



HYTHE TOWN COUNCIL

Annual Town Report 2014/15



www.hythetc.kentparishes.gov.uk
admin@hythe-kent.com

INTRODUCTION FROM THE MAYOR

I am very pleased to be presenting this report towards the end of my second year as Mayor of this wonderful town. We have achieved a great deal in the last 12 months and the highlights of the year are presented in this Annual Report. I have attended 102 events on behalf of the Town and Town Council during the course of the last year and I would mention in particular the Hythe Festival which was held in the summer of 2014 which provided a range of diverse forms of entertainment for everyone, both residents and visitors alike. We now look forward to the future and in particular the spectacular Hythe Venetian Fete. As from May 2015, the Town hosts the Speakership of the Cinque Ports and plans are already in train for events to mark this occasion. The untimely death of Councillor Mrs Keren Belcourt in December marked a sad loss to the Town Council, to her family and to Hythe.



Councillor Alan Smith
Town Mayor

HYTHE GREEN PLAY AREA

Children and Town Council Members celebrated the opening of the new play area on the Green in October 2014. The new Junior and Senior play area had been the result of careful planning and consultation to ensure it contained what the young users and their parents wanted.

Top features include a Zip Wire, new multi-play unit, new swings, rockers which included DDA compliant equipment and a very popular play tunnel and earth mound.

The Council will be putting in a new access to the play area in the new financial year - to include a wheelchair access seat.



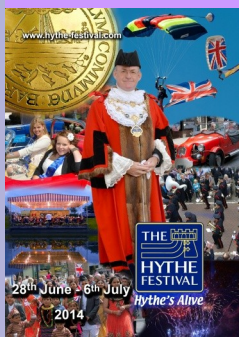
NEW WEBSITE

The Town Council has recently constructed its new website.

Its features include a news section, events and all the details of the Town Council's operations and its meetings. Please visit www.hythetc.kentparishes.gov.uk for the latest information.

Community Events & Other Grants Awarded

The following grants have been awarded by the Town Council during 2014/15, including S106 event funds:



Hythe Festival 2014	£5,000
Hythe in Bloom	£3,000
Summer Events in the High Street	£1,980
Late Night Shopping	£2,000
Hythe Rotary	£250
Hythe Venetian Fete	£2,000
TOTAL	£14,230

Footnote: £7,000 has been allocated to the Hythe Venetian Fete for the forthcoming Fete in August 2015, £2,000 towards the Christmas lighting display and £1,500 for Hythe in Bloom—all from the Town Council's revenue budget. See Page 5.



Sports and Community Facilities at South Road

There has been an increase in football use for the 2014/15 season, with 27 "home" teams playing at South Road in this current season to date – 11 senior and 16 junior teams. This is as a direct result of the Town Council expanding its football pitches to accommodate two additional mini pitches as well as three 9x9 pitches within the three adult pitches.

We currently have x 18 FA Charter Standard teams playing at South Road. This is an increase of 6 over the 2013/14 figures. Of these, 14 Charter Standard teams are from the Stars and

Stripes FC and two adult teams have also Charter Status. At the recent Football Foundation Healthcheck the site achieved a "Very Good" standard mark which equates to exceeding expectations. The report states: "The site is extremely well run with good progression and plans for the future. The site is doing well in terms of football development and will look to construct a new Football Development Plan".

The Town Council continues to provide tennis and bowls as public facilities with the season starting at the Easter weekend and the main season commencing at the end May for the Spring Bank holiday and then the courts and bowling green will be open until the middle of September.

The upper suite of the Pavilion continues to be very well used with regularly over 30 bookings per month. Please contact Mrs Wendy Lee at wendy.lee@hythe-kent.com or Tel 01303 266152 to book or arrange a viewing.

Bandstand Concerts

The Town Council continues to run its popular band programme with performances during the course of the last summer providing a large array of music. A similar programme is planned for the forthcoming season. The programme runs from 24th May to 31st August which includes Bank Holidays. Details of the band concerts are available on the Council's website. Contact us on admin@hythe-kent.com for more details.



Town Hall Refurbishment



The Town Hall, which is a Grade II star listed building, is undergoing an extensive makeover. It has had new carpeting laid in the Chamber and it is being externally re-decorated with repairs to its major sash windows.

Weddings are now held on a regular basis with 7 ceremonies in the current financial year. Further information can be obtained from Mrs Margaret Stewart at Hythe Town Council to book this historic venue - Margaret.Stewart@hythe-kent.com

The Town Hall is also available for general hire—Tel 01303 266152.

Hythe Skatepark

After consultation with Skatepark users the Town Council has recently installed a grind box and rail at the Skatepark to complement the other equipment which comprises a half-pipe, flatbanks quarter pipes and other related equipment. The Council has also installed a recycling bin which enables users to sort out glass, plastics etc.

Pictured are the Mayor & Chairman of the F & GP Committee and other Council Members.



Community Development Projects

The Town Council continues its programme for the development of community facilities and it has allocated £50,000 from its capital budget to the following projects which are due for implementation in the new financial year: Oaklands play area improvements, outdoor gym equipment in Oaklands, sports-wall at Eaton Lands, a new town sign at Seabrook and path works on the Green.



Town Council Tax Held Down

Hythe Town Council Precept has been held at last year's level. The average cost for a Local Council in Shepway is £0.03 in every £ of tax paid by ratepayers, compared with £0.69 for KCC, £0.15 for SDC, £0.09 and £0.04 for the Police and Fire Services respectively.

Town Council Allotment Sites

Recent allotment inspections have revealed that the allotment sites are all in reasonably good shape. The Council has 150 plots and there are currently 8 vacant plots available for rent at a variety of sites. Contact the office for further details - wendy.lee@hythe-kent.com



Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Town Council has annual appointees to other organisations and the Town Council is very grateful to those Members who have served this year on the following bodies:

Age Concern	Hythe Chamber of Commerce / Tourism Forum
Hythe Twinning Association	Kent Association of Local Councils
Shepway Tourist Action Group	Hospital of St Bartholomew and St John
Hythe Institute Fund	Hythe Sick Fund
Anne Peirson Trust	Newington Unknown Donor's Charity
Wakefield Bequest	

Thanks are due to all the above local organisations and to the others that work so hard on the Town's behalf.

Your Hythe Town Councillors :

EAST WARD



Cllr R Belcourt
37 Earlsfield Road, Hythe CT21 5PF
reg@belcourt.co Tel: 01303 264 815



Cllr D Owen
4 Lower Blackhouse Hill, Hythe CT21 5LS
davidlgowen@aol.com Tel: 01303 260 682



Cllr A Smith, Mayor
7 Fisher Close, Hythe CT21 6AB
alansmith1953@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01303 260 735

SOUTH WARD



Cllr A Mayne
6 Penrose Court, Stade Street, Hythe CT21 6DZ
alec@mayne73.freemove.co.uk Tel: 01303 262 757



Cllr Mrs A Mayne
6 Penrose Court, Stade Street, Hythe CT21 6DZ
alec@mayne73.freemove.co.uk Tel: 01303 262 757/07967625499



Cllr J Schoner, Chairman F&GP Committee
10 Tower Gardens, Hythe CT21 6DG
John.schoner@sky.com Tel: 01303 266 024

Cllr R Watson Osborne, 2 Victoria Road, Hythe CT21 6DR
Rick.watson3@virgin.net Tel: 01303 260 597

NORTH WARD



Cllr M Dearden
Highways, Cliff Road, Hythe CT21 5XA
emdearden@btinternet.com Tel: 01303 264 581



Cllr A Ewart-James
Lewty Barn, Cliff Road, Hythe CT21 5XN
alancouncil@aol.com Tel: 01303 265 316



Cllr M Lyons
Cragside, 67 Turnpike Hill, Hythe CT21 4SE
michael.lyons@shepway.gov.uk Tel: 07540 672 112



Cllr W Peacock
Waymakers, 44a Bartholomew Street, Hythe CT21 5BY
waymaker@ntlworld.com Tel: 01303 266 172

WEST WARD



Cllr J Griffiths
Woodpeckers, Cannongate Rd, Hythe CT21 5PT
Tel 01303 265 036
johnandrosemarygriffiths@btinternet.com



Cllr R Griffiths, Deputy Mayor
Woodpeckers, Cannongate Rd, Hythe CT21 5PT
rjgriffiths1@btinternet.com Tel 01303 265 036



Cllr S Hayward
5 Martins Way, Hythe CT21 6QU
Tel: 01303269 835 / 07923 498 440



Cllr P Peacock
Waymakers, 44a Bartholomew Street, Hythe CT21 5BY
Paul.ap@ntlworld.com Tel: 01303 266 172

Financial Summary

2014/15 Budget Analysis

The Town Council's revenue budget for the year 2014/15 is on target to balance, with an anticipated expenditure and income, each comprising £487k. The cost of Hythe Town Council's services for a Band D property for the financial year was £52.75 which equates to just over £1.00 per week. The Council's Precept for the financial year 2015/16 is set to remain unaltered and so there will be no Local Council tax increase.

Analysis of Proposed Income and Expenditure for 2015/16 £000s

Where the money comes from

	Budget
Hythe Tax Payers	287,340
Local Council Tax Support Grant	26,114
Revenue Reserves and Contingency	15,000
Hire of Sports & Recreational Facilities	27,360
Hire of Land and Properties	50,205
Allotment Rents	9,909
Car Parking	4,807
Other Income	1,660
Total Income	422,395

Where the money is spent

Administration Support Services	137,845
Insurances, Business Rates, Utility, Subscriptions, Fees, Other Costs	70,851
Community Development Projects & Planning — from Capital see below	
Grounds and Allotments Maintenance	48,103
Property & Equipment	29,355
CCTV	33,104
Grants	34,250
Civic, Recreation & Demographic Activities	24,866
Public Works Loan Board and other Borrowings / Rent	23,559
Contingency	15,000
IT Websites and Support Services	5,462
Total Expenditure	422,395

The Town Council is fully accountable to residents each year at the Annual Town Meeting which is due to be held on Thursday 23rd April at Hythe Town Hall commencing at 7.00pm where the audited accounts for the year 2013/14 will be available and where an outline report on the year 2014/15 will be presented. The Town Council also operates a Capital Budget statement which was approved in January 2015, details of which are available from the Council Offices and which include community development projects to the value of £50,000 which are to be paid for from unallocated capital reserves please see Page 3.