

Cheriton & Morehall FOCUS



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www.ShepwayLibDems.org.uk

The Folkestone FREEZE



Lib Dems Hail Folkestone Council Tax Cut

Local Lib Dems have backed a CUT in Folkestone Town Council's tax for next year.

The move will mean local tax payers will pay slightly less for Folkestone Town Council services than last year. The Liberal Democrats have consistently fought for zero tax increases from Folkestone Town Council.

Lib Dem Cheriton Councillor **Dhan Gurung** is delighted with the move. Dhan says:

"It's been a hard year for many people. Money is tight. It's good that our Town Council is not going to make things harder for local people."

Lib Dem **Tom McNeice** said:

"The Lib Dems have consistently pushed to keep Folkestone Council Tax down."



Dhan: Thumbs up for Tax Cut

Kent County Slammed for Snow Response

Kent's Lib Dems are demanding a better response to winter road and pavement clearing in future.

The recent cold spell has seen many roads and pavements in Folkestone difficult or impossible to pass.

The Lib Dems have praised the "herculean" efforts of County staff, but called for more action to ensure roads and pavements are cleared better in future.

Lib Dem County Councillor **Tim Prater** said:

"The response has been inadequate. The public are being put at risk of injury because of this lack of action.

"I want to praise the Herculean efforts of the dedicated KCC staff and the other agencies in trying to keep Kent working. But more resource and planning is needed."



Dhan Scoops Kent Award

Cheriton Councillor **Dhan Gurung** has won a Kent County Council BME Achievement Award for his part of the Gurkha Justice campaign.

Cheriton Rec Improvements This Year

Major improvements to **Cheriton Rec** are on the way after years of pressure from local residents, park users and your local Lib Dem team.

Funding has now been secured to provide new play facilities which should be in place by March. Local children have been consulted on the new facilities.

Work is still ongoing on securing funding for to build a BMX / Skate plaza and improve the lighting in the park.

Cheriton Councillor **Tim Prater** is pleased that work is underway to improve the park. Tim says:

"Cheriton Rec is a much valued and used area of Cheriton, but it could be so much better.

"It's great that funding is now in place for the first phase of improving the facilities of the Rec."

You Decided!

Lib Dem County Councillor **Tim Prater** pioneered Shepway's first "You Decide" day late last year. Groups bid for grants for local projects from a £15,000 County Councillor fund.

The winning bidders were decided by over 100 local residents who turned up for the event at the Tower Theatre which was advertised in the local press. Previously, County Councillors have decided grants themselves.

On the day, **The National Autistic Society, Folkestone Gurkha Nepalese Community, Folkestone and Hythe Sea Cadets, Folkestone Invicta Youth Football, St Georges Youth work, FHODS, Church Street Project, 4th Cheriton Guides, Skillnet Group, Sandgate Chichester Memorial Hall and Sandgate Heritage Trust** all received grants.

Folkestone West and Sandgate County Councillor **Tim Prater** said:

"It was a great event and I'm delighted and grateful for all the people that came along and had their say, and decided which projects they wanted to support.

"The reaction from all those that were there was really positive, and I certainly plan to do it again next year."

In addition to the £15,000 from the "You Decide" day, **Tim Prater** has this year also supported **Folkestone Sports Centre, Folkestone Rugby Club, What4 Cheriton Youth Project, the HG Wells Festival, Tower Theatre, Folkestone Coastal Week, Sandgate Parish Plan residents consultation and Sandgate Farmer Market.**



Tim Prater: "More County Councillors should give local residents a say in where grants go."

Got a Problem locally? Tell us!

Join Our Team

My View:

- I can help deliver Focus in my area**
Focus is delivered by volunteers. We aim to produce one every 6 weeks: it should take no more than an hour.
- I would like to join the Lib Dems**
Being a member doesn't mean you have to be active. You will receive our regular supporters newsletter and get invites to Lib Dem events and campaign sessions locally. Membership costs from just £10.
- I want a postal vote for elections**
You can arrange a postal vote for all elections. Tick the box, and we'll send you an application form.

Name:

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I would like to receive regular free email news from the local Lib Dems (please add your email address)

Freepost RSEZ-TGTS-CTGA Shepway Lib Dems
98a Sandgate High Street, Folkestone CT20 3BY

The Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you have provided to contact you from time to time about issues we think you may find of interest. Some of the contacts may be automated. You can opt out of some or all contacts at any time by contacting us.

Your Lib Dem Team: Here to help

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Problems? Please get in touch!

Fury at RMA Scheme

Cheriton Councillor **Peter Carroll** is furious about new Kent plans for **Royal Military Avenue**.

After years of pushing, Kent agreed to consult local residents on 2 schemes in the road, one with oblique "nose in" parking, and another with a chevron down the road to slow traffic.

Despite residents backing the oblique parking scheme, Kent and Shepway Councillors then backed the chevron scheme, which will do nothing to improve parking problems in the road. Peter Carroll said:

"It's outrageous that the residents' preferred scheme did not get supported. Only Lib Dem Tim Prater backed the majority of residents views at the key meeting. The Conservatives voted against.

"We'd worked hard with local residents to get oblique parking considered against the wishes of Kent County Council. To then lose at the final hurdle is a disgrace."



Carroll: Fury

Roads Action

Lib Dem County Councillor Tim Prater is backing plans for a one-way system in Morehall Avenue and Chart Road. Kent are now surveying the area and drawing up a scheme for consultation with local residents.

The scheme has been requested locally to deal with traffic congestion at school times.

Many **streetlights** have been replaced across Cheriton and Morehall as a part of a scheme to replace Mercury Vapour lamps across Kent. Lights have been replaced in **Biggins Wood Road, Appledore Crescent, Langdon Road, Exeter Close, Webb Close**, and elsewhere.

Lynne's Expenses and Jobs Pledge

Lib Dem **Lynne Beaumont** has pledged to live locally, commute to London and not claim **any** second home expenses if elected as our next MP.

Lynne says:

"The actions of some of our MPs have been a disgrace. Many local people commute to London. Our MP should be no different.

"I'll claim no second home expenses, and have no other paid job. I will be a full time MP.

"I challenge other prospective MPs to give the same pledge."

3,400 Shepway pensioners to miss out on cold weather cash

New figures from the Liberal Democrats show that almost 3,400 pensioners across Shepway could miss out on Government cold weather payments this year, despite the dreadful weather conditions. Cold Weather Payments of £25 a week are paid to people on low incomes who receive a qualifying benefit.

Qualifying benefits go unclaimed by as many as 1.7 million pensioners nationally. On average, this means 3,365 pensioners in Folkestone and Hythe missing out. They are entitled to additional benefits, to top up their pension, and these benefits then entitle them to extra cash in extreme weather conditions.

Lynne Beaumont, Lib Dem Parliamentary Candidate for Folkestone and Hythe, is asking pensioners to check they are receiving the benefits they are entitled to. Lynne said:

"The Government should be explaining to people exactly what they are entitled to, not creating a complicated system which makes it difficult to get the help needed.

"Please check with the Pensions Credit Office on 0800 991234 to see if you are entitled to extra cash.

"You shouldn't have to worry when you turn on your heating."

Lynne Beaumont.
The right choice for Folkestone & Hythe.

