

SEPTEMBER 2019



TENTERDEN
TOWN COUNCIL



HERITAGE

Bringing Tenterden history to life

PLANNING

Keeping up the fight against speculative developers

Autumn NEWSLETTER

SKATE PARK

THE PRIORITY

An exciting new, high-spec skate-park, which is at the heart of plans to re-design the Recreation Ground, is to open in 2020.

The skate-park has been designed in conjunction with local skateboarders, and will also attract BMX and scooter riders.

The Recreation Ground Focus Group presented their latest ideas to the town council's internal committee in June. Additional changes have since been made, and an exhibition of the plans will be held in the coming weeks at the Town Hall when the public can vote on the scheme.

The re-design, which is scheduled to be rolled out on a phased basis, includes.....

- A youth hub, which has been presented to local young people and youth workers, possibly housed in an eco-friendly building.
- A children's play space, with features such as boulders, climbing walls, zip wire, trampoline and adventure park features.
- New tennis and netball courts, and
- A multi-use games area.

Following the exhibition and analysis of results, the Recreation Ground scheme will go to the Town Council for ratification.

FOOTBALL IN FOCUS

Tenterden's football teams will benefit from a £1,500 subsidy from the Town Council next season, to help them pay fees for hiring the 3G pitch at Homewood School.

In addition, the council has identified an area off Smallhythe Road and undertaken surveys for a new, full-size traditional grass pitch with two smaller training pitches.

The council also agreed to waive fees for hiring the Recreation Ground as a gesture of support for the newly-revived Tenterden Tigers football club, which held a social event for 75 supporters on August Bank Holiday Monday.

The club was forced to disband about a year ago, but has now been successfully relaunched with a growing membership of about 40 young players.

NEW CCTV CAMERAS CUT CRIME

Measures to combat low-level crime and vandalism in the town are paying off, thanks to the installation of improved CCTV cameras, which produce sharper images for facial and number-plate recognition.

Late-night vandalism, such as breaking into public lavatories and smashing shop windows, has declined significantly.

However, Town Clerk Phil Burgess said: "It's an improvement, but we will continue to work with the recently-formed town council Police Forum to ensure Tenterden remains a safe and secure community".

COUNCIL CONTINUES DISCUSSIONS OVER BOWLS CLUB PLANS

Tenterden Town Council is continuing discussions with representatives of the town's Bowls Club over improvements to its clubhouse on the Recreation Ground.

The club has asked the council for help with a £150,000 scheme to expand the clubhouse, and will also be applying for funds to Ashford Borough Council, Kent County Council, Sport England, Bowls England and the National Lottery.

The council has agreed to consider the plans in tandem with the major project to re-order the Recreation Ground which is scheduled to begin next year, and will refer the process to the designers for their suggestions and ideas.

TENTERDEN CELEBRATES ITS CIVIC HISTORY

A fascinating glimpse into Tenterden's rich and colourful history is promised with a three-day exhibition of the town's archives and ceremonial regalia.

The two-centre exhibition is being staged at the Town Hall and Tenterden Museum from Friday 27-Sunday, 29 September.

Among the items on show at the Town Hall will be facsimile pages of the priceless Polychronicon, a 14th century chronicle of history and theology, translated from Latin. It was the first book in English published in the country, and printed by William Caxton in 1480 - the original of the document is kept at Canterbury Cathedral, and Caxton has long been associated with Tenterden.

Also on display will be the ceremonial robes and chains of office worn by Mayors of Tenterden dating back more than 100 years.

The exhibition will focus on about 150 photographs of the town, some well over 100 years old, and a reminder of Tenterden's bucolic past.

More unusual items include....

- Memorabilia from the old Edwards Brewery, once located at the rear of The Vine, from the collection of former councillor Henry Edwards;
- Rare and interesting railway memorabilia loaned by the Colonel Stephens Railway Museum and the Kent & East Sussex Railway.
- Press cuttings of a pageant staged by Homewood School in 1949, and
- A presentation blacksmith's hammer, presented to the town 'smithy' on his retirement in 1920. The old forge and associated buildings are now

occupied by semi-detached houses, the oak and pine shop and Badsha Indian restaurant.

