



FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

TOWN MAYOR 2019 – 2020

It has been my great honour to serve as Town Mayor of Folkestone this year. It has been a joy to meet and support so many of the wonderful projects, events and charities that make Folkestone so special.

Our Museum has gone from strength to strength and has played host to some excellent events including the unveiling of the photograph recreating The Belgian Refugee painting in the Town Hall, where over 200 residents took part showing what a vibrant and welcoming community we are.

Folkestone has had some amazing events this year, including Friendship Charter with Mechinager, Nepal; Winner of World Music Town; 25th Royal Gurkha Rifles anniversary attended by Prince Charles; 75th Normandy Veterans Day; Unveiling of the DNA results showing that the skeleton of Aefre, with 98% certainty, is our very own Saint, St Eanswythe; Armed Forces Day with the Red Arrows with over 100,000 attending; Folkestone Trawler Race; Town Hall Christmas Light Switch On with live reindeer and our very own Sandcastle Competition!

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions the Town Mayor's Community Awards have been postponed until later in the year. I would like to thank all the residents who came forward as volunteers during the Covid-19 restrictions and those that self-isolated, to help their friends, neighbours and residents in need - a true community response. I would also like to thank all the key workers who have helped keep us safe and well during this difficult time.

My Consort, Bryan, and I have had the pleasure of attending many civic, ceremonial duties and charity fund raising events across the whole of Kent. This included the Induction of the Deputy Constable at Dover Castle, Cinque Port Mayors Speakers Day, various charity balls, Punks and Pirates Xmas Party organized by Touchbase, Santa Run and the wonderfully eccentric Boxing Day Dip!

My nominated charities this year were The Rainbow Centre, FYP Youth Charity and Living Words Charity. I have held various events over the year and up to February had raised over £4000. The Mayor's Art and Memorabilia Auction has been postponed until later in the year, where the Mayor's "Banksy" and other excellent donated art and items will be sold to raise further funds. I also took part, for the third year running, in the Big Sleep Out and, as a team, we raised over £1700 for the Winter Shelter.

My Deputy Mayor, Ray Field, and I have attended over 250 events this year and so at the end of an incredibly busy year, I would like to give heartfelt thanks to all the officers at Folkestone Town Council, the Town Councillors, my Deputy Mayor, my Consort, Bryan Garrigan, and all the unsung heroes who have supported myself as Town Mayor and Folkestone residents with enthusiasm and humour throughout.



Income and Expenditure Account For the Period ended 31 March 2019

		2019/20	2018/19
INCOME		£	£
Precept on District Council		807,860	786,950
Bank and Investment Interest		2,477	2,170
Allotments		9,800	9,736
Rental Receipts		16,522	15,765
Funding for Museum/Heritage		105,802	80,127
Museum/Heritage Sales		1,751	3,229
Other		46,797	44,890
	_	991,009	942,867
EXPENDITURE	—		
Employees/Administration		418,546	404,097
Democratic Costs		40,255	0
Civic and Ceremonial		19,532	49,815
Premises		103,483	99,438
Services		344,923	285,778
Fees		34,567	7,677
Museum/Heritage		99,636	81,287
	—	1,060,942	928,092
GENERAL FUND	—		
Balance as at 1 April		130,081	130,084
Add: Total Income		991,009	942,867
Deduct: Total Expenditure		1,060,942	928,092
	—	60,148	144,859
Transfer (to)/from Reserves and Provisions:			
New Services	23,538		
TKL Balancing Pond Maintenance	40		
Tree Planting	7,391		
Museum/Heritage	(30,220)		
Bus Shelters	(9,000)		
Ward Grants	(8,406)		
Town Grants	1,604		
FTC Elections	18,834		
Armed Forces' Day/Air Show	12,035		
Flowerbeds & Planters	4		
Leas Flowerbeds	2,549		
CCTV Maintenance	33,813		
Christmas Events	1,364		
Outstanding Invoices	970	54,516	(14,778)
New Services	23,538		
General Reserve Balance at 31 March		114,664	130,081

PRECEPT 2019/20 THE 2019/20 TOWN COUNCIL TAX								
Household Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Н
£ per annum	37.20	43.40	49.60	55.81	68.21	80.61	93.01	111.62
£ per week	0.71	0.83	0.95	1.07	1.31	1.55	1.78	2.14

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Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2020

Fixed Assets	2019/20 £		2018/19 £	
Freehold Land and Buildings	700,000		700,000	
Vehicles and Equipment	330,151		299,701	
Community Assets	2,335,904	3,366,055	2,335,904	3,335,605
		3,366,055		3,335,605
Current Assets				
Sundry Debtors	0		0	
HM Revenue & Customs - VAT	27,172		26,308	
Prepayments	0		0	
Stock Balance (Museum Merchandise)	942		2,224	
Current Bank Account	11,368		80,110	
Deposit Bank Account	0		0	
Short Term Investments	500,000		500,000	
Receipts Account	1,000		270	
Petty Cash	500		500	
Museum Shop Float	100		100	
Corporate Credit Card	1,500	542,582	1,500	611,012
Current Liabilities				
Sundry Creditors	22,420		3,101	
Receipts in Advance	4,419		3,150	
Accruals	20,149	46,988	39,234	45,485
Net Current Assets		495,594		565,527
Long Term Liabilities				
PWLB Outstanding Loan for Office Building	332,171	332,171	354,579	354,579
Net Assets		3,529,478		3,546,553

