



www.newromneytc.co.uk

townclerk@newromneytc.co.uk

INTRODUCTION FROM THE MAYOR



Welcome to this Annual Town Meeting of New Romney Town Council for the year 2017/18.

It has not only been a very busy one for day to day business, as you will see from the reports but, also, a tremendous amount of work, much of which has fallen on the staff, has been going on regarding projects and initiatives to improve the lot of our residents.

Tonight, I am pleased to say, we will be signing the Military Covenant which was scheduled to happen much earlier but was scuppered by the calling of the snap general election last year which put the Military in purdah for such events.

With a broad theme of 'helping others', my charities for this year are New Romney Sea Cadets, The RNLI, and Kent and Sussex Air Ambulance, and I thank all who have donated so generously to these causes.

In conclusion I thank the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Patricia Rolfe, Fellow Councillors and especially the Town Clerk and her staff, for their hard work and support this past year.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Peter Coe

TOWN COUNCIL SUCCESS STORIES

Once again, this has been a very busy and productive year, with continued and strenuous campaigning by the Town Council for improved local healthcare provision, further improvements to the locality for the benefit of residents, large-scale projects progressing well and the establishment of a Coastal Community Team, through which a detailed Socio-Economic Plan for New Romney has been completed. As always, there is too much to mention within a single report, however, during the past year there have, as always, been a number of successes that are definitely worthy of highlighting:

- **ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL!**

'GET WELL SOON!' – Healthcare Provision on Romney Marsh

For more than two years New Romney Town Council has led the campaign to highlight the concerns of many residents about problems in the local health services delivery model. The Council has maintained regular and ongoing dialogue with the South Kent Coast Clinical Commissioning Group ('SKCCCG'), local doctors and others and is collaborating with the various providers to address residents' concerns. Following extensive lobbying, a new interim health hub within the Romney Marsh Day Centre has been introduced to help support local GPs and

enhance Primary Care services in the area. This is good news for the Romney Marsh. The Council's Health representative, Councillor Rolfe, is also working with the SKCCCG, medical professionals and others to assess the feasibility of building a new health centre on the Marsh Academy site in New Romney and this has been included in the District Council's Local Places and Policies Plan.

However, whilst significant progress has been made, certain issues still remain and the Council recently resolved to write to the Secretary of State for Health – Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP to highlight concerns about the poor SECamb (Ambulance Service) response times on the Romney Marsh. This follows on from previous meetings with the services provider and remains a key concern. This issue affects all rural areas and the Council is committed to campaigning against what its members perceive to be 'Rural Discrimination in Healthcare Provision'. It is important for residents to know that the Town Council will do all it can to protect the best interests of the local electorate because its members care about the Community they serve.

- **FUNDING SUCCESS**

Notice board

Grant funding was recently secured from Kent County Council via the KCC Member for Romney Marsh, Councillor Hills, for the purpose of purchase and installation of an additional Council Notice Board at the Princess Diana Memorial Gardens (Flagstaff Land), Littlestone Road.

The Town Council is committed to ensuring that information regarding the business of the Council is accessible to as many residents as possible, hence its use of its website and social media page as well as its three existing noticeboards to publish a wide range of information.

It was recognised that, for those residents without access to the internet, there was a significant distance between the notice board that is situated on the Greens in Littlestone and those that are situated in the Town Square and outside the Town Hall. Therefore, the Council hopes that the installation of a new noticeboard at this midway point will 'bridge the information gap' by reducing the distance between which Town Council information is published. The new noticeboard is currently on order and will be installed as soon as possible following delivery.

Play equipment

As New Romney Town Council continues its programme of maintaining and improving play and leisure facilities for the children and young people of New Romney Town and Coast Wards, the 'New Romney Express' was previously purchased and installed at Fairfield Road Recreation Ground with the view to seeking match funding to see a further installation at the Recreation Ground of a new two-bay swing set for New Romney's older children and teenagers, together with a further item of play equipment for local toddlers and younger children. The Council can now report that it has recently received confirmation that it was successful in its bid for grant funding from the De Haan Charitable Trust to support the second stage of this two-phase play equipment project and it is now in the process of placing orders for the new play equipment which, it is hoped, will be installed in time for this year's summer break.