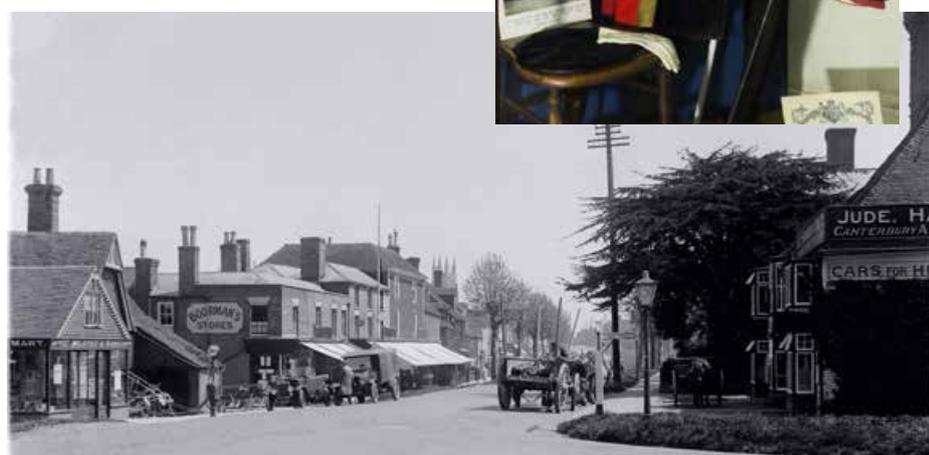
Visitors to the Tenterden Museum in Station Road can discover....

- The elaborate and colourful robes worn by Stanley Day at the Queen's coronation in 1953 – as the Mayor of Tenterden he received an invitation to attend as a Baron of the Cinque Ports, a role held today by our current Mayor Cllr Jean Curteis.
- A plaster bust of Samuel Tilden, scion of a celebrated Tenterden family, who became Governor of New York in 1874, and almost became the 19th President of the United States two years later. He won the popular vote by more than 200,000 and it looked as if he would win the electoral vote as well. But after much controversy, Rutherford B. Hayes was elected President instead.
- A drum made in 1798 for the Cinque Ports Volunteers, Tenterden's militia, ready to take up arms against a threatened invasion by Napoleon's armies.

■ Hop tokens, the currency given by local farmers to hop-pickers in the early-to-mid 20th century, which could only be spent in certain shops and pubs, and....

■ Artefacts from the town's Fire Brigade and Police, including a cat o' nine tails for dispensing summary justice to local villains!

The Town Hall exhibition is open from 11am-4pm on Friday, 27 September, and 10am-4pm on Saturday and Sunday, 28 and 29 September, admission by brochure and raffle ticket £1 for adults, free for children. The Museum is open 11am-4.30pm on the same days, admission £2 for adults, free for children.



NEW REPORTS COMMISSIONED FOR CINEMA PROJECT

Plans for a new cinema in Tenterden have taken a step forward with the Town Council agreeing to fund pre-application advice from Kent County Council Highways and a Heritage Environment Record from Wessex Archaeology.

A pre-planning application for the cinema had been sent to Ashford Borough Council (ABC) for approval, outlining the plans produced by specialist designers Burrell Foley Fischer for a two-screen digital cinema and café at The Pebbles, the 17th century building in the High Street.

Their report outlined several key criteria for the cinema, including improved footfall on the High Street, and stated that it honoured the legacy of the building's original owner, Alice Wood, that it should provide amenity to local residents. The report received broadly supportive input from Historic England South East.

The borough council has asked for the two additional reports and the August meeting of Tenterden Town Council's planning committee voted expenditure of £2,515 to commission the new reports.

FESTIVAL FUN FOR 2020

Next year promises to provide the most exciting-ever programme of Tenterden festivals and events

The Tentertainment music and food festival is scheduled to return on July 3-5 after a two-year break, while the Spirit of Tenterden beer and food festival has confirmed it will be returning for a second year on August 21-23. Volunteers who would like to help organise the 2020 Spirit event should contact www.spiritoftenterden.co.uk

In combination with annual events such as the Folk Festival, May Fayre, Christmas Market and Tributes In The Park at St Michaels - all of which are supported financially by the Town Council – Tenterden is hosting a family-friendly programme appealing to residents and drawing in thousands of visitors.

