



www.newromney-tc.gov.uk



town.clerk@newromney-tc.gov.uk



INTRODUCTION FROM THE TOWN MAYOR 2024-25

Over the past year, it has been a great honour for me and the Mayoress to serve our town and represent its people with pride. We have embraced every opportunity to engage with residents, visitors, and our fellow Cinque Ports, while championing local charities, businesses, and events. From celebrating International Women's Day with a special Ladies Night to organising community visits to the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway and marking the D-Day Commemoration at The Greens, each moment has strengthened our town's community spirit and profile. These events not only celebrated our shared heritage but also welcomed dignitaries who experienced the warmth and vibrancy of our town. As we look back with gratitude on a fulfilling year, we remain committed to supporting our community in whatever capacity we can in the future.

Cllr John Rivers

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of New Romney & Chairman of New Romney Town Council 2024-25

TOWN COUNCIL SUCCESS STORIES

2024-2025 has, once again, been a very busy and productive year for New Romney Town Council. As usual, the Council has been pleased to support a number of community initiatives and events and further improvements to the locality have been undertaken for the benefit of residents. In addition to this, the Town Council is delighted to be able to confirm that it has now reached the final stage in the delivery of the 'Maude Community Centre' and annex when, in June 2025, the build programme will be completed and the Maude Community Centre will be officially handed over to the Town Council.

There are also a number of other successes that have been achieved during the course of the civic year that are definitely worthy of highlighting within this report:

Strategic Plan 2023-2027

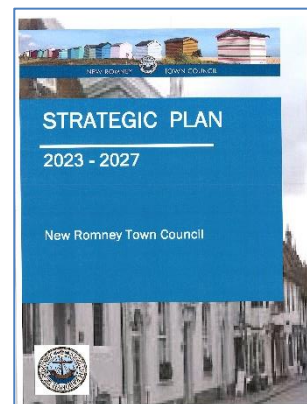
New Romney Town Council recently developed and adopted its first ever Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan 2023-2027 describes the Council's vision for the current four-year term of office, what it is trying to achieve and what its key objectives and priorities are for the electoral term up to May 2027.

The Strategic Plan explains clearly to Councillors, staff, residents, businesses and other local organisations exactly what the Council aims to achieve for the benefit of the Town and its residents up to the next election.

A number of the identified projects have been completed during 2024-25, including adoption of the Council's Policy Statement on Preserving Local Open Spaces, improvements to traffic flow in New Romney High Street, replacement of planters on St. Martin's Field, providing Dementia Awareness Training for all Town Council Members, reinstatement of Town Centre noticeboard to ensure wider access to Town Council information, completion of the Town Trail, installation of 2 additional High Street benches.

Other identified projects have been commenced and are on-going, including projects identified within the Highway Improvement Plan to make New Romney's roads safer, creating video recordings of civic events in New Romney to publish on social media, on-going dialogue with local healthcare providers and, of course, delivery of the Maude Community Centre and Annexe, which will very soon reach completion.



Partnership Working



The Town Council has continued working closely with New Romney in Bloom to bring added colour and beauty to the parish of New Romney and to assist with keeping the Parish looking attractive and tidy for residents and visitors alike. The NRIB Volunteers have worked extremely hard on improving the flowerbeds at the Princess Diana Memorial Garden in Littlestone Road (aka Flagstaff Land) during the past year, have ensured that the Town Hall window boxes have looked colourful and attractive throughout the year and have continued looking after the High Street Planter and St. Martin's Field flowerbed. In addition to this NRIB has, very recently, prepared and

planted out the brand new planters on St. Martin's Field. The Council is very grateful for the efforts of NRIB volunteers, who have most definitely been helping to make New Romney an attractive place for people to live, work and visit.

New Romney Town Council also worked very closely with TeachMe to facilitate the installation of the stunning Town Obelisk in Church Approach. The whole community, including Members and Officers of the Town Council, was involved, through a number of drop-in craft sessions, in contributing to the intricate mosaic work which tells the story of New Romney through its detailed images depicting life in our Town over the ages and right up to today. This beautiful artwork sculpture attracts a great deal of attention from passers-by and has been a real talking point. It has made a truly lovely addition to the landscape of New Romney and the Town Council would like to convey its thanks for all of the hard work of those involved in planning and bringing this project to fruition for the benefit of our Town.



