



# New Sandgate Parking Threat

Conservative Shepway Council are proposing the introduction of Pay and Display parking on **Sandgate Esplanade** in the next year.

Budget proposals from Shepway show that the plan is being considered to increase parking income to the District.

The move comes on top of the introduction last year of parking charges at Sandgate's Castle Road Car Park, a move bitterly opposed by local residents, businesses and your Sandgate Lib Dem team.

Sandgate's Lib Dem County Councillor **Tim Prater** is dismayed at the proposal to introduce Esplanade parking charges. Tim said:

**"Shepway Council seem hell-bent on making life more difficult for Sandgate businesses and residents.** New parking charges on the Esplanade will deter tourists from stopping and using both the beach and local businesses like the Sandgate Hotel and Bar Vasa.

"Local businesses tell me that the introduction of parking charges in Sandgate's Castle Road Car Park have hurt. One local bar has reduced staff and shuts on a Sunday evening due to the new charges, and others are seeing business fall."

Season Prater added:

**"To impose more charges is crazy, and we will oppose it alongside local residents."**



**Councillors Tim and Season Prater say Sandgate Esplanade parking charges would be crazy.**

## News In Brief

There have been many suggestions that **Gough Road** should be made one way from Military Road to reduce traffic problems at that junction. What do you think? Contact Tim Prater with your views (details overleaf).

**Many thanks** to the resident who added tinsel and baubles to the **Christmas Tree** on Sandgate Village Green over Christmas. Your Lib Dem team will push to make sure there are decorations on the tree next year by design!



**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.

## Beach litter disgrace

And so Season and Ann got stuck in to clean it up! Lib Dem Sandgate Parish Councillors Season Prater and Ann Rimmer joined a litter team including Decuria Youth Group and other Councillors.

Although the weather wasn't the best, the group had a productive time and collected 10 bags of rubbish including a variety of shoes and boots!

There will be more litter picking sessions on Sandgate Beach on the dates listed below. All sessions start at 9.30am from Castle Road Car Park and any helpers would be most welcome. A litter pick kit including gloves, pickers and high viz jacket will be provided and Insurance cover is also arranged.

**Sandgate Beach Litter Picking Dates:**  
Feb 13th  
Mar 13th  
Apr 10th

# 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 Farmers 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: .....

Address: .....

.....

Postcode: .....

Phone: .....

Email: .....

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

### Parliamentary Candidate Lynne Beaumont

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**Problems? Please get in touch!**

## 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."



## Roads Action

Lib Dem County Councillor Tim Prater has got agreement for new speed calming measures on **Sandgate Hill**.

Working with the Sandgate Transport Advisory Group and joint funding with Folkestone Cllr Rolund Tolputt, new warning signs will be fitted on the approach downhill to the junction with Cooling Lane.

Parish Councillor Ann Rimmer said:

"This junction is really dangerous, especially as the children are leaving school. Some speed reduction measures here will be really welcome"

Tim is also backing a new pedestrian crossing point on **Sandgate Esplanade** to make crossing to the beach safer.

## 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**