URGENT REPAIRS FOR TOWN HALL

Tenterden Town Council is to take urgent action to halt the continuing decay of the Town Hall roof, which has led to regular leaks through the ceiling of the Mayor's Parlour.

Built in 1792 and one of the town's most iconic landmarks, the Town Hall is subject to problems associated with old listed buildings, and is scheduled for complete restoration and re-design as part of the town's four major improvement projects..

However, the Kent peg tile roof is now in such a decayed state, particularly over the Mayor's Parlour, minstrel's gallery and assembly room landing, that it requires immediate replacement.

The work will be put out to competitive tender, and carried out under the supervision of architects Theis and Khan, who are continuing to refine design plans for the Town Hall.



MESSAGE FROM THE **MAYOR**



Here, the Mayor of Tenterden, Cllr Jean Curteis, outlines her objectives for her year in office.

Reminders of Tenterden's colourful history are all around us, but there is one family connection extra special to me - an S. Curteis is recorded in the Town Hall as the town's Mayor and Bailiff in 1648.

He was an ancestor of my husband, David, whose Tenterden family roots go back as far as the 15th century, so it's a pleasure to know that at the end of my year in office another Curteis will be added to the record. But before that, I have lots to do!

I have nominated the Tenterden Social Hub, which does marvellous work for our disadvantaged and lonely, and Riding for the Disabled at Woodchurch as my charities for the year. Local good causes serving both ends of the age spectrum and at the heart of our rural community.

I look forward to representing the town at functions held by the other Cinque Ports, the ancient confederation which includes

towns such as Hastings, Rye, New Romney and Winchelsea, as well as other events across the county.

But most of all, I intend my mayoralty to be truly 'local', and much of that will involve my work with Tenterden Town Council. We have a terrifically exciting programme coming up, not least seeing the first fruits of the major projects chosen by residents. The skatepark, the first feature of our new-look Recreation Ground, is on schedule to be built next year, while emergency repairs are soon to begin on our lovely Town Hall (see story opposite page).

We have a significant budget to deliver these projects, which also includes a potential new cinema, but we need to ensure every penny is spent wisely.

The year ahead also promises to be particularly busy in our efforts to preserve the town's natural green spaces and deter speculative developers, while, on the lighter side, we have a busier-than-ever programme of festivals and social events.

I have always believed that Tenterden's Mayor should represent the town with pride, but also with modesty. I am very aware of the enormous efforts put in by so many people in Tenterden and St Michael's coming together to create a better future for us all, and I look forward to contributing to that, and helping where I can.

PLANS IN PROGRESS FOR TOURISM AND TRADE STRATEGY

Further progress has been made on a long-term strategy to boost tourism and trade in the town.

A scheme for a High Street Health Check – a programme of maintenance and housekeeping measures, with the objective of improving visitors' and residents' experience, encouraging footfall, and benefitting businesses – is being worked on by councillors.

This initiative will complement the Tenterden Destination Management Plan, commissioned last year as a tourism and business blueprint for the future, and a job specification for a new Tenterden Town Centre Manager is being drafted, and Ashford Borough Council's advice is being sought before officially advertising the post

Meanwhile, work is being commissioned to mend the paving at East Cross Gardens, adjoining The Fairings.

CYCLING

Town councillor Justin Nelson, David Young of cycling authority Sustrans and representatives of Ashford Borough Council have met to discuss a provisional route for a new Tenterden cycleway.

Talks are at an early stage, and Cllr Nelson is keen to recruit new members onto the working group examining the project. If you are interested, please contact him by email cllr.nelson@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk

PLANNING

Extensive proposals to build hundreds of new homes in Tenterden are being vigorously opposed by the Town Council, supported by the town's recently-formed Neighbourhood Plan team and the 'Keeping Tenterden Green' campaign group.

The council issued a statement saying it had been clear and consistent in opposing plans by Wates to build homes on the 'Limes Land' site between Appledore and Woodchurch roads.

The statement added: "Some 500 new houses are already being built in the town. The Wates proposals would add a further 250 homes, and that is on top of plans by other builders for 100 new homes at Tilden Gill and a 56-bed care home with 23 units for assisted living at Westwell Court.

"Together, these developments are simply not sustainable for a community the size of Tenterden. Put simply, enough is enough."