Supporting Improved Local Health & Wellbeing - A Step Forward in Local Healthcare: The Proposed Integrated Medical Centre for New Romney

New Romney Town Council is committed to improving healthcare services for residents of Romney Marsh. As part of this commitment, during 2024-25, the Council has put forward aspirations for an Integrated Medical Centre that aims to address significant healthcare challenges faced by the community.

Current Healthcare Challenges

Residents in New Romney are facing increasing difficulties in accessing healthcare. There is a shortage of General Practitioners (GPs), existing GP practices are overburdened, and many essential medical services are only available in distant locations such as Ashford A&E. Limited public transport options further compound these problems, making healthcare less accessible for the elderly, low-income families, and vulnerable individuals.

Growing Demand for Services

The population in New Romney and across the Marsh is steadily increasing, placing further strain on already overstretched GP services. Current infrastructure cannot effectively meet the expanding healthcare needs of the community.

Proposed Integrated Medical Centre: A Solution for Better Care

The Council's aspiration to establish an Integrated Medical Centre aims to improve healthcare access while reducing reliance on distant facilities. The new centre would:

- Attract and keep healthcare professionals by offering modern facilities and a range of services, improving career opportunities.
- Provide essential services locally, reducing the need for residents to travel far for treatment.
- Offer comprehensive care, including GP consultations, mental health support, physiotherapy, ultrasound scanning, a baby clinic, and a minor injury unit.

Community and Economic Benefits

The new centre would promote better health outcomes by encouraging preventive care, which helps reduce hospital admissions and NHS costs. It would also ensure that residents stay healthy and active, contributing positively to the local economy.

Planned Facilities and Services

It is envisaged that the Integrated Medical Centre would aim to include, amongst other services:

- GP practices (Oak Hall & Church Lane under one roof)
- Mental health support
- Physiotherapy
- Phlebotomy services
- Ultrasound scanning
- Baby clinics
- Minor injury unit with extended hours

Council's Commitment and Progress

New Romney Town Council has put forward an 8½ acre site for the new medical centre, ensuring ample space for the facility and adequate parking. The site is conveniently located near a bus stop, further improving accessibility. The desired minor injury unit would aim to operate with extended hours to serve both local residents in New Romney and wider across the Marsh, plus visitors to our area.

Councillor John Rivers, Chairman of the Health & Wellbeing Committee, has highlighted the strong support for this project from Folkestone & Hythe MP Tony Vaughan, who is actively working with key stakeholders to progress the development.

Call to Action

The Council has urged government officials and health organisations to support and invest in this vital project. A new Integrated Medical Centre would represent a significant step toward delivering modern, high-quality healthcare services tailored to the growing needs of the New Romney and wider Marsh communities. By investing in this facility, we can create a sustainable, efficient healthcare model that enhances residents' wellbeing while reducing pressure on overstretched services.

Dementia Friendly Council

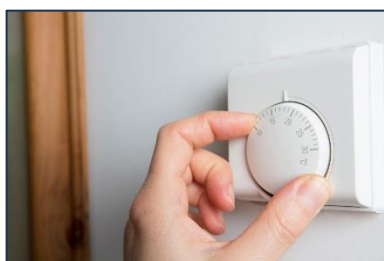
In September 2019, the Council resolved to “**become a Dementia Friendly Council**”.

Since then, all Members and Staff of New Romney Town Council were provided with Dementia Awareness Training and refresher training was provided again during 2024.

Work has continued to progress on adapting Town Council buildings (Town Hall and Assembly Rooms) to make them more dementia friendly. As well as improved lighting in the Assembly Rooms and in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall to reduce areas of shadow and, thereby, assist to reduce confusion for dementia sufferers, additional signage has been installed the Town Hall and in the Assembly Rooms to assist dementia sufferers and door frames at the Town Hall have been repainted in contrasting colour to help differentiate between walls and access points and reduce confusion.



Climate Emergency



As previously reported, New Romney Town Council officially declared “**a Climate Change and Ecological Emergency, with the aim of making its activities nett carbon neutral by 2030**”.

The Town 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 continued to reduce its use of paper and to become paper-free – with the vast majority of Town Council communications now being dealt with entirely electronically and the use of paper in respect of routine Council business and transactions significantly reduced.

