

Report from Folkestone & Hythe District Councillor: David Wimble

Dear residents of New Romney,

As your ward councillor for Folkestone and Hythe District Council, I am proud to report on the productive 4-year term that I have had serving our community. During this time, I have had a busy and fulfilling role as the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Communications, working tirelessly to promote the growth and development of our local economy.

One of my proudest accomplishments during this term has been the speed at which FHDC was able to provide financial support to local businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic. In record time, we paid out over £28 million in business grants, providing much-needed relief to those struggling to make ends meet during these difficult times. This support helped to ensure that many local businesses were able to survive the pandemic and will continue to be a vital source of assistance as we look towards the future.

In addition to this, I am proud to say that more money was spent on Romney Marsh during the last 4 years than in any previous council. This investment has helped to bring much-needed improvements to our local infrastructure and facilities, including new roads, handing over of parks to town councils, and of course the £3 million-pound High Street regeneration scheme that I proposed and delivered to over 70 businesses across our district. This investment has also helped to attract new businesses to the area, bringing with them new jobs and opportunities for our residents.

Throughout my time as your councillor, I have also been a strong advocate for promoting economic development in our area. This has involved working with local businesses and organisations to identify new opportunities for growth, as well as supporting the development of new initiatives aimed at boosting our local economy. For example, I have been involved in the development of one of my election promises with the new Romney Marsh Business Centre, which provides affordable office space and business support to local entrepreneurs and start-ups.

In addition to this, I have also been committed to promoting sustainable development in our area, with a particular focus on Nuclear and renewable energy and green technology. This has involved working with local businesses and organisations to identify new opportunities for investment in these areas, as well as supporting the development of new initiatives aimed at reducing our carbon footprint and promoting a more sustainable future for our community.

I have also been an active and engaged member of our local community, working to ensure that the concerns and issues of our residents are heard and addressed. This has involved holding regular surgeries and meetings with residents, as well as working closely with local community groups and organisations to identify new opportunities for engagement and involvement.

As a community leader and activist, I feel I have been instrumental in the vaccination efforts in the Romney Marsh area and district, to ensure that the community received the vaccinations they needed to protect themselves from COVID-19.

I started my efforts by working with local healthcare providers to ensure that the vaccines were distributed to the most vulnerable populations in Lydd and New Romney. As a district Council we worked tirelessly to spread awareness about the importance of getting vaccinated and encouraged people to sign up for appointments.

As the vaccination efforts continued to expand to include the Folca Centre in Folkestone, I volunteered at Lydd Airport, The Old School and the Folca Centre.

I have also been a strong supporter of the Romney Marsh Community Hub and recognise the vital role that the Hub has played in providing support and resources to the community throughout the pandemic, and through the district Council provided financial support to ensure that the Hub can continue its important work.

The Romney Marsh Community Hub has been a lifeline for many people in the area, particularly throughout the pandemic. It has provided food and other essential supplies to those in need, as well as support and advice to those struggling with the effects of the pandemic. The financial support that the Economic Development team gave will help to ensure that the Hub can continue to provide these important services to the community.

In conclusion, I am proud to have served as your councillor for Folkestone and Hythe District Council over the last 4 years, and to have had the opportunity to make a positive impact on our local community. I remain committed to promoting economic development, sustainable growth, and community engagement in our area, and look forward to continuing to work with you all in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Cllr David Wimble.