systems and Nofence technology.
- Infrastructure that supports deer management, carcass processing and venison production, e.g. deer seats, deer chillers and larders.
- Hedge and woodland management machinery and equipment for more sensitive and flexible management, e.g. tree shears.
- Hedge planting – popular with landowners who wish to reinstate lost hedgerows but are not ready to enter SFI or CS.
- Natural flood management, in particular leaky woody debris dams (NOTE – THIS ACTIVITY REQUIRES CONSENT).
- Training courses (for individuals and groups) to help develop skills in nature-friendly farming and public engagement.

To find out more and get in touch for a chat please visit: <https://highweald.org/grants/farming-in-protected-landscapes/>.

An update from the Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership - Wildlife of the Marsh- Want to learn more about your local wildlife? RMCP are looking for local volunteers to help us survey our nature reserves for wildlife this coming season. RMCP are a local non-profit who manage and restore nature reserves across the Romney Marsh. Volunteers are a vital part of our work to help us protect and enhance the wild spaces of SE Kent. Contact us at: RMCP@doover.gov.uk to find out more or call us on 01304 241806. From bumblebee and butterfly surveys, to breeding bird surveys, RMCP monitor a wide range of wildlife on the Marsh and are always appreciative of an extra pair of eyes to help us spot things. No experience necessary.

NEW ROMNEY TOWN COUNCIL
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
17TH APRIL 2024
REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES

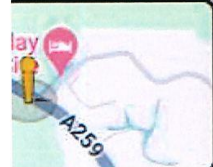
Parish Highway Improvement Plan

Unsuitable for HGV Signage – Will be installed on Lydd Road at the entrance of Spitalfield Lane & Sussex Road (see locations & designs below). Estimated completion date is 6th June 2024, but this is subject to change if emergency works crop up.