During 2024-25, the Town Council completed the replacement of Town Hall waste receptacles with recycling bins and upgraded its waste collection subscription to accommodate the recycling of Town Hall waste.

The new Maude Community Centre, which is due to be completed in June 2025, will be all-electric and heated by air source heat pumps.



Accessibility

The Council has continued to work hard on improving the issues of accessibility at the Town Hall and Assembly Rooms, having assessed the recommendations of relevant Access Audits commissioned by the Town Council and has made appropriate adaptations. Most recently, the large Councillor chairs were removed from the Council Chamber at the Town Hall and replaced with smaller chairs that allow greatly improved access around the space for Councillors, staff and visitors alike. A number of the new Councillor Chairs have arms to assist those Members with mobility issues.

Parish Highway Improvement Plan

Early in 2023, New Romney Town Council approved and adopted a Highway Improvement Plan for New Romney, as a result of a great deal of public engagement.

The aim of the Parish Highway Improvement Plan was 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 allowed the Town Council to identify and prioritise road safety improvements such as:

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



The first phase of the Highway Improvement Plan has now been implemented, including new signage for Spitalfields Lane to exclude HGVs, the design of the 20mph speed reduction measures for Zone 1 and Zone 2 of the Town. The most impactful and challenging changes were those to the parking arrangements in the High Street, with the addition of no loading/unloading zones on critical junctions (including the junction of Ashford Road and the High Street), the installation of double yellow lines along the length of the left hand side of the road which has had a massive, positive impact on traffic flow in the High Street. The removal of the redundant/under-used coach parking spaces, replacing them with car parking which is heavily utilised. We have also completed the traffic monitoring requirements on a number of roads (residents may have noted the 18 speed/traffic monitoring stations in New Romney, Littlestone and Greatstone). This will allow us to have the data to propose additional speed limit changes in those areas. We have worked very closely with Kent County Council Highways and Folkestone and Hythe District Council parking services to achieve these changes.

The next phase will be the Zone 2 and 3 speed limit changes to 20 mph. Following on from our Eighth public engagement meeting on 22nd March 2025, we are also proposing the installation of double yellow lines on the St Mary's Road/Fairfield Road junction, following a number of road traffic collisions and near misses. We are also working with KCC Highways on the installation of double yellow lines and other traffic measures on the Lydd Road, around the junction of Longshore Grove and the associated terraced houses.

We are indebted to our Planning Clerk for pulling this whole programme together and keeping KCC Highways, FHDC and local Councillors working together to improve road safety in New Romney.

The Highway Improvement Plan and all associated documents are available to view on New Romney Town Council's Website. The Highway Improvement Plan 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.newromneytc.gov.uk/Parish_Highway_Improvement_Plan_41431.aspx

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LOCALITY

St. Martin's Field



During 2024, New Romney Town Council has made some further improvements to St. Martin's Field to enhance this area as a valued open space for recreation and relaxation in our community.

With the generous assistance of New Romney in Bloom, work is ongoing with improving and maintaining the pollinator-friendly flower-bed on St. Martin's Field and the brand new perimeter planters are bringing some much-needed colour and interest to this relaxing leisure area.

The Greens, Littlestone / Fairfield Road Recreation Ground / St. Martin's Field

During 2024, the Town Council was proud to be able to install the brand new Town Beacon on The Greens, Littlestone. The beacon was constructed by a local company and adorned with Town and Cinque Ports Crests. It saw its first use for the D-Day 80 Commemoration, when the inaugural lighting of the new beacon was witnessed by our local residents on this very special occasion.



Princess Diana Memorial Garden (Flagstaff Land)



New Romney in Bloom has continued its hard work to transform and maintain the rockery beds on Flagstaff Land throughout the past year. Once again, well done NRIB! The gardens are looking lovely.

Supporting Improved Local Biodiversity

Last year, New Romney Town Council gave consent for the installation of a number of beehives at its land in Church Road. The beehives are looked after by Marsh Apiaries and the Town Council is delighted to support this work to increase the presence of these important pollinators on Romney Marsh.

Marsh Apiaries bee hives have thrived in their new home – so much so, that the Town Council has now agreed to increase the maximum number of hives on its land from 20 to 30 hives.

