



[www.newromney-tc.gov.uk](http://www.newromney-tc.gov.uk)

[town.clerk@newromney-tc.gov.uk](mailto:town.clerk@newromney-tc.gov.uk)



### **INTRODUCTION FROM THE TOWN MAYOR 2025-26**

Over the past year, it has been a real privilege for the Mayoress and I to serve our town and represent our community. We've taken every opportunity to connect with residents, welcome visitors, and work alongside our fellow Cinque Ports, whilst supporting local charities, businesses, and events.

These experiences have strengthened our community spirit and helped raise the profile of our town. They've also given us the chance to showcase what makes our town so special, with many visitors and dignitaries experiencing its warmth and energy first hand.

As we reflect on a rewarding year, we do so with genuine gratitude—and we look forward to continuing to support our community in whatever way we can.

Cllr John Rivers

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of New Romney & Chairman of New Romney Town Council 2025-26

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### **TOWN COUNCIL SUCCESS STORIES**

2025-2026 has, as usual, been a very active year for New Romney Town Council. The Council has continued to support a range 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 was delighted to celebrate the official opening of the 'Maude Community Centre' and annex in the summer of 2025, and is pleased to report that regular bookings as well as one-off hire by members of the community as well as a number of different organisations are steadily increasing.

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

## Strategic Plan 2023-2027

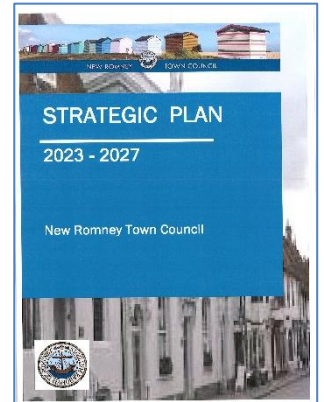
As residents are by now aware, New Romney Town Council developed and adopted its first ever Strategic Plan for the 2023-27 Term of Office.

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.

Once again, a number of the identified projects have been completed during 2025-26, adding to those already completed in the previous civic year, including the purchase of a van to further improve parish caretaker services around the Town, reinstatement of the Council noticeboard in the High Street for wider dissemination of information and the addition of an additional new Town Bench at the opposite end of the High Street.

Other identified projects have been commenced and are on-going, including works 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 live-streaming of Full Council meetings to improve Council access to the public. It is intended that during the coming civic year, Council Committee meetings will also be live-streamed.



## 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.

In 2025, New Romney in Bloom volunteers worked extremely hard to bring to life the planting scheme for the frontage of the new Maude Community Centre and the fruits of their hard labour are really beginning to show with the beautiful display of flowering spring bulbs that sprung forth recently, really adding some colour along the Community Centre frontage. There is a second planting phase to follow during 2026 – and we can't wait to watch the shrubs and plants develop and grow to provide a beautiful, mature flowerbed at this location.

The Council, once again, thanks NRIB volunteers for their efforts; they have most definitely continued helping to make New Romney an attractive place for people to live, work and visit.

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

Over the past year, we've made solid, practical progress in turning an idea into something credible and deliverable. We've clearly defined the need for a modern Romney Marsh Medical Centre, drawing on the lessons from the Folkestone work, and started shaping a plan that aligns with NHS priorities rather than sitting outside them. We've set out the case for change, highlighted the real challenges around access, travel and capacity, and begun pulling together the evidence that shows this is about resilience and fairness, not just convenience. Just as importantly, we've started building the right conversations with partners so this is seen as a shared solution, not a standalone campaign.

Over the coming months, the focus is on tightening and progressing that work in a structured way. We need to finalise the evidence pack, formally bring partners together through a working group. Alongside that, we'll develop a clear, concise strategic case that the NHS can realistically support, including a phased delivery approach to keep risk manageable. It's about keeping momentum while staying disciplined: making sure every step brings us closer to something that can actually be delivered for the Marsh and its residents.

### 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.

During 2025-26, work has continued to progress on adapting existing Town Council buildings (Town Hall and Assembly Rooms) to make them more dementia friendly. Lighting has been updated, doors and / or door frames have been painted in contrasting colours and additional signage has been installed.

The new Maude Community Centre is deliberately light and bright with contrasting doorways to help differentiate between walls and access points and is furnished with clear signage to help 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 majority of Council business was transacted electronically during 2025-26 and the use of paper in respect of remaining routine Council business has continued to be significantly reduced.

