

**P3 / Embracing change**

our council is addressing the opportunities arising from new technology and legislation change head on.

**P6 / Support for the community**

See how we managed concerts, sport and other events last year.

**P11 / Performance**

Discover how the council plans to spend your money, and see how much of your council tax goes to Hythe Town Council

**P12 / Demographics**

Find out about your ward, the gender mix inside council, and the town's population.



HYTHE Town Council

ANNUAL REPORT

2017 / 2018

Democratic process

Another title for town mayor is 'first citizen' which reflects the essentially democratic nature of the role.

First there is the election as a town councillor, then a need to show fellow elected representatives that you are capable of taking on this demanding role. At the annual statutory meeting of the council, every councillor then has a single vote for the person they would like to be town mayor for the following civic year.

Open to everyone

When I was elected to be town mayor of Hythe in May 2017 I was both humbled and honoured. I work for a local employer - in my case, Hythe Ranges. Yet through democratic process and hard work, I was elected to the mayoralty of our beautiful town, and I have thoroughly enjoyed the past year.

Tolerance of other views

I cannot ignore that issues such as Princes Parade and other proposed developments have been divisive. There are strongly held opinions both for and against. I have great respect for residents who argue logically and politely on these important issues whether I agree with them or not. Politeness and tolerance go a long way toward improving mutual understanding.

Volunteers

As town mayor, I meet many groups and organisations that contribute to life in town. We are fortunate to benefit from a lot of volunteers in Hythe. The work that volunteers carry out – from running clubs, events and organisations, to organising the car boot sales and our famous Hythe Venetian Fete and Hythe Festival - is immense and *(continued on page 2)*



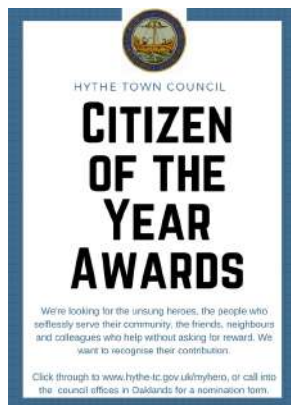
RT WORSHIPFUL COUNCILLOR PAUL PEACOCK
TOWN MAYOR OF HYTHE 2017 / 2018



(continued from page 1) adds huge value to our town. That's one reason why I was keen to instigate the inaugural Hythe Citizen of the Year Awards announced at this year's annual town meeting.

Mayoral activity, civic year 2017/2018

Civic activity from the town mayor is essential. While most of these events are enjoyable, the aims are to keep the town's profile high with neighbouring communities, to promote local organisations and institutions and to raise money for local charities.



May 2017

- 1st Rye mayor making
- 3rd Ramsgate mayor making
- 6th Mayor of Ashford dinner and dance London Beach Hotel
- 7th Round the Houses races in Hythe
- 8th Faversham mayor making
- 10th Shepway appointment of the chair
- 11th Hythe mayor making and annual statutory meeting
- 12th Folkestone mayor making
- 15th New Romney mayor making
- 17th Hawkinge mayor making
- 19th Gurkha concert at the Leas Cliff Hall
- 22nd Hand over of the Speakership of the Cinque Ports
- 24th Beating the Retreat and afternoon tea Brompton Barracks
- 25th Event in memory of the first Gotha attack in Folkestone
- 26th Lydd mayor making
- 27th Australian Salvation Army band in Hythe

June 2017

- 1st Cinque Port Mayors bowls competition
- 5th Reception with Bishop Trevor at Canterbury Cathedral
- 6th KCC civic dinner at Maidstone
- 17th Tenterden armed forces day
- 18th Civic Sunday
- 20th Photo opportunity at the Hythe Town Ranges
- 22nd Full council meeting
- 24th Armed Forces Day in Hythe
- 30th Canada Day at Shorncliffe military cemetery

July 2017

- 1st Folkestone Choral Society at St Leonard's Church
- 2nd New Romney civic service
- 4th High Sheriff's garden party in Hadlow
- 7th Art Society at the Tin Tabernacle in Hythe
- 8th Lord Warden's reception at Walmer castle
- 29th Country Fayre at New Romney and Hythe Festival proms

August 2017

- 3rd Full council meeting
- 16th Venetian Fete in Hythe

September 2017

- 1st Civic Working group
- 2nd Faversham hop festival
- 12th Shepway Volunteers Bureau AGM in Folkestone

- 14th Full council meeting
- 19th Hythe Bay School and concert at St Leonard's church

October 2017

- 4th Hythe Twinning AGM at the town hall
- 6th Kent Justices service
- 7th Cinque Ports Speaker's Day, Sandwich
- 8th Margate civic service
- 12th Visit to the Battle of Britain museum in Hawkinge
- 13th Deal charter day and Friends of Tynwald at Brockhill
- 14th Faversham carnival
- 20th Town mayors visiting the Hythe Ranges
- 21st Hythe Twinning lunch
- 26th Full council meeting