The new Maude Community Centre in Station Road, which will be completed in June of this year, will accommodate a number of bat boxes on the site and the landscaping design will have a focus on pollinator-friendly planting and incorporate several bug hotels to support local biodiversity.



IMPROVING LOCAL LEISURE FACILITIES AND BUILDING COMMUNITY SPIRIT

In February 2024, New Romney Town Council confirmed the exciting news that, having been awarded planning consent in December 2023 for its new, budget-led project and following a stringent tendering process, it had awarded a Design and Build Construction Contract for the newly-named 'Maude Community Centre' and Annexe, which was to be sited adjacent to the Station Road Sports Ground.



Work commenced on site on 29th April 2024 and is now scheduled to be completed on 17th June 2025. The annexe

building is, in fact, complete and the Baby Seashells Nursery, which was operating out of the old Community Hall, transferred its operations to the Maude Community Centre Annexe on 9th April 2025.

It is exciting to report that we are now nearing the end of this huge project with only about 8 weeks remaining to completion. Demolition of the old Community Hall commenced during the week of 14th April 2025, following which external hard and soft landscaping will be undertaken whilst the internal final fix of the main Community Centre building is completed.

The new Maude Community Centre, once officially opened, will provide the Town with brand new facilities which will be home to a wide range of much-valued community services, including a community sports pavilion which will become the new home of New Romney Football Club and New Romney Cricket Club, a 150-seat community hall available for hire by local groups and organisations, and for private hire for family parties, wedding receptions and other family functions as well as community events, business conferences etc, and facilities for daily childcare provision.

On 9th April 2025, a significant milestone was achieved with the completion of the Maude Community Centre Annex, marking a major step forward in supporting the growing needs of the New Romney community. The facility underscores the Town Council's commitment to enhancing local amenities and promoting health, wellbeing, and social cohesion. The relocation of Seashells Nursery to the new, state-of-the-art Maude Annex is complete and has already begun to benefit the town's youngest residents, while the full opening of the Community Centre, scheduled for early July, is expected to provide modern, inclusive spaces for all age groups.

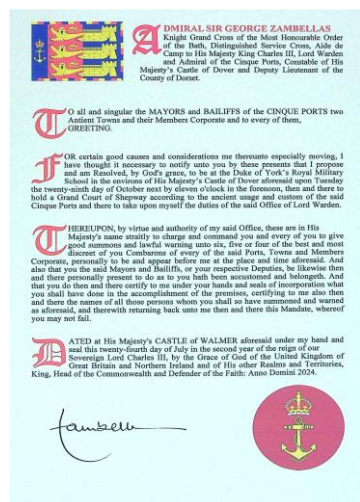
The official opening week has been scheduled to take place between Friday 18th July 2025 and Friday 25th July, during which time a series of events will take place which will enable as many members of the community as possible to come along and view the new Community Centre by attending one of our 'coffee and cake tours' or whilst enjoying one of the planned free social activities. Look out for further information on the Town Council website and social media page during the coming weeks!

Delighted by New Romney Town Council's decision to see this project through to fruition, Chairman of the Project Steering Group, Councillor Paul Thomas, stated: *'The Project Steering Group has worked hard over the last three years, in a difficult financial environment. We continue to work with key stakeholders, the Synergy project management team and Kent Structures Ltd, on the final stages of the project and look forward to the completion and handover of the whole site on 17th June 2025. I look forward to the planned week of events in July to celebrate the opening of this new facility.'*



MAINTAINING NEW ROMNEY'S HISTORIC LINKS

The Installation of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports



History was made on the 29th of October 2024 when the installation ceremony took place of the new Lord Warden and Admiral of the Cinque Ports, Admiral Sir George Zambellas GCB, DSC, ADC, DL, attended by the Mayors, officers and some of the Councillors from the Cinque Port Towns, which includes New Romney. Full of ancient and modern ceremony and procedure, the day included a procession, led by the band of the Royal Marines, in the grounds of the Duke of York Military School, in Dover, where a formal session of the Grand Court of Shepway took place, followed by a civic reception as well as a flypast.

The office of Lord Warden and Admiral, now ceremonial in nature, was once one of the most powerful in England. It was a vital link between the Crown and ports on the South-East coast which provided a fleet



to serve successive Kings for 500 years before the foundation of the Royal Navy. Recent holders of the office have included Sir Winston Churchill (1941-1965) and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother (1978-2002). Sir George is only the third Admiral to have held the office during its 800 year history.