During 2025-26, the Town Council's waste collection subscription was further upgraded to accommodate increased recycling of Town Council waste.

The new Maude Community Centre is, as promised, heated using green energy provided by air source heat pumps. EV charging points have been installed in the Maude Community Centre Car Park to support and encourage use of electric powered vehicles and cycle parking provided to support and encourage active, green travel.



## 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 is to look at all the **Road Safety** issues we have in New Romney, Littlestone & Greatstone and put together a coordinated plan of improvements to address the identified road safety shortfalls.

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

· Reduced Speed Limits · Parking Restrictions · Speed Monitoring · Road Layout · Signage · And much more

Installation of the new reduced 20mph speed limits in Zones 1 and 2 (North of the High Street) has been now completed, with new road signs and road markings in place.



We held a well-attended Public Engagement event on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2025, to discuss the remaining Zones 3 to 6. Following input from residents and KCC Highways, that scheme has had to be amended to remove some roads from the Greatstone element of the scheme.

The scheme to install Double Yellow Lines on the St Mary's Road and Fairfield Road Junction has also been completed.

As we move forward with the next stages of the plan, we would invite local residents to join the Speedwatch scheme, to allow us to monitor the speeds on our roads, at the locations suggested by our residents. Anyone wishing to join the scheme should email our planning clerk.

To view the Highway Improvement Plan for New Romney, please use this link:

[http://www.newromneytc.gov.uk/Parish\\_Highway\\_Improvement\\_Plan\\_41431.aspx](http://www.newromneytc.gov.uk/Parish_Highway_Improvement_Plan_41431.aspx)



## IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LOCALITY

### St. Martin's Field



During 2025-26, New Romney Town Council has continued to look after St. Martin's Field to retain this area as a valued open space for recreation and relaxation in our community, with planting of a replacement tree to ensure that local biodiversity is maintained.

New Romney in Bloom has continued to assist the Town Council with improving and maintaining the pollinator-friendly flower-bed on St. Martin's Field as well as the new perimeter planters.

### The Greens, Littlestone

During 2025-26, the Parish Caretaking Team has worked hard repairing and replacing sections of the ageing perimeter boundary posts and rails at The Greens to help improve aesthetics and ensure the security and safety of The Greens is maintained.

### Princess Diana Memorial Garden (Flagstaff Land)



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

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## IMPROVING LOCAL LEISURE FACILITIES AND BUILDING COMMUNITY SPIRIT



In February 2024, a Design and Build Contract was awarded to Kent Structures Ltd, to complete the detailed design and construction of the new Community Hall, Sports Pavilion and Annex. The work commenced on 29th April 2024 as planned.

The first phase of the contract was the construction of the Maude Community Centre Annex. That building was completed and handover took place, on time and within budget, in early April 2025. This has housed the Seashells Nursery, who moved from the old Boxing Club building, which was demolished to make way for the completion of the second phase.

The Maude Community Centre was completed and handed over on 17th June 2025, just a few weeks later than originally scheduled, which is a huge achievement for a project of this scale. The building was officially opened on Friday 18th July 2025, by the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Lady Colgrain. This was followed by a week of local events, including a children's party, quiz night, concert and site tours, to promote the facility.

In its first year of operation the Maude Community Hall has been used extensively by community groups, it has also been used for private parties and by local companies for training and community engagement events.



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## MAINTAINING HISTORIC LINKS



The Mayor, Mayoress and Town Clerk of New Romney were delighted to be invited to represent New Romney at the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports' Royal Reception at Walmer Castle in July 2025, at which they were presented to King Charles III.

This was part of a weekend visit organised by the Lord Warden to promote the history of the ancient Cinque Ports towns, of which New Romney is proud to be one of the five Head Ports.

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## GRANT FUNDING SUPPORT

During 2025-26, New Romney Town Council has awarded grant funding as follows:

St. Martin's Field Charity	-	£ 3,000.00
Light Up New Romney	-	£ 750.00
JAM on the Marsh	-	£ 1,640.00
RMCH – Memory Cafes	-	£ 310.00
RMCH – Ex Armed Forces	-	£ 500.00
New Romney Country Fayre	-	£ 1,000.00
New Romney in Bloom	-	£ 300.00

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

During 2025-2026, New Romney Town Council hosted three community events:

### Maude Community Centre Grand Opening



New Romney Town Council was delighted to organise and host a whole week of free community events to celebrate the grand opening of the new Maude Community Centre in July 2025.

During the opening week, daily 'Coffee and Cake Tours' were hosted by Members of the Town Council and supported by Town Council Staff Members. The tours were very popular and well-attended, providing local residents with an opportunity to see the entirety of the Community Centre Complex, including the annex building which

houses Seashells Nursery and the ground floor Sports Pavilion, which is the new home to our Town Sports Teams, as well as the first floor Community Hall.

There was a free Community Concert performed by Ashford Concert Band, which proved to be a lovely evening of music and socialising for all ages, a free children's party which was thoroughly enjoyed by nominated children from our local nurseries and primary school. For our more mature residents, a free Quiz Evening was hosted by the Town Mayor. This was another extremely popular event, resulting in a packed out hall full of quizzers, who all had a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Last but not least, the Town Council arranged for the NHS Community Health bus to visit and park up in the Community Centre Car Park during this week of community events so that local residents could take advantage of their free NHS health checks.

All in all, a fabulous time was had by all who participated in the Maude Community Centre Grand Opening week.

### Annual Christmas Concert

In December 2025, the Council also provided the annual free community Christmas Concert in the Parish Church, which was, this year, performed by the City of Canterbury Brass Band. The Band provided a lovely evening of festive music and, as usual, many positive comments were received, confirming that those who attended enjoyed a fabulous festive evening to take them into the Christmas season.



### VE DAY 80 Commemorations

New Romney Town Council hosted the 2025 VE Day Commemorations which were in the theme of celebration. The day of events included a charity fish and chip luncheon, bell-ringing and beacon lighting ceremony. Both the charity luncheon and the evening celebrations were well attended and the beacon lighting ceremony, in particular, provided a great opportunity to bring our community together to celebrate the Victory in Europe of 80 years ago. We remembered and honoured those who gave their service and their lives in World War 2 and also heard some of the memories of those who lived through it. We sang the songs, some of us wore the clothes of the era and, although many of us were pretty chilly, we watched the Beacon and Lamp Light of Peace burning in a national show of unity for hope for peace to come.

New Romney Town Council would like to take this opportunity to, once again, thank everyone who made the evening possible - The East Kent Piping Band, the army and air cadet forces, Kent Fire and Rescue for lighting the beacon and keeping it safe, the RNBCR - Royal Naval Beachhead Commando Reenactors, who were showing their vehicles and signalling to sea and to the military jeep owner. Also thank you to those of you who submitted your memories to us, and Ann Bidwell for assisting in collecting them, and all the readers who shared them with the community. Thanks to the various vendors who kept everyone fed and watered, the NR Town Council staff who helped the children to make Lanterns and Flags, Mr Del Jones from Hythe Town Concert Band for playing the Last Post in very trying conditions, and the Romney Marsh Branch of the Royal British Legion.



### **OTHER EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY**

New Romney Town Council also hosted the annual Commonwealth Day Commemoration in March and the annual 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 2025-26, the following events took place at The Greens:

- Weekly Market and Boot Fair

## 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 2025-26, the following events took place at St. Martin's Field:

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

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## ASSEMBLY ROOMS, NEW ROMNEY

The Assembly Rooms in Church Approach, New Romney, are available for hire on a regular basis to local groups and organisations as well as for ad hoc use by groups and private persons.

For booking enquiries or further information, please go to the Town Council website: [www.newromney-tc.gov.uk](http://www.newromney-tc.gov.uk)

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

Email: [fc.clerk@newromney-tc.gov.uk](mailto:fc.clerk@newromney-tc.gov.uk) Tel: 01797 362348



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## 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 2025 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](http://www.newromney-tc.gov.uk) or contact the Facilities & Communications Clerk at the Town Hall.

Email: [fc.clerk@newromney-tc.gov.uk](mailto: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. During 2025-26, the Council has trialed a new approach to Councillor Surgeries, hosting them at a range of times and locations instead of a fixed time and place to provide local residents with greater opportunities for access to Councillors. This new approach is still evolving and, during 2026, local residents will also be able to chat with Members of the Town Council at St. Nicholas Church monthly book sales.

In addition to this, Kent Police hold Police Surgeries at various locations within the parish; no appointment necessary.