November 2018

- 4th Folkestone & Hythe orchestral society Folkestone
- 7th Visit to the Cutty Sark in Greenwich
- 11th Youth Festival of Remembrance at the Leas Cliff hall
- 12th Remembrance Sunday
- 16th Visit to the Channel Tunnel and full council meeting
- 19th Light of Love at St Leonard's church
- 24th Tenterden Christmas lights
- 30th Brockhill School dance performance

December 2017

- 1st Late night shopping in Hythe
- 2nd Concert at St Leonard's to support Hythe festival
- 8th Lydd Christmas reception
- 10th Folkestone Symphony Orchestra in Sandgate
- 14th Reception in St. Barts in Hythe
- 18th Sea Cadet presentation in Hythe
- 20th Shepway District Council Christmas reception
- 21st Full council meeting
- 25th Salvation Army and delivering mince pies

January 2018

- 7th Blessing of the Seas in Margate
- 18th Beavers visit to the town hall
- 25th Extraordinary council meeting
- 26th Quiz night in Broadstairs

February 2018

- 1st Full council meeting
- 4th HTCB swing band event at Hythe Bay School
- 7th Charity dinner at Tenterden
- 19th Folkestone Hythe Sea cadet's presentation
- 23rd Charity fun night in Folkestone

March 2018

- 15th Full council meeting
- 20th The Lord Lieutenant's civic service Canterbury Cathedral
- 22nd Charity event at the House of Commons

April 2018

Information not available at time of going to press.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list as it does not include shop openings and some local award presentations.



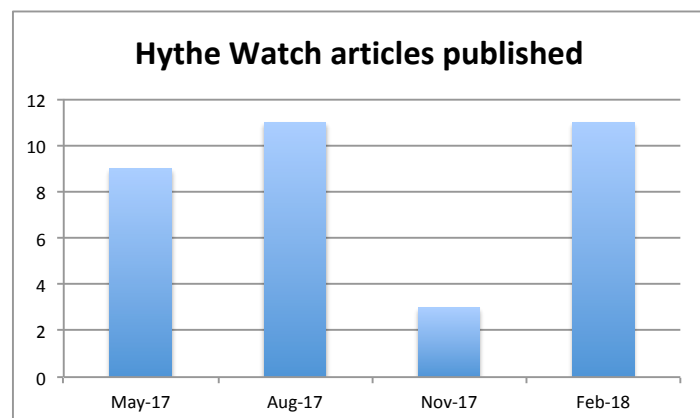
Investing in your digital future

The government requires councils to operate a website. We relaunched ours with a new address at www.hythe-tc.gov.uk in 2017 with a new content management system, more content, better organisation and more frequent updates. We measure traffic volumes on the site, and it is achieving record levels. Part of the reason for having a content-rich website is to make room for much more information. We don't have anything to hide, and in the long term, by providing as much information as we can, we aim to increase public trust in local council activity.

- While the Transparency Code obliges us to publish all expenditure over £500, we have gone beyond the base requirement and publish every single invoice on line.
- You can see annual reports of the contribution from Portland Road carpark which helps to keep your precept down.
- Minutes of every meeting since 2014 are published as soon as they are approved.
- Details of every councillor, the committees they are members of, their declarations of interest and more is regularly updated at every change.
- The front page news story is linked from our Twitter account @Hythe_TC, and we keep a library of images on our Flickr account for journalists and researchers to use. You can see all this and more by clicking through to www.hythe-tc.gov.uk, following us on twitter.com/Hythe_TC or search Flickr for 'Hythe Town Council'.

News and views

Over the last two years, we have stepped up our communications. We publish a quarterly newsletter called 'Hythe Watch' which is distributed to households inside Hythe Life magazine. The newsletter is also printed digitally, published on the website and repurposed for other publicity where possible.



General Data Protection Regulations

If you're involved in any size of business, charity or voluntary association you'll know that all organisations of whatever size must comply with the new regulations ("GDPR"), and many dread the extra burden it adds. Yet the advantages are clear. It has caused organisations to thoroughly consider whether they properly treats peoples' data seriously and confidentially. It

brings together the dual concepts of privacy and transparency and for that reason we enthusiastically support it.

The council has been auditing its data, destroying personal information that it has no legitimate use for, and implementing a new policy of record keeping that ensures it both retains vital historical records and deletes content that is no longer relevant to the council's business. Like every other organisation, the council has found the process of change traumatic, but it has been a major contribution to ensuring that information systems are fit for 21st century needs.

Recording and live broadcasts

Several times in the last year, members of the public have let us know that they intend to record a council meeting. The council is supportive of bloggers and others with an interest in recording meetings. Council business is open to the public and councillors are accountable to the electorate. We are happy to work with camera operators to find a location that does not interfere with the meeting itself, gives good lighting and sound and provides privacy to members of the public who do not wish to be recorded.

To improve the ability to live stream meetings, the council has installed free to use wifi at the offices in Oaklands and is working on also providing wifi at the town hall and the sports pavilion.

Did you notice?

We all know that digital communications are important and represent the future. There's no going back. However for hundreds of years the council has been using noticeboards to let residents know what is going on. Not everyone is



comfortable with digital technology and the council considers that there is still a place for a traditional, physical, regularly updated noticeboard.

Over the years the old wooden noticeboards had fallen into disrepair and were starting to rot. We have updated them with metal versions that should last for years.



The finance and general purposes committee deals with issues where there are cost or revenue implications for the council. Like any business, without astute financial management the council could not provide value for money services.

Reorganisation of the accounting system means that the two years are not necessarily directly comparable.

Expense category	2016/17 out-turn (audited, £'000)
Grounds maintenance	69.2
Civic events	6.2
Public events	4.1
CCTV	15.8
Miscellaneous	1.0
Staff	162.9
Utilities	11.9
Personal expenses	2.6
Office costs	17.7
Professional fees	12.4
Premises expenses	44.8
Bank and loan repayment	19.1
Training and subscriptions	1.2
Grant events	9.5
Davis Oaklands library rent	40.7
Costs, projects and contingency	419.0

Income category	2016/17 out-turn (audited, £'000)
Sports & recreation facility hire	29.8
Hire of land and property	62.1
Allotment rents	11.0
Other income	0.4
Portland Road carpark	7.7
Precept	310.3
Commercial revenues and precept	464.9

Expense category	2017/18 out-turn (unaudited, £'000)
Grounds maintenance	61.9
Civic events	4.1
Public events	4.0
CCTV	21.0
Miscellaneous	0.3
Staff	162.3
Utilities	9.0
Personal expenses	2.3
Office costs	9.7
Professional fees	12.6
Premises expenses	67.4
Bank and loan repayment	10.5
Training and subscriptions	6.2
Grant events	12.8
Costs, projects and contingency	384.2

Income category	2017/18 out-turn (unaudited, £'000)
Sports & recreation facility hire	23.9
Hire of land and property	62.1
Allotment rents	11.1
Other income	0.4
Portland Road carpark	9.0
Precept	341.0
Commercial revenues and precept	470.0

Sub committees

There are several sub-committees that report into Finance and General purposes committee, including Personnel, Internal Audit and Assets Review and a number of specialist working groups.

Sources:

Hythe Town Council financial records

www.hythetc.kentparishes.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/

Planning applications

Councillors stand for election to make a difference to the community. It doesn't matter their age, gender or political allegiance, it's improving things, making things better that count. You may have read press articles about allowances at councils elsewhere, but Hythe town councillors do not get paid anything; they do it for the town. Except where they travel for an event such as a training course, they do not claim expenses either.

Councillors who sit on the Plans and Works Committee have a tricky job to do. Approximately every three weeks at 09:30 on a Tuesday morning, they are required to examine all the planning applications that are in the Hythe Town area. Councillors examine the plans in advance and normally visit the site as well.

Over the course of a year, the committee typically considers over 200 planning applications. Because of the thoroughness and objectivity of the committee, its views are well respected by the district council.



There are strict guidelines on the criteria on which to assess an application. Only three responses are legally allowed (support, no objection, object because it contravenes a planning policy).

Allotments

Through the allotments working group, a sub-committee of the Plans and Works committee, four allotments sites and approximately 150 individual plots are managed in the town (two at Eaton Lands, one on the Dymchurch Road at Longbridge and one at Twiss Road). Two part-time members of staff work with allotment tenants to keep the sites in good condition.

Defects

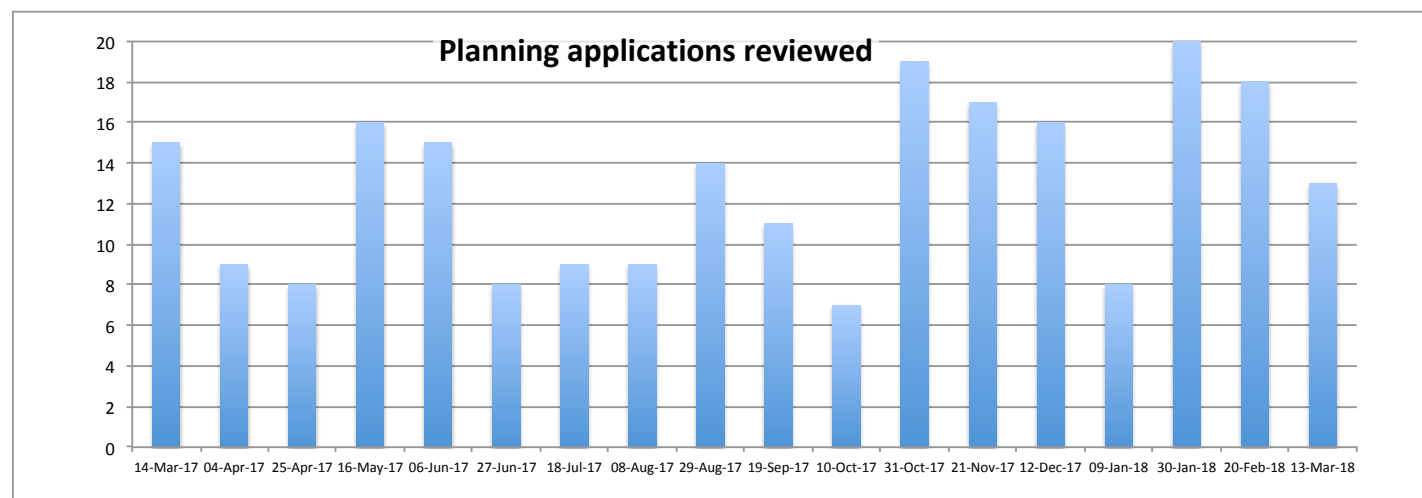
At every meeting, the committee considers in detail one of a range of other physical environmental issues which affect the town. The subject matters considered are:

- Lights
- Potholes
- Playgrounds
- Pavements
- Seats
- Trees
- Rubbish
- Roads and signs
- Toilets
- Grass cutting / maintenance
- Sports fields
- Town signs (external and internal)
- Painting / decorating of public buildings
- Beach / seafront
- Hythe Green
- Ladies walk and surround
- Flower beds / gardens
- Drains
- High Street
- Royal Military Canal

Some of these issues can be addressed directly by Hythe Town Council officers, for others we need to use our influence to affect change or improvements.

The committee is also consulted by the district and county councils on their plans, and by national government where there is a proposed legislation change that might affect the town.

The council works closely with many local organisations to ensure their events go ahead. The committee might be asked to approve community advertising on its land, or close an area of land so that an event can take place (for example; to ensure no-one is accidentally hurt). The committee requires these organisations to show evidence of a risk assessment and adequate public liability insurance.



Grants

Cost constraints meant that Shepway District Council was unable to continue to provide the flowers at the East Street roundabout. Hythe in Bloom stepped in, and supported by the council provided the magnificent displays next to Waitrose and on the roundabout.



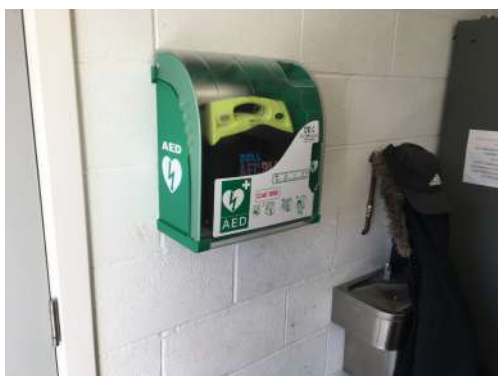
It could be you

Sport is hugely advantageous to both mental and physical health. Whatever age or gender you are, we encourage you to find a sport that you can take part in.

At the South Road sports field, the council provides tennis courts, a skate park, bowls and football, while it also acts as landlord to the cricket, bowls and tennis clubs.

The magnificent sports pavilion provides good quality changing facilities with space for fitness classes and other activities on the higher floor.

Yet sport can never be entirely risk free. The council was delighted to be able to install a defibrillator at the sports pavilion which will be available for use at all times while the changing rooms are open.



Dog waste bins

We love dogs, we hate dog mess. We want to encourage responsible dog owners by providing dog waste bins at the appropriate places. That's why the council has provided extra bins at Eaton Lands so that everyone can enjoy the parkland without having to worry about what might be underfoot.

Music at Oaklands Park

HYTHE TOWN BANDSTAND

*'Summer Season Live Entertainment
located in the pretty, secluded parkland of Oaklands'*

LIVE MUSICIANS Local & Visiting Acts FREE ENTRY 3pm - 5pm <small>(unless otherwise stated)</small>		Occasional Seating Provided	
Nearby Toilets		Oaklands Café at Age UK providing light refreshments	
Children's Play Area		Grass Picnic Area & Tree-line Sheltering	
Located just 2 mins walk from the High St adjacent to Oaklands Health Centre & Library in Stade Street		Nearest car parks are located on Mount St (by Aldi) and Portland Road (by The Green)	

THE 2018 LINE UP...	
Sun 27 May	ONE FOR THE ROAD
Mon 28 May	THE DUETTES
Sun 3 June	BIRCHINGTON SILVER BAND
Sun 10 June	HYTHE TOWN CONCERT BAND
Sun 17 June	DAYS GONE BY
Sun 24 June	TOTALLY COVERED
Sun 1 July	HYTHE TOWN CONCERT BAND
Sun 8 July	POPERINGE BRASS BAND (2.30pm)
Sun 15 July	HYTHE FESTIVAL PRESENTS... POP IN THE PARK (1.00pm)
Sun 22 July	DR SYN & THE SCARECROWS
Sun 29 July	VIKKI'S VOCALS
Sun 5 Aug	HERE COME THE GIRLS
Sun 12 Aug	KENT POLICE BAND
Sun 19 Aug	HYTHE TOWN CONCERT BAND
Sun 2 Sept	ELVIS
Sun 9 Sep	MISS HOLIDAY SWING

Cancellations & changes of acts may occur without prior notification

The council has been organising free concerts at Oaklands Park for years.

Last year we changed up the normal format and introduced more variety to the series of events running from May to August.

As well as the traditional and much loved silver and brass bands, we included pop bands, duets and ballad singers. The groups are paid a fee, and the council looks after all the PPL and PRS licencing, leaving the musicians to concentrate on music, not the legalities. The poster above is for this year's programme - please try to come along; they are free to residents and visitors and there is an even bigger choice of acts this year.

In the autumn the council organised for the bandstand roof to be repaired. The structure has been freshly repainted. Before this season starts, some permanent seating will be installed. During the season, a bandstand attendant is provided to deal with any emergencies, and there is also a duty councillor available.



Shepway Cross



We were delighted to work with our good neighbours at Lympne Parish Council and SHAL (Studying History and Archeology in Lympne) on a project to refurbish the impressive Shepway Cross.

The origins of the site go back at least to the 12th century, with the cross erected at the legendary site of the ancient Court of Shepway. The fabled location and its symbolism encouraged the then Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports to erect a cross on the site in 1923 to celebrate peace.

Over the years, the cross had become discoloured and the words had become illegible. Following a thorough steam clean and work on the lettering, the cross has been restored to its former glory.



Palmarsh Recreation Ground

Some visitors to Hythe think the town is all about the beautiful features in the centre; the beach, canal, High Street, Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Railway and our glorious medieval church at St Leonard's. But there are secret gems in other parts of the town, and Palmarsh Rec is one of them. Set next to the railway and the canal, the site has a football pitch but no play equipment for younger children. The council is arranging for a selection of new equipment designed specifically for the younger age group to be installed, which will increase the attractiveness of this area to residents even more.



100 year anniversary of the end of World War 1

For some time, the 'End of World War 1

Commemoration Committee' - a group of councillors, military veterans and others - has been planning how to enhance Hythe's war memorial.

The aim is to have a resin-bonded poppy in place of the plain flagstones at the front of the memorial. The

plan is supported by Hythe Town Council, and the committee hopes to engage with everyone in Hythe to get community support.

As it will be the 100th anniversary of the war, you won't be surprised to learn that towns and villages throughout the whole country will be involved one way or another. As well as the usual remembrance service at the war memorial, Hythe will also be a proud participant in the 'Battle's Over' programme, where more than 1,000 Beacons of Light will be lit at 7pm on 11th November 2018 - a century after the guns fell silent. The council is also organising a firework display the same evening to commemorate the the armistice.



Sole corporate trustee

The council is sole corporate trustee for four charities, while councillors also sit as individual trustees on several other local charities. The charities are independent corporations in their own right. After scrutiny by the council sitting as trustee, their annual accounts are checked by an independent examiner and then submitted to the charity commission.



Trustee's meetings

As sole corporate trustee to the four charities, Hythe Town Council takes its responsibilities very seriously. It administers the various charities through special trustee's meetings which are held at least four times a year, normally immediately after meetings of the full council.

Forward looking museum strategy

Davis Oaklands Charitable Gift owns the Oaklands building used for council offices and the museum, and also owns about a third of Oaklands Park. The charity is reviewing the layout of Oaklands to see if it feasible to extend and improve the museum and to provide better disabled access to the council offices. It took on a new curator, joined the 'Wheels of Time' organisation of Kent museums and has started to generate publicity to attract more visitors.



Oaklands Park was also the venue for the outstanding series of free summer concerts, which now caters for wider tastes than just brass bands. The poignant 'Great Get Together' - part of a national campaign to bring communities together following the tragic death of Yorkshire MP Jo Cox - was co-managed by the council and brought hundreds of residents together for a community picnic in the park.



Horn Street, Burmarsh Road and Eaton Lands

Horn Street Recreation Ground is much loved by residents in Seabrook as an area of open space (and in winter, children of all ages use it for tobogganing).

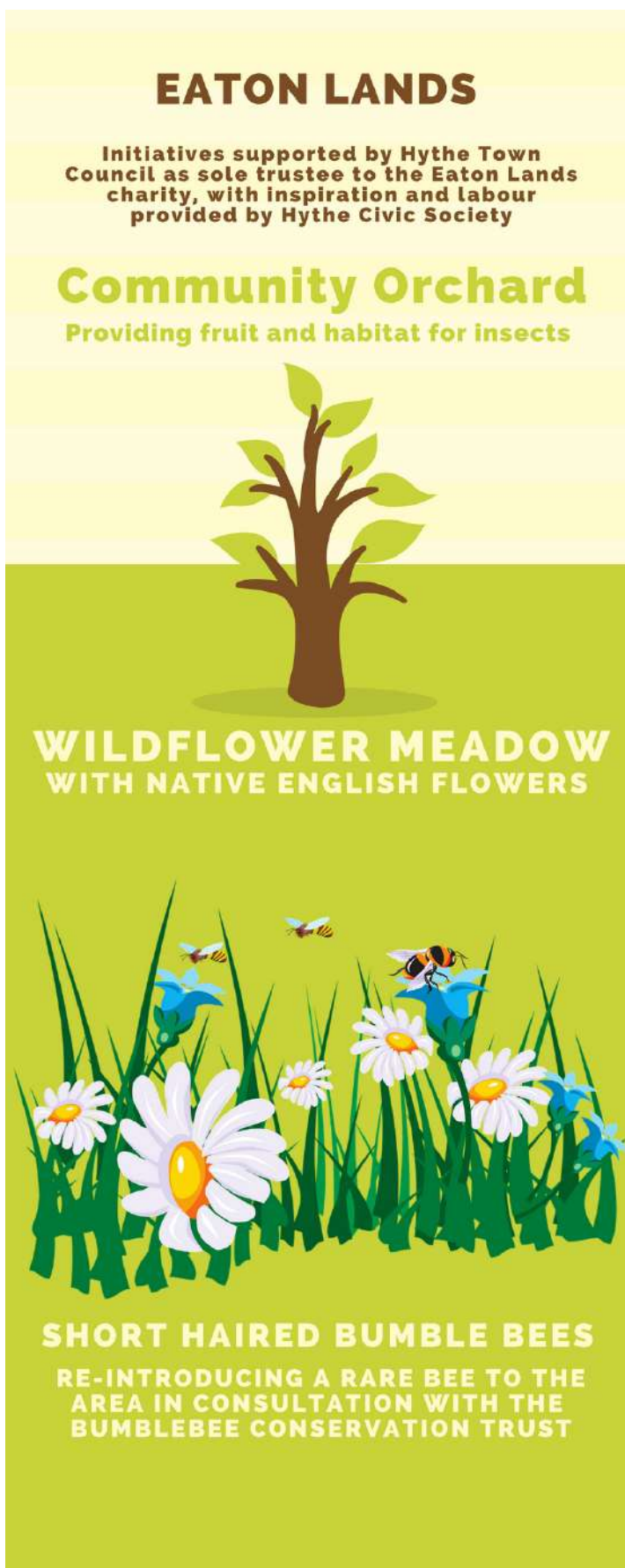
Burmarsh Road Playing Field caters for people living toward the western boundary of the town. It has woods, open space and play equipment and is well used by local children.

Eaton Lands is the beautiful parkland to the north of Hythe. As well as normal maintenance activities, this glorious open space hosts two thriving sets of allotments and is also supporting a new community orchard, wildflower meadow and an innovative project to re-introduce short haired bumble bees. The project requires depleting the nutrient value of the meadow so that the native English flowers can compete with thistles and ragwort, making it an ideal environment for the bees. It's a situation where everyone wins: the allotments and orchard are pollinated by the bees, the bees live in the wild-flower meadow; allotments and orchards provide low cost, low food-mile crops.



Efficient management

Council officers manage the charities while also managing council land. That keeps costs down and community synergies up.

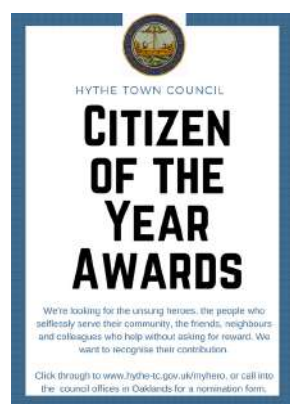
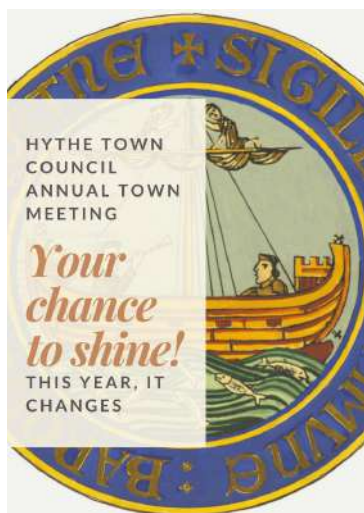


Project manager Dr Nikki Gammans prepares to release a Short-haired bumblebee *Bombus subterraneus* queen. Picture credit: Nick Upton (rsph-images.com)



Annual town meeting

One of our aims is to help the tremendous set of voluntary organisations in the town to work together. This year we changed the format of the annual town meeting to encourage more dialogue between us. While staying within the strict rules that govern these meetings, we hope we have gone some way to help organisations in the town work even more collaboratively together.



Citizen of the Year

Our inaugural awards for Citizen of the Year were announced at this year's annual town meeting. We were delighted to receive some outstanding nominations. There are six worthy finalists, but ultimately just one Citizen of the Year was announced on the night. Congratulations to all the finalists.

Folkestone and Hythe District Council

There is potential for confusion as Shepway District Council has now changed its name. Don't worry; the two councils will continue to work together closely where it is of benefit to residents, and Hythe Town Council continues to keep its name.



Kent County Council

Martin Whybrow was re-elected for the new division of Hythe West which serves parts of Hythe, Dymchurch and Lympe.

Rory Love was elected for Cheriton, Sandgate & Hythe East. Together, Martin and Rory look after Hythe's best interests for highways, education, social services and other strategic operations.

County council and district council members' grants
Hythe Town Council frequently liaises with KCC and FHDC members for local projects. If you are involved in a project that will benefit your local community, contact Hythe Town Council and we guide you on how to approach their members for a grant.

Hythe Business and Tourism

Supported by a council grant, this year shoppers and retailers on Hythe's famous High Street will also benefit from a new council-funded Christmas tree in Mackeson Square and a substantial improvement in the festive lights.

Hythe Twinning Association

Following the 35th anniversary of the association, a new committee was elected with great plans for the future. Hythe is twinned with Berck in France and Poperinge in Belgium. The association is proudly independent, but Hythe Town Council provides support and links to the twin towns, and town councillors serve on the association's committee.

Sport

The council's sports facilities at South Road are envied throughout the district. The council works with local football, running, tennis, cricket and bowls clubs to improve fitness for female and male, old and young. At the various open spaces managed by the council, play equipment and free play areas are also organised and paid for by the council.

Dementia Forum

Originally created by a small team of councillors, the forum now has many more members, its own website at www.dementiaawarehythe.co.uk, and a training program useful to businesses, carers, and people living with dementia. Dementia is a growing issue in every community, and the forum's aim is to provide support and acceptance for people living with dementia and those who care for them. Drop-in sessions occur on the first and third Tuesday of every month from 10:30 to 12:00 at Hythe library.



Hythe Venetian Fete

Continuing to support the Hythe Venetian Fete financially and through the Cinque Ports Mayors Association provides a service to residents and visitors to the town. It is one of the biggest drivers of tourism in the district, and the Fete committee can be congratulated on another excellent job.



Hythe Festival of Arts and Heritage



This year is the turn of the Hythe Festival. The amazing team of volunteers is planning a busy fortnight of events in July this year. With a support grant from the council, the committee can be congratulated on raising the majority of its funds from other sources. Find out more from their website at <http://hythefestival.co.uk>

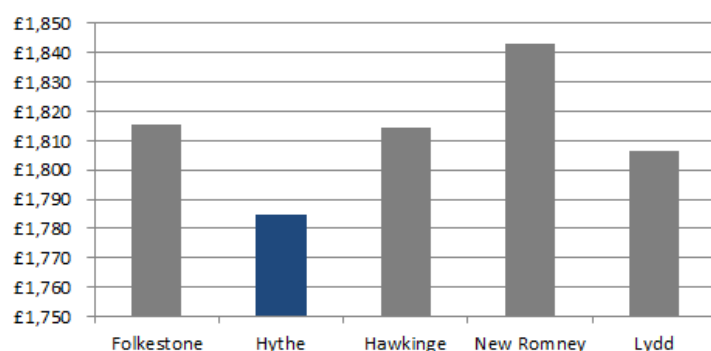


Expense category	2018/19 budget £'000)
Grounds maintenance	73.1
Civic events	5.5
Public events	41.6
Miscellaneous	4.9
Staff	161.5
Utilities	40.1
Personal expenses	2.7
Office costs	7.9
Professional fees	6.6
Premises expenses	32.0
Bank and loan repayment	19.4
Training and subscriptions	4.8
Projects	17.2
Contingency	20.0
Increase in reserves	
Costs, projects and contingency	437.4

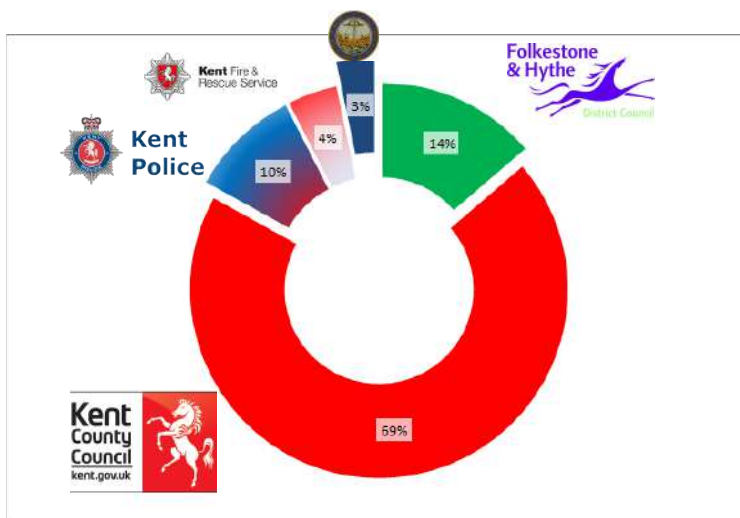
In financial year 2017 / 2018 reserves were depleted a little to pay for some larger projects. The council's investment strategy has three elements: security, liquidity and yield - in that order. Rebuilding reserves will enable future projects to ahead with an acceptably low level of risk.

Income category	2018/19 budget £'000)
Sports & recreation facility hire	25.4
Hire of land and property	66.8
Allotment rents	11.9
Other income	0.2
Portland Road carpark	10.0
Precept	359.9
Commercial revenues and precept	468.1

Band D council tax for towns within the Folkestone and Hythe District Council area 2018 / 2019



Hythe Town Council requires about 3% of your council tax. Every other precepting authority takes a bigger slice. Councils base their calculations on a band D property. Your band might be different. In Hythe, residents will be paying £1,784.88 in financial year 2018/2019.



Precept increase

Income from assets including the car park in Portland Road and hire of property such as Hythe Green for fairs and circuses means that Hythe Town Council can provide a wide range of services and still keep the precept increase to Hythe Town Council for a Band D property down to less than 1p a week. Your council tax bill will probably have increased by more than that because of the bigger precepting authorities (Kent County Council, Folkestone and Hythe District Council, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service).



Sources:

www.shepway.gov.uk/council-tax/financial-information/year-2018-to-2019

Hythe Town Council budget records

Internal auditor to Hythe Town Council

Wards

Hythe Town has four wards, with each ward returning four members. The ward boundaries for Folkestone and Hythe District Council and for Kent County Council are not contiguous with the town boundary, which can sometimes lead to confusion.

Most residents in Hythe live in an urban environment. Nevertheless, two of the wards are large enough to require two polling station each, which is why there are six maps.

To download a map, go to the council's Flickr page or the council's website.



Council gender mix

At the last town council elections 16 members were elected. 11 of them were male and five were female.

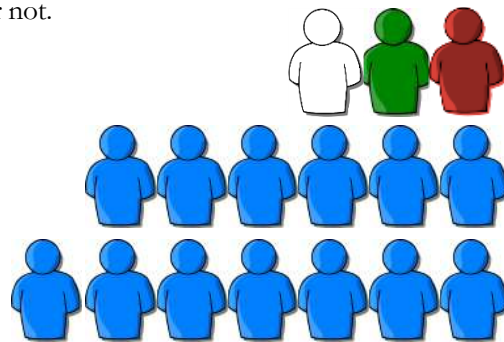


Since then one member has resigned and a replacement been elected. There is currently a vacancy due to a recent death. The current make up of council is 11 male and four female.

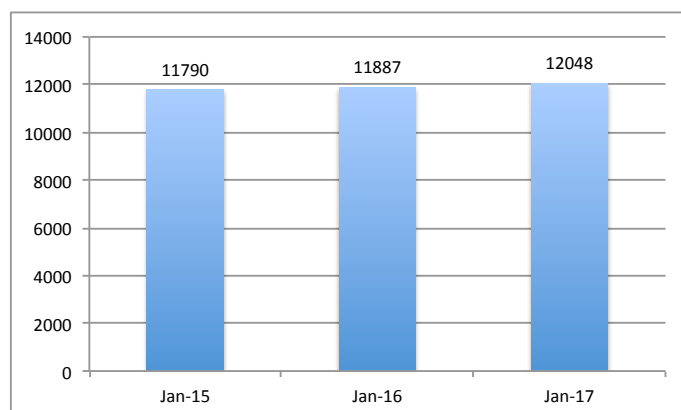
Political parties

Councillors are elected as individuals. Some members choose to stand for election as a representative of a political party, but party membership is not required to be a councillor, nor are they obliged to declare which party they are a member of, if any. All members have one vote each in council whether they are members of political parties or not.

Green - one
Labour - one
Vacancy - one
Conservative - 13



Building activity and planning applications are indicators of confidence in the town. Some people may be surprised to learn that electorate increase over the last year was only 161 people. The total population is now 14,516.



Sources: Folkestone and Hythe District Council core strategy review March 2018
Folkestone and Hythe District Council Democratic Services
Hythe Town Council internal records