Following the official installation, the Lord Warden then undertook a tour of the Cinque Ports towns over the next week, and paid a visit to New Romney on the 4th November 2024, where he and Lady Amanda Zambellas were welcomed to the Town Hall Chambers for a reception with the Councillors and staff, and a look around the historic room and artefacts. They then went on to visit the Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Railway at New Romney station, where Station Manager Danny Martin introduced him to some of the volunteers and staff, and Lord and Lady Zambellas had a chance to

view the museum and heritage centre. They completed their tour of New Romney with a visit to Littlestone RNLI station where they were able to meet the crew and Sir George presented 15 of them with their Kings Medals.



GRANT FUNDING SUPPORT

During 2024-25, New Romney Town Council has awarded grant funding as follows:

St. Martin's Field Charity	-	£ 3,000.00
Caring Altogether Romney Marsh (CARM)	-	£ 214.00
Light Up New Romney	-	£ 500.00
JAM on the Marsh	-	£ 886.00
Burghmote Horn Booklet	-	£ 100.00
RMCH - Qwest Prehab	-	£ 350.00

RMCH - Dementia Friendly Community	-	£ 350.00
RMCH – Armed Forces Day Event	-	£ 200.00
New Romney Country Fayre	-	£ 500.00
Marsh Academy – 3G Pitch	-	£10,000.00
New Romney Football Club	-	£ 1,000.00

COMMUNITY EVENTS

During 2024-2025, New Romney Town Council hosted two community events:

D-Day 80 Commemoration



New Romney Town Council was delighted to organise and host the Town's D-Day 80 Commemorations, which included a proclamation read by the Town Mayor and a poetry reading by local schoolchildren on the Garden of Remembrance, a charity fish and chip luncheon which raised a fantastic £1,075.50 for five armed forces charities, and a community event, with music, re-enactors, readings and Beacon Lighting on The Greens. It was certainly a day that brought our community together to participate in a

host of commemorative activities that New Romney could be proud of.



Annual Christmas Concert

In December 2024, the Council also provided the annual free community Christmas Concert in the Parish Church, which was, this year, performed by Betteshanger Colliery Welfare Band. The Band provided a lovely evening of festive music and the many positive comments received confirmed that those who attended enjoyed a fabulous evening, which provided a lovely way to head into the Christmas season.



OTHER EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

New Romney Town Council also hosted the annual Commonwealth Day Commemoration in March and the Civic Service in June and supported a number of Community events throughout the year – whether financially or in kind, including:

New Romney Country Fayre

Light Up New Romney Lantern Parade

RBL New Romney Remembrance Day Service

JAM on the Marsh Festival



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.

During 2024-25, the following events took place at The Greens:

- Weekly Market and Boot Fair
 - D-Day 80 Commemorations and 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 2024-25, the following events took place at St. Martin's Field:

- Romney Marsh Rotary Club 10K Run
 - New Romney Country Fayre
 - Funfair Visit
 - April 2025 Circus
-

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 2024

growing season once again evidenced how much pride Tenants continue to take 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



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, District Council and County Council to discuss any issues that they may wish to raise.

In addition to this, Kent Police hold Police Surgeries at the Town Hall; no appointment necessary.

Town Ward and Coast Ward:

The Assembly Rooms, Church Approach, New Romney

Town, District and County 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

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 2024-25, served as Representatives on Outside Bodies, as follows:

Organisation	Town Council Representative 2023-24
Steward for Damian Collins MP	Cllr K Terry , Cllr P Coe (Res)
Town / Coast Ward Councillor Surgery Attendants	Cllr K Terry, Cllr A Meredith, Cllr W D Wimble
Emergency Contacts for Shepway District Council	Town Mayor – Cllr J Rivers Deputy Mayor – Cllr P Coe
Floodline Contacts for Environment Agency	Cllr P Thomas, Cllr J Rivers, Cllr J Hiscock, Cllr P Carey
Kent Association of Local Councils	Cllr J Rivers, Cllr P Coe
Lydd Airport Consultative Committee	Cllr P Coe, Cllr J Davies
Dungeness Site Stakeholder Group	Cllr P Coe, Cllr W D Wimble, Cllr A Meredith
NHS / South Kent Coast Clinical Commissioning Group	Cllr J Rivers, Cllr J Hiscock
Southlands Almshouse Trust	Cllr P J Coe
Confederation of Cinque Ports	Town Mayor – Cllr J Rivers, Town Clerk – Mrs C Newcombe Cinque Ports Champion - Cllr Rev Cn S McLachlan
Romney Marshes Area Internal Drainage Board	Cllr P Coe, Cllr J
Environment Agency	Cllr P Coe, Cllr J Hiscock
New Romney Allotment Association	Cllr J Hiscock, Cllr A Meredith
Romney Marsh Forum	Cllr J Hiscock, Cllr W D Wimble
New Romney in Bloom	Vacant
Mayoral Representative	No permanent representative – appointed as and when required at the discretion of the Mayor