The council's position has been supported by the Neighbourhood Plan steering committee. In a letter to the council, committee chair Richard Masefield pointed out that the 'Limes Land' site is bounded by an

officially-designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Tenterden Conservation Area and ancient woodland.

He added that the proposed development would have a significant effect upon the environment; that the land was of historic and cultural importance, and that an Environmental Impact Assessment in advance of any planning application was "entirely justified".

Regarding the Tilden Gill 'reserved matters' application, the council wrote to the Planning Inspectorate objecting to Redrow's decision to appeal due to non determination and submitting a sub standard plan.

The council requested that the original application run its course, and in July this was approved by Ashford Borough Council. The Town Council is now awaiting confirmation that the appeal has been withdrawn.

WEDDINGS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS COUNCIL WEBSITE FEATURES HALLS FOR HIRE

If you're looking to hire a local venue for a wedding or a conference, a celebration or a seminar then the latest feature on the Town Council website – www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk – provides you with all the information you need.

A new menu item, Hireable Spaces, lists local halls/venues for hire, whether council, community or privately-owned, with details of room size, guest numbers, catering arrangements, disabled access and contact details, as well as the availability of the Tenterden and St Michaels recreation grounds.

Says Deputy Town Clerk Claire Gilbert: "We have a great range of places to hire, and this feature pulls all the relevant information together for the first time".

LOVE GARDENING? THE TOWN COUNCIL WANTS TO HEAR TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Town Council is to hire a new gardener to help the town's maintenance team, in particular to maximise the appeal of borders and beds outside Boots and the Station Road toilets, East Cross and the Millennium Gardens.

The paid post would be suitable for an amateur gardener with Royal Horticultural Society qualifications or a professional gardening company.

In the first instance, applicants should email townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk, tel 01580 762271.

£5,000 GRANT FOR TOWN'S FIRST NATURE HABITAT

The council has voted a budget of £5,000 to help create a wildlife habitat at Kiln Field, and work has already begun to provide a beautiful, sustainable and accessible natural resource for the whole community.

The council's maintenance team are working with volunteers on an action plan provided by Kent Wildlife Trust.

The grass is being left uncut to see what plants grow through the seasons, while the focus has turned to the pond, which is providing its own challenges as its water is being drained by nearby willow trees.

In due course, the pond will be cleared and re-stocked with flora and fauna.

The willows that have been removed will become 'bug hotels', providing shelter for insects, and the Kiln Field team have identified wildflower areas, including verges in Appledore Road, Chalk Avenue and St Michaels, for the natural growth of wildflowers and grasses, part of Tenterden's continuing drive to make the town as ecologically and environmentally friendly as possible.

There are plans to involve local children with the Kiln Field project, with a series of 'discovery days' arranged through local schools.

Kiln Field was formerly managed by Ashford Borough Council, and is the first site for a nature habitat in Tenterden, with plans also being put forward for a similar scheme at the disused Coombe Lane cemetery.

COUNCIL RESPONDS TO SPEEDING CONCERNS WITH NEW SID PURCHASE

Continuing concern about speeding on roads in and around Tenterden resulted in a decision by the Town Council's external committee to purchase another Speed Indicator Device (SID).

A letter to the council from Tenterden Speedwatch Co-ordinator Ros Debling reported that in June alone, 147 vehicles were recorded exceeding the speed limit with details being passed on to the Kent Police database.

There are currently three static unmanned SID posts located in Woodchurch Road, Beacon Oak Road and Smallhythe Road. A single mobile unit is shared between three active Speedwatch groups, and there is soon to be another in Rolvenden Road.

The committee voted expenditure of £2,145 for the purchase of the new SID.

SHOPS AND OFFICES PLAN FOR STATION ROAD SITE

The Town Council has submitted a planning application to Ashford Borough Council to re-model the public toilets in Station Road, retaining the toilets but adding four new retail or office units.

The objective is to generate rental income from the new properties for the council, to reduce its reliance on council tax, as well as providing new business opportunities.

An original suggestion to include a hot food takeaway will be excluded from the plans.

BACKING FOR TENTERDEN'S YOUTH

The Town Council has voted £4,000 to continue support for the town's youth club, after funding from the Zion Baptist Church ended in July.