- **IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LOCALITY**

COASTING TO SUCCESS - New Romney Coastal Community Team Update

In January 2017, following the receipt of grant funding from The Department for Communities and Local Government, and Magnox, New Romney Town Council steered the formation of a Coastal Community Team (NRCCT). The Team involves representatives from a range of public and private organisations that have demonstrated their commitment to improving the social and economic well-being of the area. These include, Shepway District Council, The Marsh Academy, the Romney Marsh Partnership, New Romney Bowls Club, Romney Marsh Visitor Centre, JAM, RHDR, Love New Romney and others.

Together, with some input from the young leadership team of the Marsh Academy and Regeneris – an Economic Regeneration Consultancy, the Team created a strategic plan for New Romney that embraces four distinct themes: Culture and Leisure, Business & Enterprise, Community & Service and Tourism & Heritage. A number of projects were suggested to help boost the economic regeneration prospects of the Town. These include but are not limited to the new Community Hall & Sports Pavilion, development and enhancement of the RDHR station in New Romney, development of the Mountfield Road industrial estate and creation of a new skills hub, a High Street uplift project, a new Healthcare centre and others. The Plan received approval from the DCLG and NRCCT is now officially recognised as one of approximately 140 Coastal Community Teams around the country.

Many projects are being progressed such as the Community Hall, a new Cinema in the Marsh Academy ('Cinemarsh'), installation of a new bench on St Martin's Field, installation of additional notice boards, and the installation of an all-weather bowls green on the New Romney Bowls Club site. The Team will maintain an overview of the progress being made on all the projects contained within the Plan, and the Plan itself will be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure it meets the aspirations of the local community.

A positive path to success has been established and the Team's focus is encapsulated in the Plan's vision which states:

'New Romney will be a stronger and more dynamic hub of Romney Marsh; promoting and using its strategic location and unique range of shops, services and attractions to increase investment. It will provide a vibrant focal point for those living, working and visiting the area'



IMPROVING LOCAL LEISURE FACILITIES



Two new benches have been installed within the parish during the past year, including a commemorative WW2 bench sited on The Greens at Littlestone and a commemorative Mayoral bench on St. Martin's Field, New Romney.

The Town Council was very pleased to work in close partnership with the 1st New Romney Scout Group to instal the beautiful WW2 bench on The Greens facing out, very appropriately, to the sea and the WW2 Mulberry Harbour.

Thanks to charitable donations from the past Mayor, Councillor Patricia Rolfe, personally and from the Mayor's Charity Fund, it was possible to instal a commemorative Town bench bearing the Mayor's Crest at the corner of St. Martin's Field which recognises the commitment to the Town of New Romney given by Town Mayor's past present and future.

Both benches have provided local residents and visitors alike with very attractive additional seating amenities in beautiful surroundings where they can simply sit, relax and take a few moments of time out.



BUILDING COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Update on Progress with the proposed new Community Hall and Sports Pavilion



Over the past year, significant progress has been made with regard to this long awaited new amenity. The Council's dedicated Project Steering Group has been working with a professional design team which includes Synergy LLP – a project management and costing consultancy - and the award winning Guy Hollaway Architects, who were appointed in January 2017 as lead designers.

The design has now reached RIBA Stage 2 and, in March, the Council voted unanimously to proceed to the next important stage which involves more detailed development of the design and the preparation of all the information required to make a formal submission to the District Council's Planning

Department for approval.

As part of the process, the Team met with District Council Planning Officers in a Pre-App meeting to discuss their professional response to the proposed scheme. The feedback was generally positive with the officers acknowledging the high quality of the building's design.

Some money is already in place, however a funding gap still remains and the Team will now focus strongly on securing a range of grants to deliver this much needed new facility. To that end, a comprehensive Funding Pack and Business Plan has been developed which, together with the New Romney Socio-Economic Plan, should support all future applications and provide evidence both of need and the viability and future sustainability of the new enhanced facility.

Two public engagement events will take place in May during which the Council's Design Team will present the proposed design and listen to feedback from the local community.

GRANT FUNDING SUPPORT

During 2017-18, New Romney Town Council has awarded grant funding as follows:

St. Martin's Field Charity	-	£3,000.00
1 st New Romney Scout Group	-	£ 200.00
JAM on the Marsh	-	£ 250.00
New Romney Sea Cadets	-	£ 450.00
New Romney Country Fayre	-	£ 350.00
HIKent	-	£ 100.00

COMMUNITY EVENTS

During 2017-18, the Town Council also provided two free Community Concerts – an outdoor summer concert on St Martin's Field and an indoor Christmas concert in St. Nicholas Church.

The Town Council also supported a number of Community events – both financially and in kind, including:

New Romney Country Fayre

New Romney Lantern Parade

RNLI Emergency Services Day, Littlestone

RBL commemorative services at the Garden of Remembrance and annual Service of Remembrance

THE GREENS, LITTLESTONE



The Greens, Littlestone, is an area of informal, open space which is owned and maintained by the Town Council and is regularly used for a range of community events and activities, including fun-fairs, fun runs and similar, as well as the very popular Emergency Services Day. 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 2017-18, the following events took place at The Greens:

- 1x Funfair
 - 1x 10K Run hosted by RNLI
 - 1x Emergency Services Day hosted by RNLI
 - 1x Circus
-

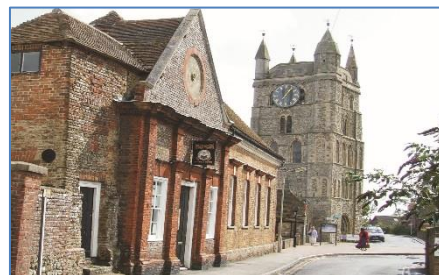
ASSEMBLY ROOMS, NEW ROMNEY

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.newromneytc.co.uk

or contact Ms Anne Williams (Amenities Clerk) at the Town Hall.

Email: amenitiesclerk@newromneytc.co.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 installation of two additional standpipes was recently approved to improve access to water for a number of plot-holders on the extended area of the allotment gardens. It is expected that the standpipes will be installed in the near future.

If you are interested in renting an allotment garden plot or for further information, please go to the Town Council Website: www.newromneytc.co.uk or contact Ms Anne Williams (Amenities Clerk) at the Town Hall.

Email: amenitiesclerk@newromneytc.co.uk Tel: 01797 362348

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 2017-18, served as Representatives on Outside Bodies, as follows:

Organisation	Town Council Representative
Steward for Damian Collins MP	Cllr Mrs E Gould
Town / Coast Ward Councillor Surgery Attendants	Cllr Miss J Hiscock, Cllr Mrs P Metcalfe
Emergency Contacts for Shepway District Council	The Mayor – Cllr P J Coe, Deputy Mayor – Cllr rs P S Rolfe
Floodline Contacts for Environment Agency	Cllr Ms P Snoad, Cllr Miss J M Hiscock
Kent Association of Local Councils	Cllr P J Coe, Cllr M J O'Neill
Lydd Airport Consultative Committee	Cllr P J Coe, Cllr D Lawton, Cllr A Rodriguez
Dungeness Site Stakeholder Group	CllrA Rodriguez, Cllr D Lawton, Cllr P J Coe
NHS / South Kent Coast Clinical Commissioning Group	Cllr Mrs P Rolfe, Cllr Miss J Hiscock
Romney Marsh Network	Cllr Mrs E Gould
Southlands Almshouse Trust	Cllr P J Coe, Cllr Rodriguez, Cllr M J O'Neill
Confederation of Cinque Ports	The Mayor – Cllr P J Coe, Deputy Mayor – Cllr Mrs P S Rolfe, Town Clerk – Mrs C Newcombe
Romney Marshes Area Internal Drainage Board	Cllr P J Coe
Environment Agency	Cllr P J Coe
New Romney Allotment Association	Cllr Ms P Snoad, Cllr M J O'Neill
Romney Marsh Forum	Cllr Mrs P S Rolfe, Cllr Miss J M Hiscock
Mayoral Representative	No permanent representative – appointed as and when required at the discretion of the Mayor



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 and, by appointment, the MP for the Romney Marsh, to discuss any issues that they may wish to raise.

Councillor Surgeries were held during 2017-18, as follows:

Town Ward and Coast Ward:

The Assembly Rooms, Church Approach, New Romney

MP and Town Councillor Surgery – First Friday in every Calendar Month (except August)



COUNCILLOR DETAILS

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

There are currently fifteen Town Councillors, as follows:

Town Ward:

Deputy Mayor - Cllr Mrs P S Rolfe

Councillor Mrs E Gould

Councillor M J O'Neill

Councillor A Rodriguez

Councillor R Tillson

Councillor Ms S Govett

Councillor J Cramp

Councillor J Rivers

Coast Ward:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of new Romney
Councillor P J Coe

Councillor Miss J M Hiscock

Councillor Mrs P Metcalfe

Councillor D Stedham

Councillor Ms P Snoad

Councillor J Picco

Councillor P Thomas

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.newromneytc.co.uk

Alternatively, please contact the Town Clerk:

townclerk@newromneytc.co.uk

Tel: 01797 362348

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2017/18 Budget Analysis

The Town Council's revenue budget for the year 2017/18 is on target to balance, with an anticipated expenditure and income, each comprising £222,797.00. The cost of New Romney Town Council's services for a Band D property for the financial year was £84.72 equating to £7.06 per month or £1.63 per week.

The Town Council's Precept for the year 2018/19 in the amount of £309,507.00 represents an annual cost of £116.35 for New Romney Town Council's services for a Band D property for the year – a total annual increase of £31.63, equating to an increase of £2.64 per month or £0.61 per week on the previous year.

Analysis of Proposed Income and Expenditure for 2018/19

<u>Income</u>	<u>£</u>
New Romney Town and Coast Tax Payers	309,507
Hire of Land and Properties	20,376
Allotment Rents	1,200
Hut & Winch Site Rents	5,250
Other Income	260
Total Income	<u>336,593</u>

Expenditure

Amenities Committee	
Sports Field and Maude Pavilion	2,476
Fairfield Road Recreation Ground	3,866
The Greens	4,130
Flagstaff Land	1,010
Allotment Gardens	1,980
Land at Coney Banks	50
Town Square	80
Garden of Remembrance	741
Assembly Rooms	7,325
Community Hall	1,040
Other	1,195
Reserve Fund Contributions	13,100
Personnel Panel	126,550
Finance & General Purposes Committee	
Town Hall	14,000
Town Hall House	1,250
Insurances	11,000
Legal & Professional Fees	13,000
Donations	5,500
Subscriptions	3,000
Office Equipment	3,000
Computer Maintenance	750
Phone/Internet	1,750
Printing & Stationery	2,000
Public Clock	300
Postage and Petty Cash	2,000
Admin & Miscellaneous (inc. Mayor's/Civic Allowance)	9,750
Bank Charges	1,200
Town Sprucer Scheme	2,000
Payroll Outsourcing	800
Reserve Fund Contributions	91,500
Contingency	10,000
Planning Committee	<u>250</u>

Total Expenditure **336,593**

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 2016/17 are available at the Town Hall for perusal by prior arrangement.

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