COUNCILLOR DETAILS

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

In 2024-25, the Membership of New Romney Town Council was as follows:

Town Ward:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of New Romney, Councillor J Rivers

Councillor W D Wimble

Councillor L Phillips

Councillor J Houston

Councillor Rev Cn S McLachlan

Councillor J Davies

Councillor P Carey

Councillor S Hodges

Coast Ward:

Councillor P Thomas

Councillor J M Hiscock

Councillor L Glover (resigned 13/12/24)

Councillor S O'Hare

Councillor A Meredith

Deputy Mayor, Councillor P J Coe

Councillor K Terry

Councillor E Carr

Councillor P Peacock (since 27/02/25)

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 13 MAY 2024 UP TO AND INCLUDING 14 APRIL 2025

<u>FULL COUNCIL</u>	<u>POSSIBLE</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
<u>Coast Ward</u>		
Councillor P D Thomas	16	15
Councillor P J Coe	16	16
Councillor J M Hiscock	16	16
Councillor K Terry	16	16
Councillor S O'Hare	16	16
Councillor Meredith	16	8
Councillor L Glover	9	3
Councillor E Carr	16	7
Councillor P Peacock	3	3

Town Ward

Councillor J Rivers	16	16
Councillor J Davies	16	16
Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan	16	10
Councillor P Carey	16	14
Councillor W D Wimble	16	4
Councillor J Houston	16	9
Councillor L Phillips	16	8
Councillor S Hodges	16	3

STANDING COMMITTEES

<u>Finance & General Purposes Committee</u>	<u>Possible</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Councillor P Thomas	7	6
Councillor K Terry	7	7
Councillor P Coe	7	7
Councillor J Rivers	7	5
Councillor J Davies	7	7
Councillor P Carey	7	6
Councillor Rev Cn S McLachlan	7	4

<u>Planning Committee</u>	<u>Possible</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Councillor P Coe	13	13
Councillor J Rivers	13	12
Councillor K Terry	13	12
Councillor P Carey	13	12
Councillor J Davies	13	12
Councillor S O'Hare	13	11
Councillor L Phillips	13	8
Councillor J Houston (since 19/06/24)	12	7

<u>Personnel Committee</u>	<u>Possible</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Councillor P Thomas	7	6
Councillor J Rivers	7	7
Councillor J Davies	7	6
Councillor P Coe	7	7
Councillor Rev Cn S McLachlan	7	5

Health & Wellbeing Committee

	<u>Possible</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Councillor P Coe	4	4
Councillor J Rivers	4	4
Councillor J Hiscock	4	4
Councillor J Davies	4	4
Councillor Rev Cn S McLachlan	4	3
Councillor L Phillips	4	0
Councillor P Carey	4	4

STEERING GROUPS**Maude Community Centre Project**

	<u>Possible</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Councillor P Thomas	8	8
Councillor P Coe	8	8
Councillor J Davies	8	7
Councillor Rev Cn S McLachlan	8	4
Councillor W D Wimble	8	0

FINANCIAL SUMMARY**2024/25 Budget Analysis**

The Town Council's income and expenditure for the year 2024/25 is on target to balance. The cost of New Romney Town Council's services for a Band D property for the financial year was £132.83 equating to £11.07 per month or £2.55 per week.

The Town Council's Precept for the year 2025/26 in the amount of £429,562.00 represents an annual cost of £139.60 for New Romney Town Council's services for a Band D property for the year – which is a 5.1% increase on the previous year (equating to 56p per calendar month / 13p per week).