The decision means the club can continue to operate at its Highbury Hall headquarters, and represents the latest backing from the council for Tenterden's young people.

The council have paid £6,000 to meet staff wages at the club's youth café, and recently voted £20,000 to fund a new youth worker.

NEW COUNCILLOR

Russel Parkin of Appledore Road has been co-opted as the Tenterden Town Councillor for West Ward.

Mr Parkin, who served on the council in the late '90s before stepping down because of his work commitments as a technical manager for a fruit company, is married with four children and lists gardening, rugby and family as his main interests.

Mr Parkin says he will be principally focussed on Tenterden's planning issues and financial accountability.



MEETINGS SCHEDULE

There are plenty of opportunities to see your Town Council in action, and all of the following council and committee meetings are held in public.

The Planning Committee considers all applications affecting property in Tenterden, from a single house extension to major new housing developments, and makes recommendations before going to Ashford Borough Council for determination.

The Internal Committee discusses finance, public engagement, and council-owned property.

The External Committee deals with liaison with outside organisations such as the Folk Festival, and items such as the 'caretaker scheme' which includes tending the town's green spaces.

Town Council ratifies decisions made by the Committees, accepts general representations from members of the public,

Kent Police, Community Warden and council representatives on local organisations.

You are welcome to attend any of these meetings and in addition, informal Coffee

Mornings are held at the Town Hall where you can meet your local councillor and talk about any issues you may have.

Here is the schedule of meetings for the next few months:

7th October 2019	Planning
14th October 2019	External, Internal – from 7pm
19th October 2019 (Sat)	Meet Your Councillors Coffee Morning – 10am to 12 noon
4th November 2019	Planning
11th November 2019	Town Council, Internal, External – from 7pm
2nd December 2019	Planning
9th December 2019	External, Internal – from 7pm
14th December 2019 (Sat)	Meet Your Councillors Coffee Morning – 10am to 12 noon

Tenterden Town Council welcomes comments and feedback on its activities. Here is how to get in touch:

If you would like to contact your local councillor, please feel free to call or email.

- By email: townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
- By phone: 01580 762271
- By post: Town Hall, 24 High Street, Tenterden TN30 6AN
- Via the website: www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
- In person: Visit us at the Town Hall, 9am-3pm, Monday to Friday.

Mike Carter (North)	Caxton Cottage, 12 West Cross, TN30 6JL	01580 388709	cldr.carter@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Victor Cole (St. Michaels)	35 Henley Fields, TN30 6EL	07778 668894	cldr.cole@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
John Crawford (South)	2 Stace Close, TN30 6RP	07779 630013	cldr.crawford@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Jean Curteis (St. Michaels)	38 Henley Fields, TN30 6EL	07799 765730	cldr.curteis@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Sue Ferguson (North)	2 St. Benets Court, TN30 6QS	01580 765546	cldr.ferguson@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Amy Gardner (South)	6 Bells Lane, TN30 6ES	07901 615928	cldr.gardner@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Harry Hickmott (St. Michaels)	High Force, Grange Road, TN30 6EE	01580 766496	cldr.hickmott@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Callum Knowles (South)	57 Shrubcote, TN30 7BG	07810 155686	cldr.knowles@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Lisa Lovelidge (South)	57 Shrubcote, TN30 7BG	07733 318836	cldr.lovelidge@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Ken Mulholland (St. Michaels)	Dering Court, Grange Road, TN30 6DT	01580 762827	cldr.mulholland@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Justin Nelson (North)	66 Rogersmead, TN30 6LF	01580 765313	cldr.nelson@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Russel Parkin (West)	7 Appledore Road, TN30 7AY	07815 055504	cldr.parkin@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Roger Quinton (North)	Top Meadow, Woodchurch Road, TN30 7AD	07956 805117	cldr.quinton@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Pam Smith (St. Michaels)	The Old Malthouse, Swain Road, TN30 6PS	01580 765081	cldr.smith@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Alan Sugden (North)	60 Rogersmead, TN30 6LF	01580 765581	cldr.sugden@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Kate Walder (West)	Potts Farm, Chennell Park Road, TN30 6XA	07389 110611	cldr.walder@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk
Town Clerk's office	Town Hall, 24 High Street, TN30 6AN	01580 762271	townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk