



INSIDE: TOWN COUNCIL FUNDING EXPLAINED!

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2013



UPDATE FROM THE DEPUTY MAYOR, COUNCILLOR JENNIFER CRICKMORE-PORTER

As individuals living and working in Tenterden we must all work hard to deserve the accolade ascribed to the town as the "Jewel in the Weald". To keep the town vibrant we must all take responsibility. This means, in my view - take responsibility for your local environment, frequent your local shops or they will fail, and in every way promote tourism. We are a Cinque Port as a limb of Rye, and we should celebrate this as a tourist attraction joined with the other Cinque Ports. If you have suggestions as to how we can do this, please contact the town hall by email at townhall@tenterden.gov.uk

Councillors recognise the varied frustrations of parking in the town and arranged the public meeting with ABC on 6th March. This was very well attended and people were encouraged to voice their opinions. The meeting will now be evaluated by Councillors and recommendations presented to ABC for the future parking strategy, especially in the light of the potential Tent1 development. Shared space is an interesting and controversial consideration. This is operating in Ashford and a similar scheme has been hailed as a great success at a very busy intersection in Poynton in Cheshire, [You can see a video about this scheme at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vzDDMzq7d0>]. Could shared space perhaps stretch from the intersections at East cross to the traffic lights at West cross, thus including the whole of the high street?

We are still awaiting the anticipated outline plan for Tent1. This will be coordinated from the contributions made by diverse groups attending the two workshops and specialist studies. Once these are to hand there will be an open meeting to give everyone a chance to see the suggestions and to make further observations on the development as it unfolds.

The request for a crossing at Oaks Road was considered by KCC and a compromise solution has been proposed. You can read more about this elsewhere in the Newsletter.

The new waste collection service will come into effect in July or August. As a result of the survey undertaken by ABC we understand that, broadly speaking, homes within the Conservation area in the heart of the town will not be offered

wheelie bins. There will also be exemptions for steep or 'awkward' areas, and for reasons of medical need or frailty.

St Michael's Recreation Ground now has a new CCTV system installed, which will be carefully monitored. Antisocial behaviour will not be tolerated and we will try to eradicate dog fouling, in particular where children play, as it is a potential danger for youngsters. We are also looking at installing fencing around the younger children's equipment to keep dogs off that area.

A tree survey in the High Street has been requested to establish the health of the trees, whether they need reducing in height and breadth and to establish whether the roots are damaging adjacent buildings.

One result of the Localism Agenda is the setting up of an Emergency Planning Committee (CEPs community emergency plan). Those taking part will be the obvious emergency bodies plus representatives from other important public groups in St Michaels, Rolvenden and Smallhythe. This is under the guidance of ABC who, along with KCC, have the Master Plan. We are not anticipating a major incident in the area, but we need to know how to react if something does occur.

The attendance of residents at Council meetings is encouraged as we can then gauge your interest in how your town is run. Our debates are held on your behalf and in your interests, so we need to know what you think. We have held six Surgeries during this Mayoral year, providing an opportunity for residents to have a one-to-one discussion with their town councillor. We have agreed that the Annual Town Meeting this year will have a different format. The Mayor and Town Clerk will lead the meeting from the stage, and councillors will sit amongst the public. Gowns will not be worn. This is to emphasise that it is a meeting of the town for the people, not a Town Council meeting.

We are all trying to work hard for the benefit of the town in which we live, and trust that our ambitions reflect your wishes. Please do come along to our regular meetings and express your views, we would love to hear them!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Town Council is seeking public feedback on its Community Engagement Strategy. This important policy explains how the Town Council will go about interacting with the community. The policy can be found on our website (www.tenterden.gov), our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/TenterdenTownCouncil), the town forum (www.tenterdentown.co.uk/forums) or on paper at the Town Clerk's office.

TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION

The election for a new Tenterden Town Councillor will be held on Thursday 2nd May 2013, coinciding with the Kent County Council elections. Residents of South Ward will be asked to vote for a new member to represent them, and it is hoped that this date will ensure a strong turnout, but it is important to remember that the Town Council is non-political. For further details please contact the Town Clerk's office in the Town Hall.

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Chairman: Robin Wade **Vice-Chairman:** Jennifer Crickmore-Porter

Committee Members: Phil Carley, Mike Carter, Henry Edwards, Matthew French, Roger Finniss, Emma Hannett, Michael Hickmott, Justin Nelson, Mike Pearson, Pam Smith, Alan Sugden & Janette Wilson.

Committee meets every 6 weeks.



As you would expect and demand, we aim to provide the very best facilities and services for the town. Year on year we manage to balance our books, but occasionally we need to dip into our reserves to achieve specific projects. For a variety of reasons which I will explain below, this coming year is going to be particularly challenging and we have had to make some tough decisions.

This year, the Town Council is facing three major financial changes brought in by central government. This stems from the Localism Act 2011 and, in order to deal with these challenges and to continue to maintain our service to you, councillors agreed unanimously on 21st January that the part of the Council Tax which householders pay towards Tenterden Town Council, known as the 'precept', must increase substantially. This is to prepare us for the long term effects of these new financial challenges, which are:

- A reduction of 9% in the Concurrent Function Grant that we receive from Ashford Borough Council, and the strong likelihood of its abolition next year;
- A reduction of 8.9% this year in the number of average households which can contribute to paying the precept, causing those that remain to pay a greater share each. This is a result of the government's recent changes to the Council Tax Benefit scheme.
- Our decision to prevent the closure of the public toilets by taking over their running, at an estimated annual cost of £60,000.

The first two changes are beyond the control of the Town Council, and the public toilets decision followed a public meeting in April 2012 which strongly supported the proposal.

A further important challenge to our financial planning is the likely imposition next year of a 3% cap on any future

precept increases. This means that if we delay now, securing replacement funding for our increased costs and our reduced tax base, we risk being unable to make up the shortfall in the future. We have already used up our excess reserves and it would not be wise to dip further into them in the current uncertain climate.

So the Town Council is planning ahead and believes that it makes sense to be pragmatic and increase the precept now in order to preserve services in the future. We very much regret the need to act so firmly now but believe it is the only responsible course.

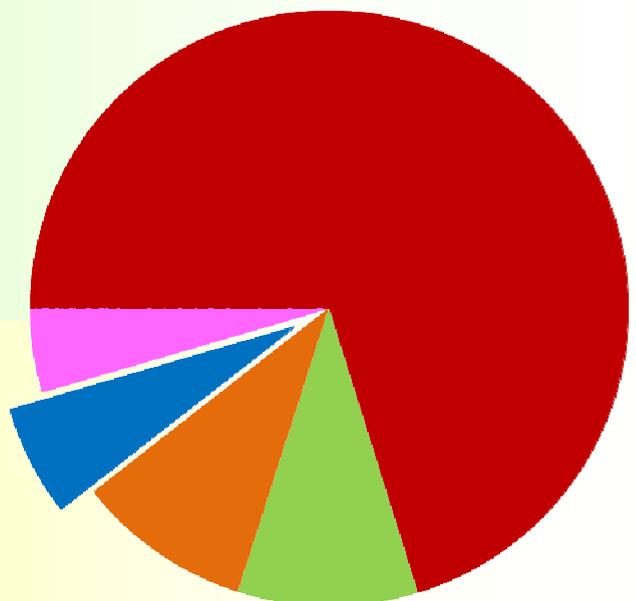
For the financial year April 2013 to March 2014, the Town Council will be asking for a precept of £304,650, a rise of 51% on last year. This means that the average band D household will be paying an extra 68 pence per week in addition to the current £1.05 per week. This rise secures our financial future against the threats we face. If those challenges do not materialise, we will be in a position to consider reductions in the precept in future years.

If the above challenges do not materialise, we will be in a position to consider reductions in the precept in future years. In addition, we are working hard towards increasing the revenues we earn from council facilities and significantly reducing their running costs.

COUNCIL TAX BREAKDOWN

70%	■ Kent County Council	£1047.78
10%	■ Ashford Borough Council	£145.45
9%	■ Police & Crime Commissioner for Kent	£141.47
6%	■ Tenterden Town Council	£90.11
5%	■ Kent & Medway Fire and Rescue	£67.95

Based on a Band D property.



MAY FAYRE

The May Fayre will be held on Tenterden Recreation Ground from midday until 4pm on Monday 6th May 2013. This enormously popular annual event was first held in the year 2000 to celebrate the millennium, and since then has gone from strength to strength. At this year's May Fayre you will find stalls, static vintage vehicles, a dance group, a fun dog show and much more. You can pick up raffle tickets from the Town Hall, Anne Browne of the Chamber of Commerce, Jenners, or Cllrs. Hickmott, Finniss or Carley ahead of the event for just £1 for your chance to win £100!