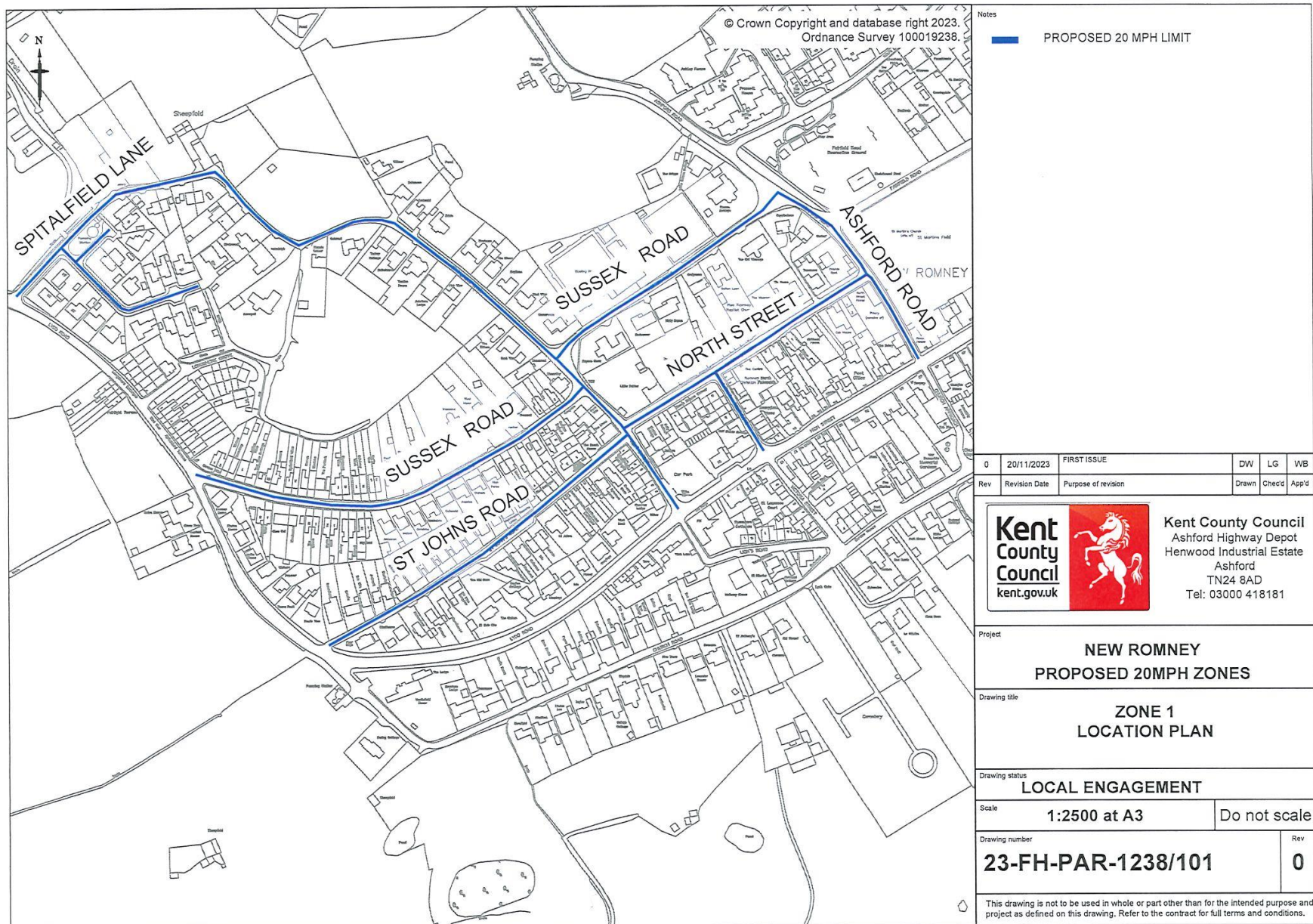


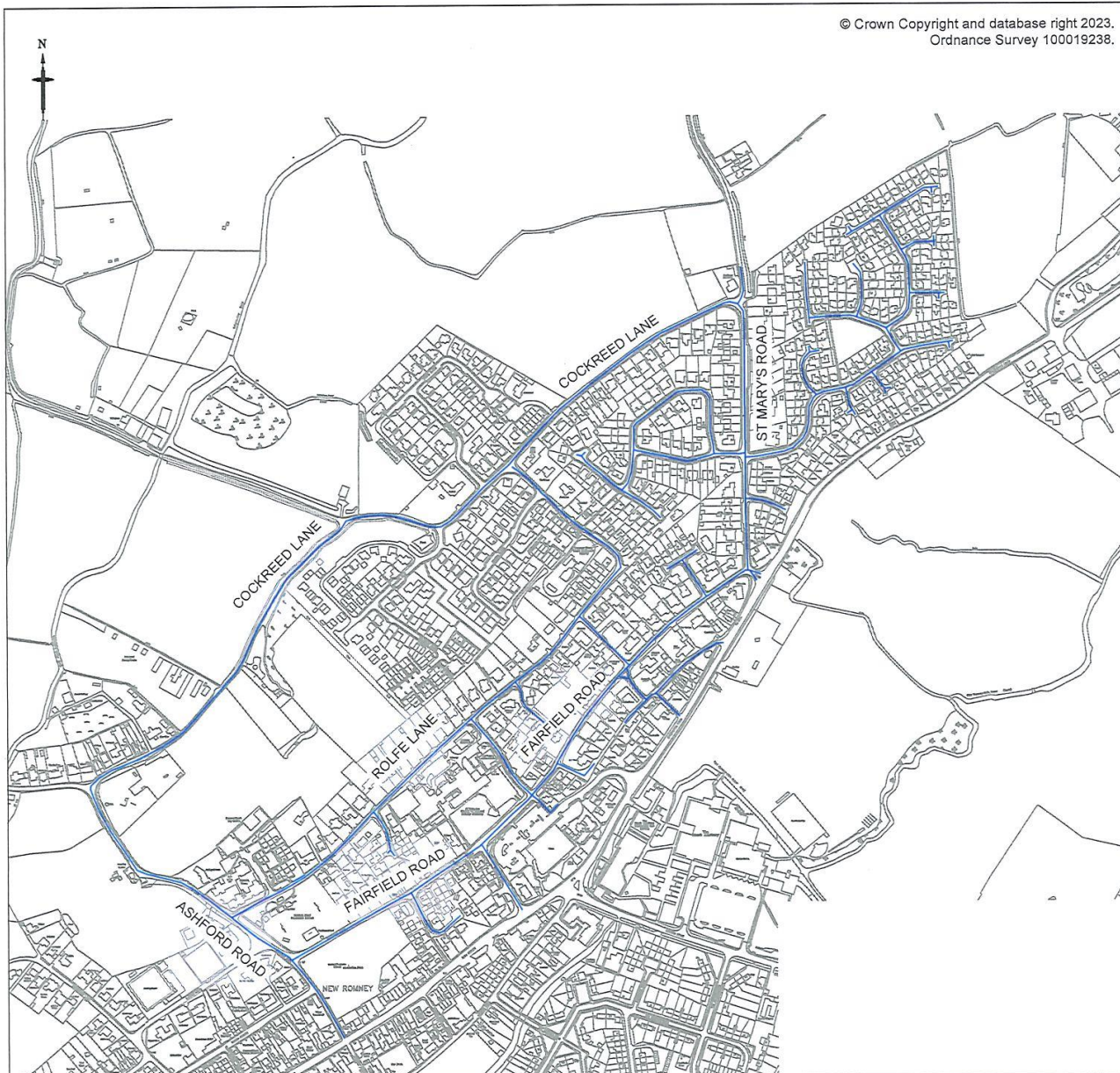
Somney, England
Google Street View
21 See more dates