Analysis of Proposed Income and Expenditure for 2025/26

<u>Income</u>	<u>£</u>
New Romney Town and Coast Tax Payers	429,562.00
Hire of Land and Properties	20,849.00
Allotment Rents	2,383.00
Hut & Winch Site Rents	8,290.00
Other Income	<u>5,323.00</u>
Total Income	<u>466,407.00</u>

Expenditure

Finance & General Purposes Committee	
Maude Community Centre (Year 1 to be funded from reserves)	0.00
Fairfield Road Recreation Ground	3,780.00
The Greens	13,153.00
Flagstaff Land	1,094.00
Allotment Gardens	1,800.00
Land at Coney Banks	50.00
Town Square	80.00
Garden of Remembrance	300.00
Assembly Rooms	7,233.00
Maude Community Centre Annexe	1,558.00
Town Hall	16,960.00
Town Hall House	3,909.00
Insurances	7,500.00
Legal & Professional Fees	10,000.00
Donations	7,500.00
Subscriptions	5,231.00
Office Equipment	2,000.00
IT Support & Computer Maintenance	12,000.00
Phone/Internet	2,374.00
Printing & Stationery	750.00
Public Clock	300.00
Postage and Petty Cash	450.00
Admin & Miscellaneous (inc. Mayor's/Civic Allowance)	19,500.00
Bank Charges	550.00
Payroll Outsourcing	525.00
Reserve Fund Contributions	46,150.00
Councillor Training	4,000.00
Contingency	10,000.00
PWLB Loan Repayment inc Interest	59,895.00
Other	165.00
Personnel Panel	227,100.00
Health & Wellbeing Committee	250.00
Planning Committee	<u>250.00</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>466,407.00</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 2023/24 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



New Romney Town Council has continued its hard work throughout 2024-25 for our community and local environment so that New Romney remains a desirable place to live, work and visit:

JANUARY 2024:

- *Planning for D-Day 80 Commemoration in hand.
- *Final stage of tendering process undertaken to award Design and Build contract for delivery of New Romney's new Maude Community Centre project
- *Town Trail installation completed.

FEBRUARY 2024:

- * Design and Build contract awarded to Kent Structures to deliver the new Maude Community Centre at the Station Road Sports Field site.
- *Dementia friendly lighting installed at the Town Hall in line with the Council objective of becoming a Dementia-friendly Council.
- *Community Engagement Event hosted by NRTC to highlight progress of identified improvements to local highways in accordance with the adopted Parish Highway Improvement Plan.
- *Beehives installed on NRTC land in Church Road to encourage local biodiversity.

MARCH 2024:

- * New Romney Commonwealth Day Ceremony organised and hosted by NRTC.
- *Replacement flagstaff installed at Princess Diana Memorial Gardens, Littlestone.

APRIL 2024:

- * Work commenced on site to deliver the Maude Community Centre and provide much needed new community facilities for use by local clubs, organisations and residents alike.

MAY 2024:

- * New Town Beacon installed at The Greens, Littlestone, encouraging continued pride in our Town.
- *Two replacement bins installed at The Greens, Littlestone to assist in keeping the area litter free.

JUNE 2024:

- * Dementia Awareness Training provided for all NRTC Councillors and Staff and improved Town Hall signage installed in line with the Council objective of becoming a Dementia-friendly Council.
- * Town Council waste recycling initiative implemented in continuing the journey to become a greener Council.
- * D-Day 80 Commemorations in New Romney planned, funded and delivered by NRTC.
- * Commenced bathing season water quality sampling to monitor local bathing water quality and compare with EA results.

JUNE 2024 (cont.)

- *Hosted funfair on St. Martin's Field for the enjoyment of local residents.

JULY 2024:

- *Supported JAM on the Marsh Festival.
- *Supported New Romney Country Fayre, and hosted tours of the Old Courtroom and Town Gaol, providing members of the community with the opportunity to engage with New Romney's history and heritage.

AUGUST 2024:

- *Citizen's Advice video calling service made available at the Town Hall to support local residents.
- *Provided funding support for New Romney Community 3G Sports Pitch project at the Marsh Academy.

SEPTEMBER 2024:

- * NRTC Policy identifying Town Council commitment to preserving local open spaces formally adopted.
- * Concluded bathing season water quality sampling to monitor local bathing water quality and compare with EA results.