FACEBOOK

If you are a Facebook user you can get news updates by following the Town Council. Simply visit www.facebook.com/TenterdenTownCouncil.



CROCUSES

This spring you may have noticed crocuses popping up on green areas all over Tenterden. This splash of colour across our town is thanks to the efforts of the Lions Club of Tenterden, its members having put in hours of work to make the town a brighter place!

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you would like to receive future issues of the Town Council Newsletter by email, please send a request to newslettersubscribe@tenterden.gov.uk.

COUNCILLOR PROFILE

Mike Pearson

Michael Pearson was born at Kench Hill Nursing Home in Tenterden and educated at Bethany School, Goudhurst, where he played for the 1st football and rugby teams.

On leaving school Mike began a five year apprenticeship with Maidstone & District Motor Services, beginning a life-long association with buses and heavy goods vehicles which has taken him as far afield as Uganda, Saudi-Arabia and Oman. He is married to Anita, and together they have two adult sons.

In 1992, following in the footsteps of his father who was a Tenterden Borough Councillor, Mike joined the Town Council. In his time he has been the Chairman of the Highways & Amenities and Public Buildings Committees, and held the position of Town Mayor from

DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

15 th April	Annual Town Meeting, Town Hall, 7.30pm
29 th April	Finance & General Purposes and Planning Committees, Town Hall, 7.00pm
2 nd May	South Ward Town Councillor election.
6 th May	May Fayre, Recreation Ground, midday—4pm*
7 th May	Town Council, Planning Committee & Public Buildings Committees, Town Hall, 7.00pm
16 th —17 th May	"The New Electric Ballroom", Tenterden Operatic & Dramatic Society, Town Hall, 7.30pm
20 th May	Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Making Ceremony, Town Hall, 7.00pm
28 th May	Planning and Highways & Amenities Committees, Town Hall, 7.00pm
7 th June	French Market, Recreation Ground*
10 th June	Finance & General Purposes and Planning Committees, Town Hall, 7.00pm
13 th —16 th June	Funfair, Recreation Ground*
24 th June	Town Council, Planning Committee & Public Buildings Committees, Town Hall, 7.00pm
5 th —7 th July	Tentertainment, Recreation Ground*
8 th July	Planning and Highways & Amenities Committees, Town Hall, 7.00pm
18 th —21 st July	Circus, Recreation Ground*
22 nd July	Finance & General Purposes and Planning Committees, Town Hall, 7.00pm

* Events held on the Recreation Ground are subject to weather conditions.

2002 until 2003. Mike loves Tenterden and the surrounding area, and during his time on the Council he has fought to preserve the best things about the town and to improve where necessary. He has seen the area of the town spread dramatically, so it comes as no surprise to him that the town is ready to extend again, in the form of the Tent1 development. Mike is now retired, but keeps himself very busy volunteering his time not only for the Town Council, but also in the Kent & East Sussex Railway locomotive workshop and the Tenterden Scout Group (which he has been involved in since 1982). On top of all this he has taken on a part-time job assisting students learning about motor vehicle engineering.



OAKS ROAD CROSSING

A site meeting was held at Oaks Road on Tuesday 19th February 2013 to assess the suitability of the site for a pedestrian crossing. The meeting was attended by representatives of Tenterden Town Council, Ashford Borough Council, Kent County Council, many local parents, Mr. Graham Summers (on behalf of his mother who is a disabled person), and community website editor Sue Ferguson.

The desire for a Pelican Crossing was discussed, but concerns were raised that this would lead to the loss of a large number of parking spaces, which might in turn encourage traffic to speed up.

It was agreed that a reasonable compromise would be to take out a smaller number of parking spaces to improve visibility to the north east of the crossing and install warning signs in both directions to make drivers aware that pedestrians may be crossing, a dropped kerb on the Recreation Ground side (to match the existing dropped kerb at the Fairings) and tactile paving at both sides of the road.

It is hoped that these measures will enable pedestrians to use the road more confidently and safely.



FOOTBALL PITCH

Poor weather conditions and vandalism have recently rendered the football pitch on Tenterden Recreation Ground out of action. Users will be relieved to know that the care of the Town Council's maintenance team will see it up and running very soon.

PUBLIC TOILETS

Tenterden Town Council has taken over the management of the three public toilets in the town, at Station Road, Tenterden Recreation Ground and St. Michaels Recreation Ground. Residents will see much longer opening hours and greatly improved hygiene standards.

ALLOTMENTS

Many new tenants are getting started on their allotments, the waiting list having gone down considerably this year. Suggestions for a second location for allotments are still sought. Contact the Town Clerk's office if you have any land to spare, or if you would like to be added to the waiting list for an allotment when one becomes available. If your own garden is becoming too much to handle we may be able to put you in touch with a keen gardener from the waiting list, with whom you could come to a private arrangement.

STREET FURNITURE

Following requests from residents the Town Council has arranged the positioning of a bench outside Shop Around the Clock in St. Michaels, a new cycle rack on each side of the High Street and two new dog waste bins at Woodchurch Road and Wayside Avenue. A further bench and dog waste bin are already being planned for West Cross.

CONTACTING THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Council and its officers are always pleased to hear from members of the community on any subject. If you wish to contact them please come into the Town Clerk's office in the Town Hall, which is open from 9.00am until 2.30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and 9.00am until 5.00pm on Thursdays and Fridays. Alternatively you can phone the office on **01580 762271**, email **townhall@tenterden.gov.uk** or visit **www.tenterden.gov.uk**. If you wish to speak directly with a Councillor you can use the telephone numbers or email addresses listed below.

P.E. CARLEY (North)	33 Wealden Avenue, Tenterden, Kent. TN30 6NN	764367	bcarley@btinternet.com
M.C. CARTER (South)	2 Southgate Road, Tenterden, Kent. TN30 7BS	388706	pippa60@talktalk.net
MRS. J. CRICKMORE-PORTER (South)	Quill House, High Street, Tenterden, Kent. TN30 6HT	765630	jcp@btinternet.com
H.H.O. EDWARDS (North)	Eastwell Farmhouse, East Cross, Tenterden, Kent. TN30 6AD	763428	townhall@tenterden.gov.uk
R.G. FINNISS (South)	2 Ashenden Bungalows, Smallhythe Road, Tenterden, Kent. TN30 7NF	763649	finniss2@btinternet.com
M.M. FRENCH (West)	The Annexe, Holly Hey, Ingleden Park Road, Tenterden, Kent. TN30 6NS	765103	matt_cricketlbw@btinternet.com
MRS. E. HANNETT (St. Michaels)	Sylvania, Shoreham Lane, St. Michaels, Tenterden, Kent. TN30 6EG	764843	ehannett@hotmail.co.uk
M.J. HICKMOTT (St. Michaels)	High Force, Grange Road, St. Michaels, Tenterden, Kent. TN30 6EE	766496	m.hickmott43@btinternet.com
MRS. B. MISSELBROOK (St. Michaels)	21 Grange Crescent, St. Michaels, Tenterden, Kent. TN30 6DY	766606	townhall@tenterden.gov.uk
J.P.H. NELSON (North)	66 Rogersmead, Tenterden, Kent. TN30 6LF	765313	justin@nelsonlegal.co.uk
M.J. PEARSON (South)	155 High Street, Tenterden, Kent. TN30 6JS	764413	mikepearson03@yahoo.com
MRS. P. SMITH (St. Michaels)	The Old Malthouse, Swain Road, Tenterden, Kent. TN30 6PS	765081	cllr.smith.tenterden@hotmail.co.uk
A.E. SUGDEN (St. Michaels)	60 Rogersmead, Tenterden, Kent. TN30 6LF	765581	alan@aejf-sugden.co.uk
R.P.A. WADE (North)	Birds Isle, Grange Road, St. Michaels, Tenterden, Kent. TN30 6TL	762169	rw@rwla.com
MRS. J WILSON (West)	6 Gybbons Road, Rolvenden, Kent. TN17 4LL	241170	jbonella@hotmail.co.uk
TOWN CLERK, MRS. H. DEACKES DEPUTY T.C., MRS. A. PATRICK ADMIN ASSISTANT, R. PARHAM SITE MANAGER, A. CLIFTON MTCE WORKER, D. BOURNER	Town Hall, 24 High Street, Tenterden, Kent. TN30 6AN	762271	townhall@tenterden.gov.uk