Google







Notes

■ PROPOSED 20MPH LIMIT

0	24/11/23	FIRST ISSUE	DW	RH	WB
Rev	Revision Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Chc'd	App'd



Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk



Kent County Council
Ashford Highway Depot
Henwood Industrial Estate
Ashford
TN24 8AD
Tel: 03000 418181

Project

NEW ROMNEY
PROPOSED 20MPH ZONES

Drawing title

ZONE 2
LOCATION PLAN

Drawing status

LOCAL ENGAGEMENT

Scale

1:500 at A3

Do not scale

Drawing number

23-FH-PAR-1238/102

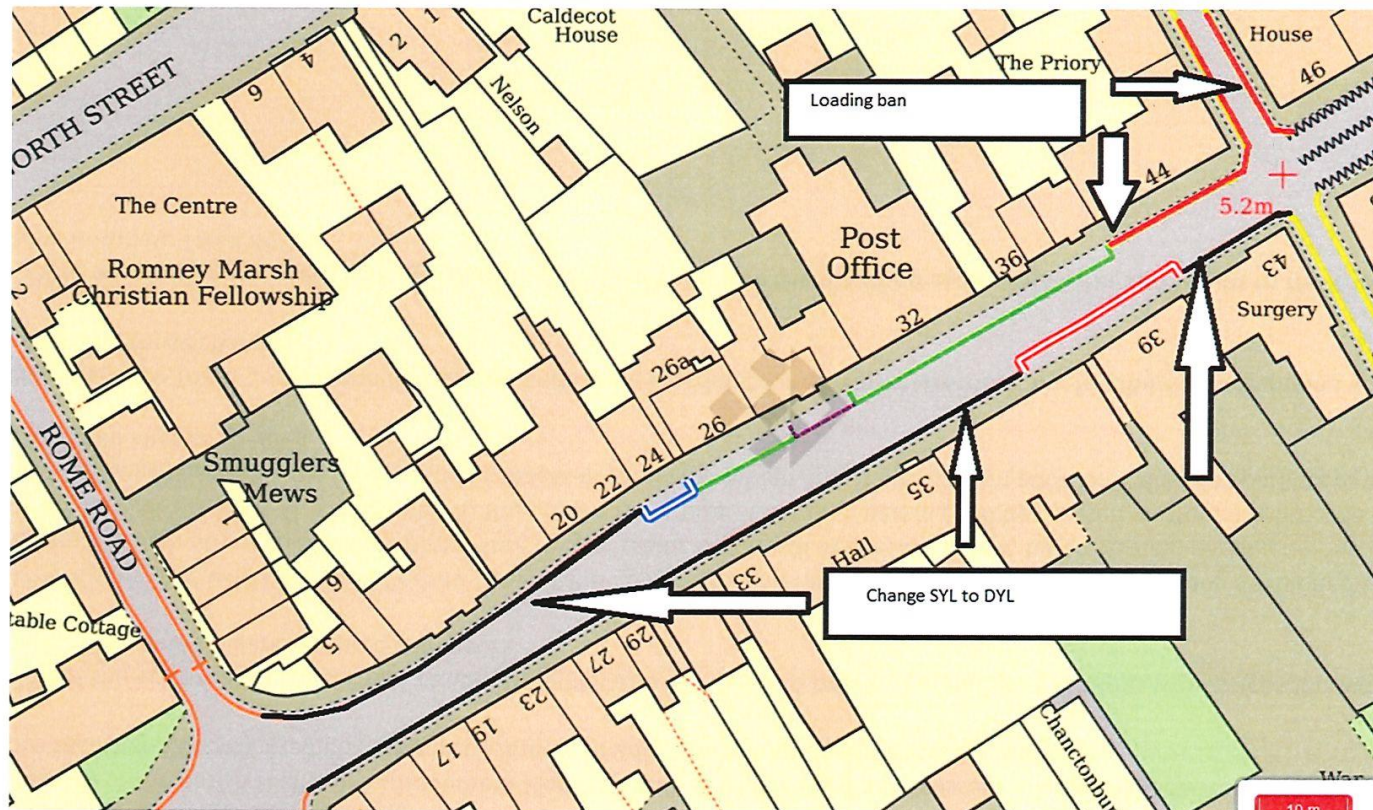
Rev

0

This drawing is not to be used in whole or part other than for the intended purpose and project as defined on this drawing. Refer to the contract for full terms and conditions.



New Romney Town Council
Parish Highway Improvement Plan
Proposed Changes to High Street Parking – New Romney



SYL – Single Yellow Line
DYL – Double Yellow Line

Loading Ban on the junction of Ashford Road and High Street would wrap right round onto the High Street opposite Oak Hall Surgery to prevent all motorist (including Blue Badge users) from parking there.

Single yellow lines to be upgraded to double yellow lines on the opposite side of the road on the corner of the junction for Church Approach.

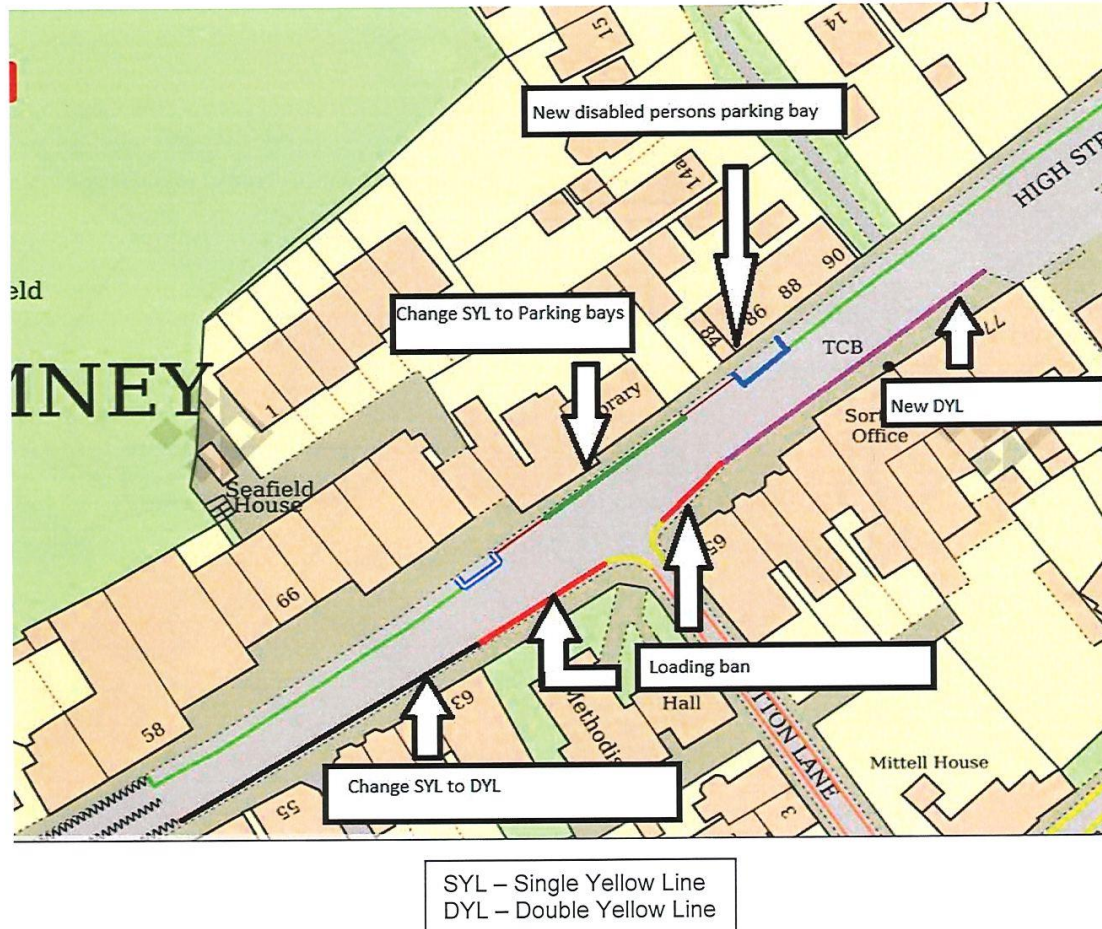
Zip zag lines will be refreshed outside Ruzzo all the way along to the crossing to prevent parking near the junction.

Single yellow lines to be upgraded to double yellow lines from 22 High Street to the corner of Rome Road.

Single yellow lines to be upgraded to double yellow lines from Costa Coffee to the corner of Victoria Street.



New Romney Town Council
Parish Highway Improvement Plan
Proposed Changes to High Street Parking – New Romney



Loading ban restriction to be added to the junction of Tritton Lane to prevent all motorist (including Blue Badge users) from parking there.

Single yellow line removed from outside the library and parking bays added.

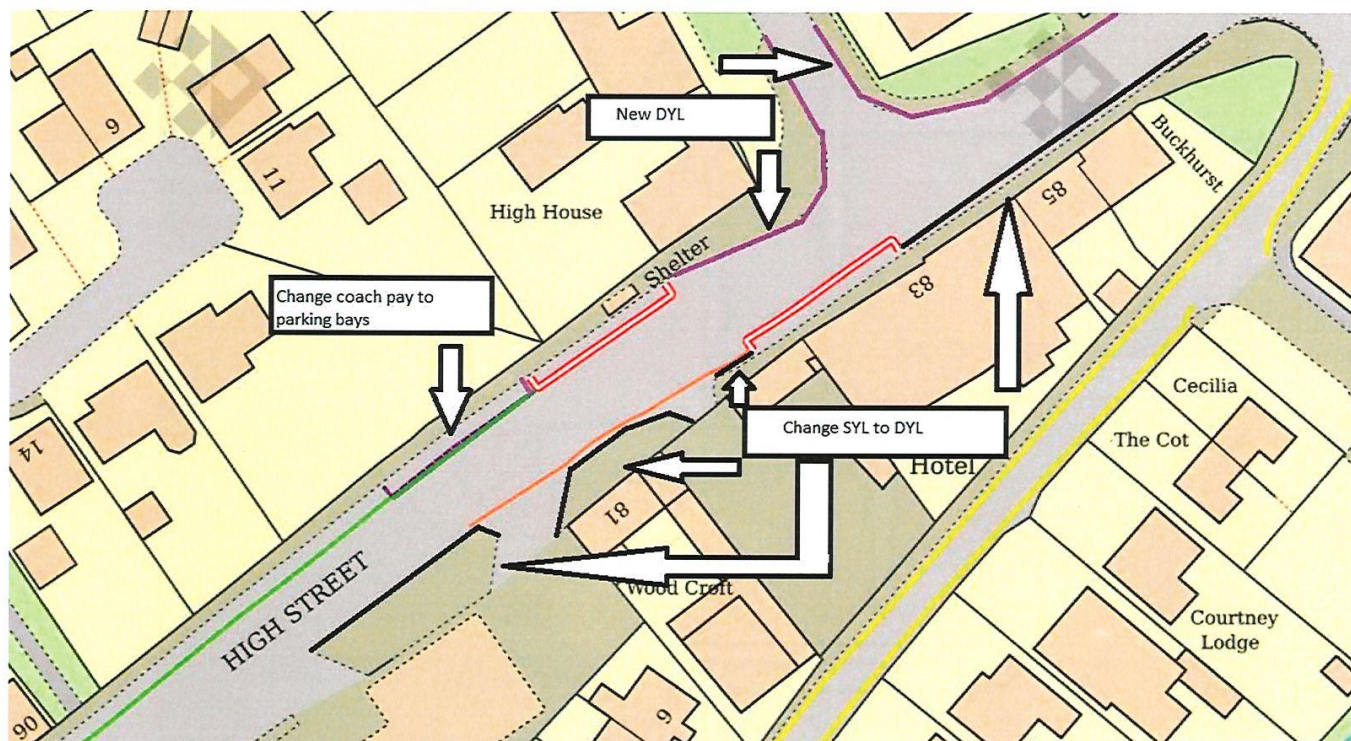
New disabled bay added after That Pet Shop outside Romney Spice.

Parking bays outside Premier shop and along to the garage to be removed and double yellow lines to be installed.

Single yellow lines to be upgraded to double yellow lines from outside the Methodist Church and along to Church Approach turning.



New Romney Town Council
Parish Highway Improvement Plan
Proposed Changes to High Street Parking – New Romney



SYL – Single Yellow Line
DYL – Double Yellow Line

Coach parking bay to be replaced with additional parking bays.

New double yellow lines to be added from the bus stop round to George Lane on both sides of the junction.

Single yellow lines to be upgraded to double yellow lines The Ship to the Premier shop on the corner of Tritton Lane. No parking to be permitted on that side of the High Street.



Highway Improvements Team working in Partnership with New Romney Town Council Highway Improvement Plan

Submission Date: December 2022

(Please remember that the HIP is for new initiatives/measures/schemes in your community – it is NOT to be used as a maintenance log, as these MUST be logged using the online reporting tool via this link <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>)

HIP Front Cover

HIP Version	Submitted by (Name)	HIP Date	Record Of Meeting Dates with KCC Virtual or Face to Face	County Member
1				
Please list below the funding opportunities/Sources for HIP initiatives/Measures				I.e., County Member, Parish Precept Donation, LTP
Are you an active member of the Speed Watch Scheme?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Are you an active member of the Lorry Watch Scheme? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Name of HIP Representative		Contact Telephone Number		Email Address
Name of Clerk	Planning Clerk – Mrs Gemma Hall	Contact Telephone Number	01797 362348 01797 740161	Email Address planning.clerk@newromney-tc.gov.uk
Name of Chair		Contact Telephone Number		Email Address
KCC Project Manager Team	Community & Engagement Team (EAST)	Contact Telephone Number	03000 418181	Email Address east.highwayimprovements@kent.gov.uk

- Please note the Priority column MUST be those issues which are regarded as the most important (No 1 being your highest priority, then filtering down)
KCC is unable to guarantee that all your requests will be deliverable, but Project Managers can investigate your top 1 or 2 priorities per year.

Please Note: Highway Improvement Plans will only be accepted if they are in this prescribed template format. **PLEASE DO NOT ALTER IN ANY WAY.**
Whilst this is intended to be a living document for your Parish Council, KCC can only make resources available to review your HIP annually –
XXXX's review is on or after XXXX each year.



Highway Improvements Team working in Partnership with New Romney Town Council Highway Improvement Plan

Live Priorities Record

Priority	Location	USRN	Problem/Concern	What do you feel are the potential solutions?	KCC Comments (This column is to be completed by Project Manager ONLY)
1.	Please see 20 MPH zones 1-6 attached.		Speeding	20 MPH zones	<p>02/02/2023-</p> <p>KCC and PC agreed to focus on Zones 1 & 2 as a priority.</p> <p>As above, traffic survey locations to be determined by KCC.</p> <p>18/10/2023-</p> <p>Traffic survey results are mostly in support of a 20mph limit for the majority of Zones 1-2, however the eastern side of Cockreed Lane has average speeds that are too high.</p> <p>For KCC to discuss options with PC at meeting on 01/11/2023</p> <p>01/11/2023-</p> <p>All average speeds from the surveys are in support of the a 20mph limit for Zones 1 & 2, except for the eastern end of Cockreed Lane which were 28mph. This is higher than we would like, and it is unlikely that we would get compliance without physical measures, however these measures are usually not popular with residents due to noise, they are expensive, and they require a system of street lighting. We are unsure at this time if the streetlighting present would be adequate enough to be classed as a safe system.</p> <p>KCC to produce an extents plan for PC to conduct further informal engagement with residents and provide KCC with responses.</p> <p>KCC to look at options regarding upgrades to school signage.</p>

Highway Improvements Team working in Partnership with New Romney Town Council

Highway Improvement Plan

2.	i) Spitalfield Lane ii) Sussex Road iii) Church Road		Speeding vehicles. Motorists use Spitalfield Lane, Sussex Road and Church Road as a shortcut to either avoid congestion caused by parked cars outside Spitalfield Terrace on the A259 coming into New Romney or they wish to avoid the traffic in New Romney High Street.	Traffic Calming required.	<p>02/02/2023-</p> <p>KCC to explore options of "Unsuitable for HGV" and "Pedestrian in Roadway" signage along Spitalfield Road.</p> <p>KCC has sent 30mph Toolkit information to PC. PC to confirm that they wish for a kit to be arranged for them (this is a free resource)</p> <p>Traffic calming measures such as speed bumps and buildouts not feasible with current lighting as this is not to the required standard.</p> <p>01/11/2023-</p> <p>KCC to move forward with Unsuitable for HGV signage to be installed on Spitalfield Lane junction with A259, Sussex Road junction with Ashford Road, and potentially Ashford Road junction with A259 if space allows. KCC to fund</p>
3.	i) Queens Road ii) Littlestone Road/Station Road iii) Coast Road iv) The Churchlands		Speeding.	Enhanced vehicle activated signs or traffic calming measures needed.	<p>02/02/2023-</p> <p>Did not discuss as prioritising above.</p>
4.	Coast Drive near Spar Greatstone/Clark Road.		Pedestrian crossing requested due to speeding and increase in pedestrians/visitors to The Green's.	The Green's is already a very popular destination for local residents and tourists/holiday makers visiting the play park and beach. New development on The Green's at Littlestone of the extension of the beach huts will cause more visitors.	<p>02/02/2023-</p> <p>Did not discuss as prioritising above.</p>
5.	Dymchurch Road		Speeding.	Extend the 30 MPH speed limit up to Marlie Farm.	<p>02/02/2023-</p> <p>Did not discuss as prioritising above.</p>
6.	i) Spitalfield Lane ii) Fairfield Road		Poor visibility.	Improve highway lighting for all roads without engineered footpaths.	<p>02/02/2023-</p> <p>Did not discuss as prioritising above.</p>



Highway Improvements Team working in Partnership with New Romney Town Council Highway Improvement Plan

	iii) Cockreed Lane iv) Sussex Road v) Rolfe Lane				
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Highway Improvements Team working in Partnership with New Romney Town Council

Highway Improvement Plan

Historical Priorities Record

No	Location	USRN	Problem/Concern	What do you feel are the potential solutions?	KCC Comments
	High Street, New Romney		Inconsiderate parking	Red lines needed to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety.	02/02/2023- Not feasible as this is only conducted in London.
	All roads		Double yellow line review – Many lines in our Parish are faded and need repainting and possibly extending.		02/02/2023- Any faded lines should be reported online via https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem Any extension to double yellow lines will need to be considered on a case by case basis.
	i) St Nicholas School – Fairfield Road, New Romney, TN28 8BP, Craythorne Lane & Rolfe Lane, New Romney. ii) The Marsh Academy – Station Road, New Romney, TN28 8BB See School Zone map attached.		Speeding and problem parking. Cars driving too fast near the school. Speed limit is currently 30MPH by both schools. Parent's parking on double yellow lines and blocking driveways. No crossing for St Nicholas School.	School Zones required.	02/02/2023- St Nicholas School is incorporated into Zone 2 of PC plans for 20mph zone. For a formal crossing point, both a traffic survey and pedestrian survey would need to be conducted to ascertain feasibility. KCC estimate at least £30,000 for a formal crossing (subject to fluctuation with cost of materials constantly changing) Traffic surveys to be conducted throughout Zone 1 & 2. KCC to determine locations and obtain cost of these surveys along with pedestrian survey. Vehicles parking on double yellow lines and blocking driveways are for enforcement by F&H and police. PC advise that there are current plans for double yellow lines in the area.



Highway Improvements Team working in Partnership with New Romney Town Council

Highway Improvement Plan

					<p>KCC has sent PC information on the School Travel Plan to share with both schools.</p> <p>18/10/2023-</p> <p>Traffic and Pedestrian survey results have been analysed and unfortunately does not meet the minimum criteria for the installation of a formal crossing point.</p>
	<p>i) High Street ii) Church Lane iii) Church Road vi) The junction of Ashford Road onto The High Street. v) Station Road, Littlestone Road, Marsh Avenue, Blenheim Road, St Martins Road, The Churchlands, Marsh Crescent, Wiles Avenue, and Carey Close</p>		<p>Problem parking – causing congestion.</p> <p>i) Vehicles parking on Double Yellow lines outside Premier Stores near Tritton Lane causing a bottle neck in The High Street which causes delays and congestion due to the heavy flow of traffic. Larger vehicles struggle to get through the gap.</p> <p>ii) Vehicles parking on double yellow lines near Church Lane Surgery/The Old School House.</p> <p>iii) Vehicles parking on double yellow lines, blocking driveways, creating bottlenecks, and causing congestion especially near The Old School.</p> <p>iv) Vehicles parking on double yellow lines near junction opposite Oak Hall Surgery causing bottlenecks and congestion.</p> <p>v) Vehicles parking on grass verges/pathways.</p>	<p>i) Relocation of 'Coach Parking' bay from opposite the garage on the Highstreet to somewhere more suitable: Mountfield Ind Est or The Marsh Academy Car Park to free up parking spaces for other vehicles including an additional disabled bay. The new car parking bays should have time limits on them.</p> <p>To stop vehicles parking outside Romney Cycles – Premier Store side of the High Street to allow free flow of traffic – double yellow lines/red lines. Stagecoach have changed their timetable for New Romney High Street buses which was due to congestion.</p> <p>v) Bollards on grass verges needed.</p>	<p>02/02/2023-</p> <p>PC to liaise with F&H Council regarding the "Coach Parking Bay"</p> <p>PC advised that buses and HGVs are struggling to manoeuvre past each other as there are pinch points caused by vehicles parking on both sides of High Street.</p> <p>PC requested double yellow lines from Esso garage down to Premier Shop to allow free flow of traffic, with parking available with restricted time limits opposite.</p> <p>KCC to seek advice on this and come back to PC.</p> <p>PC reported issue with delivery of gas bottles on Ashford Road whereby the driver parks on the pavement, blocking it for pedestrians, and causing vehicles on the other side to drive on the pavement to get around.</p> <p>PC requested bollards but suspect that the pavement is not wide enough.</p> <p>KCC to measure pavement and ascertain options.</p> <p>01/11/2023-</p> <p>PC to continue with F&H District Council in regards to the Coach Bay and subsequent installation of double yellow lines by the Esso petrol station.</p>

Highway Improvements Team working in Partnership with New Romney Town Council Highway Improvement Plan

					<p>PC reporting a crash issue at the junction of Ashford Road and High Street (A259). Crash data at this time shows one slight injury collision that occurred December 2022 where a vehicle overshot the STOP junction and collided with another.</p> <p>PC to report maintenance issues with lining via https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem</p> <p>PC requested an advanced STOP sign to be installed just before the buildings on the nearside. KCC have visited the site and there is an advanced STOP sign already present with a distance plate.</p> <p>PC also proposed a buildout by the junction, however High Street unfortunately does not have the available width to install one here.</p> <p>Moved to historical as no further options at this junction, and Coach Bay issues being dealt with by F&H.</p>
3.	Lydd Road – A259 – Outside Spitalfield Terrace.		Problem parking. Vehicles parking outside Spitalfield Terrace on the A259 as you go into New Romney. This causes major congestion due to a bottleneck/single file traffic and as consequence waiting vehicles then cut down Spitalfield Lane.	Due to the new development happening opposite Spitalfield Terrace a pedestrian crossing is due to be installed which should prevent the cars from parking on the A259. However there will inevitably still be cars that park there and cause an obstruction and a long term solution needs finding.	<p>02/02/2023-</p> <p>Did not discuss as prioritising above.</p> <p>01/11/2023-</p> <p>PC to liaise with Development Agreements team via DevelopmentAgreements@kent.gov.uk</p> <p>If unable to have measures agreed with the developer to alleviate this issue, for PC to raise again for Highway Improvements to discuss</p>

END