**Please look out for posters in Town Council noticeboards and on the Town Council website and Social Media page to find out when and where forthcoming Councillor and Police Surgeries will be taking place.**

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## **REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

New Romney Town Council appoints Members as representatives to other organisations. Representatives attend meetings of those Bodies and, as appropriate, feed back any relevant information to the Town Council. The Town Council would like to thank those Members who have, during 2025-26, served as Representatives on Outside Bodies, as follows:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Town Council Representative 2025-26</b>
Steward for Tony Vaughan MP	Cllr K Terry (Reserve: Cllr P Coe)
Town / Coast Ward Councillor Surgery Attendants	By Rota
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 P Carey
Environment Agency	Cllr P Coe, Cllr P Carey
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

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## **COUNCILLOR DETAILS**

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

**In 2025-26**, 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 S O'Hare

Councillor A Meredith

Deputy Mayor, Councillor P J Coe

Councillor K Terry

Councillor E Carr

Councillor P Peacock

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:

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Alternatively, please contact the Town Clerk:

[town.clerk@newromney-tc.gov.uk](mailto:town.clerk@newromney-tc.gov.uk)

Tel: 01797 362348

**COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS  
11 MAY 2025 UP TO AND INCLUDING 13 APRIL 2026**

**FULL COUNCIL****POSSIBLE****ACTUAL****Coast Ward**

Councillor P D Thomas

14

12

Councillor P J Coe

14

14

Councillor J M Hiscock

14

13

Councillor K Terry

14

12

Councillor S O'Hare

14

12

Councillor Meredith

14

10

Councillor E Carr

14

7

Councillor P Peacock

14

13

### Town Ward

Councillor J Rivers	14	13
Councillor J Davies	14	12
Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan	14	7
Councillor P Carey	14	13
Councillor W D Wimble	14	6
Councillor J Houston	14	5
Councillor L Phillips	14	7
Councillor S Hodges	14	3

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

#### **Finance & General Purposes Committee**

	<b><u>Possible</u></b>	<b><u>Actual</u></b>
Councillor P Thomas	6	4
Councillor K Terry	6	6
Councillor P Coe	6	6
Councillor J Rivers	6	6
Councillor J Davies	6	6
Councillor P Carey	6	5
Councillor P Peacock	6	6
Councillor J Hiscock	6	5
Councillor Rev Cn S McLachlan	5	2

#### **Planning & Environment Committee**

	<b><u>Possible</u></b>	<b><u>Actual</u></b>
Councillor P Coe	12	11
Councillor J Rivers	12	11
Councillor K Terry	12	11
Councillor P Carey	12	11
Councillor J Davies	12	10
Councillor S O'Hare	12	11
Councillor J Houston	12	5

<b><u>Personnel Committee</u></b>	<b><u>Possible</u></b>	<b><u>Actual</u></b>
Councillor P Thomas	6	6
Councillor J Rivers	6	4
Councillor J Davies	1	1
Councillor P Coe	6	6
Councillor Peacock	6	5
Councillor K Terry	3	3

<b><u>Health &amp; Wellbeing Committee</u></b>	<b><u>Possible</u></b>	<b><u>Actual</u></b>
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	2
Councillor S Hodges	4	1
Councillor P Carey	4	2
Councillor P Thomas	4	4

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## **FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

### **2025/26 Budget Analysis**

The Town Council's income and expenditure for the year 2025/26 is on target to balance. The cost of New Romney Town Council's services for a Band D property for the financial year was £139.60 equating to £11.63 per month or £2.68 per week.

The Town Council's Precept for the year 2026/27 in the amount of £509,123.00 represents an annual cost of £165.43 for New Romney Town Council's services for a Band D property for the year – which is a 18.5% increase on the previous year (equating to £2.15 per calendar month / £0.50 per week).

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**Analysis of Proposed Income and Expenditure for 2026/27**

<u>Income</u>	£
New Romney Town and Coast Tax Payers	509,123.00
Hire of Land and Properties	27,226.00
Allotment Rents	2,808.00
Hut & Winch Site Rents	9,165.00
Other Income	<u>7,454.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>555,776.00</u></b>

Expenditure

Finance & General Purposes Committee	
Maude Community Centre	28,192.00
Fairfield Road Recreation Ground	3,780.00
The Greens	4,622.00
Flagstaff Land	1,089.00
Allotment Gardens	1,600.00
Land at Coney Banks	50.00
Town Square	50.00
Garden of Remembrance	250.00
Assembly Rooms	6,896.00
Maude Community Centre Annexe	7,236.00
Town Hall	17,152.00
Town Hall House	3,240.00
Insurances	10,436.00
Legal & Professional Fees	10,000.00
Donations	8,000.00
Subscriptions	4,500.00
Office Equipment	2,500.00
IT Support & Computer Maintenance	14,500.00
Phone/Internet	2,500.00
Printing & Stationery	650.00
Public Clock	300.00
Postage and Petty Cash	250.00
Admin & Miscellaneous (inc. Mayor's/Civic Allowance)	11,150.00
Bank Charges	550.00
Payroll Outsourcing	675.00
Reserve Fund Contributions	52,100.00
Councillor Training	2,000.00
Contingency	10,000.00
PWLB Loan Repayment inc Interest	59,895.00
Other	100.00
Personnel Committee	291,013.00
Health & Wellbeing Committee	250.00
Planning Committee	<u>250.00</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b><u>555,776.00</u></b>

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 2024/25 are available at the Town Hall for perusal by prior arrangement.

The Town Council has an approved Capital Spending Plan and an approved Investment Policy which are reviewed annually, details of which are available from the Town Hall by prior request.



# New Romney Town Council Working Hard For Our Community



**New Romney Town Council has continued its hard work for the benefit of our community and local environment throughout 2025 so that New Romney remains a desirable place to live, work and visit:**



## 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 local community and Council events.
- New planters installed at St. Martin's Field to enhance local environment and improve local biodiversity.

## FEBRUARY 2025:

- New Romney Podcast recorded and published on Cinque Ports Confederation website and Town Council website to help promote tourism in the Town.
- Installation of community noticeboard at St. Martin's Field completed to publicise local community and Council events.



## MARCH 2025:

- New Romney Commonwealth Day Ceremony organised and hosted by NRTC.
- Budget approved for VE Day 80 celebrations and event planning commenced.
- Town Council approved increased number of beehives up to 30 max on Council land in Church Road to help improve local biodiversity.
- Grant funding provided to New Romney in Bloom to support community planting to enhance the appearance of the parish of New Romney.
- Grant funding provided to Romney Marsh Community Hub to support local services for vulnerable residents.

## MAY 2025:

- Additional Town Bench installed in High Street for enjoyment of local residents and visitors to the town.

## JUNE 2025:

- VE Day 80 Commemorations in New Romney planned, funded and delivered by NRTC.
- Van purchased to improve Parish Caretaker services around New Romney.
- Town Council hosted Circus on St. Martin's Field for enjoyment of local residents.

## JULY 2025:

- New Romney Town Council successfully delivered the Maude Community Centre with final completion of the build phase, handover and official opening week involving a range of free public events and tours.

## APRIL 2025:

- Maude Community Centre Annex completed and handed over to tenant, providing high class accommodation and modern and vibrant learning environment for local nursery school.
- Toilet block at the Greens opened for the summer season, funded by the Town Council.
- Town Council hosted funfair on St. Martin's Field for the enjoyment of local residents.
- Town Council noticeboard reinstated in High Street to improve access to Council information for local residents.



### **JULY 2025 (cont):**

- Supported JAM on the Marsh Festival.
- Supported New Romney Country Fayre.
- Facilitated Rotary Club 10K run on St. Martin's Field.

### **AUGUST 2025:**

- Improved drainage system installed at Church Lane Allotment Gardens.

### **SEPTEMBER 2025:**

- Community Coffee Mornings combined with Councillor Surgeries commenced to promote community social cohesion and wellbeing and encourage increased access to Town Council Members for local residents.
- Town Council engaged in partnership working with New Romney in Bloom to plant out frontage of Maude Community Centre.

### **OCTOBER 2025:**

- Maude Community Centre Sports Pavilion officially handed over to New Romney Sports Club, providing a new home for New Romney Football Club, New Romney Youth Football Club and New Romney & Littlestone Cricket Club.
- Facilitated Charity Football Tournament on Station Road Sports Field.

### **NOVEMBER 2025:**

- Supported Annual Royal British Legion Remembrance Service and Burma Star Service.
- Provided Town Centre Festive Lighting and Town Christmas Tree.
- Community Engagement Event hosted by NRTC to highlight progress of identified improvements to local highways in accordance with the adopted Parish Highway Improvement Plan.
- Funding allocated to progress Zones 1&2 of the adopted New Romney Highway Improvement Plan.

### **DECEMBER 2025:**

- Supported Light Up New Romney event.
- Town Council lobbying of the East Kent Integrated Care Board and National Government for planning, development and implementation of a plan to deliver a purpose built Community Health Centre / Community Diagnostic Centre for Romney Marsh commenced.

- Support for proposed community art project with free use of venue for community art workshop approved by the Town Council.
- Provided free annual Community Christmas Concert in St. Nicholas Church, performed by City of Canterbury Brass Band.



### **JANUARY 2026:**

- \*Livestreaming of Full Council meetings commenced to increase public access to Council meetings.
- \*Town Council website upgrade commenced to ensure full compliance with all data protection and accessibility regulations and improve access to Council services and information for vulnerable local residents.
- \*Order placed for repairs to Town Hall House windows to ensure integrity of grade 2 listed publicly owned building is maintained.

... and, as always, all this has been achieved whilst maintaining and improving a large portfolio of public buildings and open spaces, providing grant funding for deserving local organisations and projects, responding to consultations and enquiries, and engaging in a wide range of routine local government business etc.

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



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

"New Romney Town Council is proud to share the progress made over the past year in enhancing our town for the benefit of residents and visitors alike. I extend my sincere thanks to all councillors and staff whose dedication and commitment have made these achievements possible. The Town Council will continue to strive to do its very best to ensure our community is served to the highest possible standard."

## MAUDE COMMUNITY CENTRE PROJECT IN FOCUS



Following a number of initial setbacks and renewed Town Council commitment to delivery of the Maude Community Centre project, a Design and Build contract was awarded in February 2024 and work commenced soon after to deliver these much-needed new facilities for the Town and its community. Following a year of construction, the Town Council is delighted to have been able to deliver the completed Maude Community Centre early in July 2025 and to welcome local residents to the wide range of free public events and tours during the formal opening week.

The Community Centre complex incorporates an annex building which is now home to our local nursery school – which provides a much-valued service within our community – as well as a ground floor sports pavilion which is now home to New Romney Football and Cricket Clubs, who are enjoying training and hosting their matches at this lovely, modern facility. The first floor Community Hall has already hosted a number of private parties, wedding receptions and wakes as well as community events and meetings ... and more bookings are being regularly received for hire of this lovely community space with stunning views over the sports field.

The Town Council is delighted at this huge achievement for the benefit of the Town and its residents.

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## SPOTLIGHT ON HEALTHCARE & WELLBEING ON ROMNEY MARSH

### Healthcare close to home, when and where it's needed.

Romney Town Council with the support of local councillors, community leaders, and partners are calling for immediate Government backing to build a modern, integrated healthcare centre on Romney Marsh. With an older age profile, a higher prevalence of long-term conditions and significant travel barriers to hospitals and urgent care a **Neighbourhood Health Centre (Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC))** is needed to deliver fair access to healthcare for the Romney Marsh community.

While local GP surgeries would remain in place, additional services provided at the new CDC would transform access, reduce hospital pressures and deliver against the Government's 10-Year Health Plan: to move care closer to home, through Neighbourhood Health Centres that bring GPs, diagnostics, mental health, rehabilitation, and community services together under one roof.

The proposed centre would provide:

- Modern GP facilities with same-day access and digital booking.
- Urgent primary care, including evenings and weekends.
- A local diagnostic hub offering scans, tests and checks.
- Mental health, rehabilitation, pharmacy and community nursing services.

Space for voluntary and community groups offering wellbeing, advice, and prevention programmes.

Local councillors emphasise that New Romney is the natural hub for the Marsh; strong transport links, capacity to support patients from surrounding villages and land already earmarked for building the centre which would also benefit the seasonal visitor population and local workforce.

**In 2024, New Romney Town Council set aside some of its own land to facilitate the construction of a new Healthcare Centre.**

**Cllr. John Rivers, Mayor of New Romney, said:**

*"Romney Marsh faces some of the greatest health inequalities in Kent - our residents have to travel long distances for everything from routine tests to urgent care. We will be asking the Government and the Kent & Medway NHS to put Romney Marsh on the map as a priority site for a Community Diagnostic Centre. Our community deserves fair access to healthcare, and we're now calling for Government support from Wes Streeting, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to facilitate this."*

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

*Read More on our website [www.newromney-tc.gov.uk](http://www.newromney-tc.gov.uk)*

**END**