OCTOBER 2024

- * Assembly Rooms Car Park re-surfaced for improved accessibility and safety of hirers.
- *Planted commemorative tree on St. Martin's Field.

NOVEMBER 2024:

- *Supported Annual Royal British Legion Remembrance Service and Burma Star Service.
- *Provided Town Centre Festive Lighting and Town Christmas Tree.
- *Town Obelisk mosaic sculpture installed in Church Approach through partnership working with TeachMe Courses.

DECEMBER 2024:

- *Supported Light Up New Romney event.
- *Provided free annual Community Christmas Concert in St. Nicholas Church, performed by Betteshanger Colliery Welfare Band.

JANUARY 2025:

- *Order placed for new planters for St. Martin's Field – to be planted out through continued partnership working with New Romney in Bloom.
- *Order placed for NRTC Community Noticeboard for St. Martin's Field to publicise community and Council events.



Working Hard for Our Community



SPOTLIGHT ON HEALTHCARE & WELLBEING ON ROMNEY MARSH

New Romney Town Council has continued to work closely with Romney Marsh Community Hub and Invicta Health with the aim of assisting in any way possible in alleviating issues that affect local healthcare provision. The Council is now planning to organise a community event to showcase the wide range of local health and wellbeing services that are available to the community – so watch this space!

As there seems to have been no movement on the provision of a desperately needed new, purpose-built health hub for Romney Marsh for a considerable period, the Town Council has recently put its own land forward as a potential development site for a community health hub. It has also commenced lobbying the Government and the National Health Service to progress this matter. The Town Mayor has had meetings with the local MP and representatives from the NHS and will report back to the community via the Council in due course.

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

MAUDE COMMUNITY CENTRE PROJECT IN FOCUS



Following a number of setbacks that resulted in the original Community Hall and Sports Pavilion project becoming unviable, the Town Council instigated a complete project re-design in order that it could not only deliver a purpose-built community facility within a fixed budget but could also better meet the needs of the key stakeholders as well as the wider community. Following renewed Town Council commitment to delivery, a new planning consent was acquired, approved funds drawn down and a formal tendering process undertaken. A Design and Build contract was awarded in February 2024 to deliver these much-needed new facilities for the Town and its community and the Council is delighted to say that the project build phase is now nearing completion – so we look forward to the official grand opening of the Maude Community Centre early in the Summer of 2025!

... 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.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of New Romney, Councillor John Rivers, observes:

'New Romney Town Council is proud to share the progress we have made over the past year in enhancing our town for the benefit of residents and visitors alike. With an unwavering commitment to community development, we continue to invest in improvements that make our town safer, more vibrant, and better connected.'

One of our key initiatives has been the Highway Improvement Plan, designed to boost road safety and accessibility in New Romney. We are pleased to report that Stage 1 is nearly complete—yellow lines and parking spaces in the High Street are in place, and the first phase of the 20mph speed zone north of the High Street will soon be enforced.

The Council extends its gratitude to all residents who participated in our public engagement events, sharing their valuable input and helping shape this plan. Your voices have made a real impact, and together, we are working toward a safer town.

Another major milestone for New Romney is the Maude Community Centre and Annexe, a project that has been in the works for some time. We are now in the final stages of completion, with plans to open the facility in 2025. This space will provide a welcoming hub for community activities, events, and services, further strengthening the social fabric of our town.

Supporting and hosting community events is at the heart of what we do, and 2024 has been a fantastic year for local gatherings. We were delighted to sponsor events such as: JAM on the Marsh Festival; New Romney Country Fayre; Light Up New Romney. In addition, we proudly organised several free community events, including our much-loved annual Community Christmas Concert, which continues to bring residents together in festive spirit. These gatherings not only celebrate our town's rich culture but also foster connections and strengthen our sense of community.'



NEW ROMNEY TOWN COUNCIL
... Working Proactively For and With
the Local Community!

New Romney Celebrates



Celebrate a moment in history with the Nation!

- 9am Proclamation
- 6.30pm St Nicholas Church Bells ring out
- 7.30 – 9.30pm Free VE Day 80 Community event on The Greens, Littlestone
- 9.30pm Beacon Lighting and the Nation Sings!



8TH MAY 2025



Find out more at

www.newromney-tc.gov.uk

END