	2019 / 20	2018 / 19
	£	£
Represented by:		
Fixed Asset Restatement Account	3,366,055	3,333,605
PWLB Outstanding Loan for Office Building	(332,171)	(354,579)
Capital Receipts Reserve	0	0
Earmarked Reserves and Provisions:-		
New Services	99,240	122,778
Tile Kiln Lane Balancing Pond Maintenance	0	40
Tree Planting	0	7,391
Tourism	4,735	4,735
Bus Shelters	9,000	0
Museum/Heritage	220,564	190,344
Ward Grants	9,792	1,386
Town Grants	1,096	2,700
FTC Elections	0	18,834
Armed Forces' Day / Air Show	0	12,035
Salt Bins	6,313	6,313
Flowerbeds + Planters	0	4
Les Flowerbeds	0	2,549
Anti-Litter Campaign	2,000	2,000
CCTV Maintenance	19,657	53,470
Christmas Lights/Events	3,367	4,731
Outstanding Invoices	5,166	6,136
General Reserve	114,664	130,081
	3,529,478	3,546,553

FUTURE EVENTS AND NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY

Due to the Covid19 Pandemic several civic events have had to be cancelled.

September 2020

Tues 15 - Battle of Britain Wreath Laying, The Leas Memorial

October 2020

Sun 18 - Trafalgar Day

November 2020

Sun 1 - Dedication of Garden of Remembrance
Sun 8 - Remembrance Sunday, the War Memorial, The Leas
Weds 11 - Machine Gun Corps Memorial

January 2021

Weds 27 - Holocaust Memorial Day, Garden of Remembrance



Garden of Remembrance Crosses



War Memorial

THE TOWN COUNCIL'S MISSION

THE TOWN COUNCIL'S MISSION

The theme for this review and our mission for the future is:

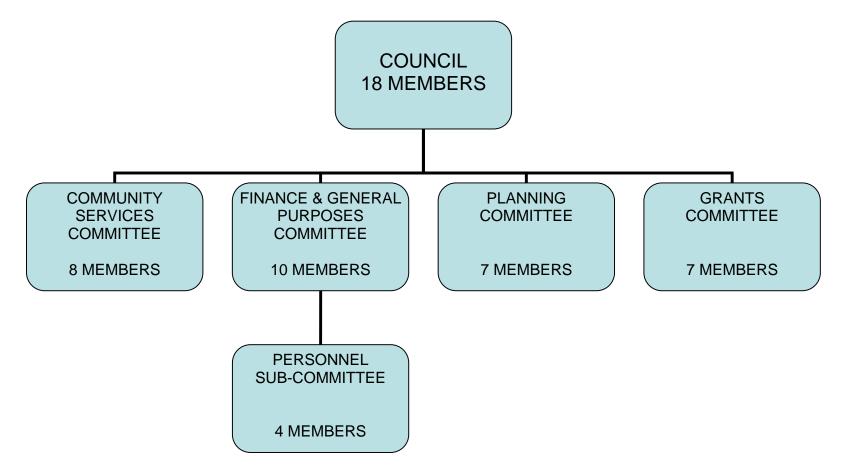
"To revitalise our town of Folkestone, restore civic pride and regenerate a community spirit."

We aim to do this by:

- Improving the appearance and quality of the environment in which we live
- Encouraging a greater participation in the governance of our town by all sectors of society
- Working in partnership with Folkestone and Hythe District Council, Kent County Council and other organisations to improve the public services in the town
- Working in partnership with the business and leisure communities to improve the experience of our visitors and thereby encourage the growth of tourism
- Supporting the work of community groups and voluntary organisations with grant aid and coordinating their activities to improve the social fabric of our community
- Working in partnership with Folkestone and Hythe District Council's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to reduce the level of crime and anti-social behaviour in the town and encouraging the socially excluded back into the fold
- Sustaining the principals of "Quality Gold Council" status, following accreditation

COMMITTEE STRUCTURES

The Council's decision-making process operates through a Committee structure:



In the region of 50 Council/Committee meetings are held every year, together with a wide range of working group meetings.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2020/21

	Planning Committee (Thursdays)	Community Services Committee (Tuesdays)	Finance and General Purposes Committee (Thursday)	Grants Committee (Thursday) (6.30pm)	Personnel Sub- Committee (before F&GP – 6.00pm)	Full Council
May 2020	21c					Tuesday 12 (Annual Council) tbc Tuesday 19 (Town Assembly)c
June 2020	4c, 25c	2c	18c			18 (Extra 6.30pm)c
July 2020	16c					
August 2020	6c, 27c	25c	20c	20c	20c	
September 2020	17					10
October 2020	8, 29	13	22			
November 2020	19	17				12
December 2020	10		17 (Budget Meeting)			
January 2021	13, 28					14 (Precept Meeting)
February 2021	17*	2	18	18	18	
March 2021	11					18
April 2021	1, 28*	6	22	22	22	
May 2021	20					Tuesday 11 (Annual Council) Tuesday 18 (Town Assembly)

* - Changed to a Wednesday c - Cancelled due to Covid-19

(Please note that all meeting dates are provisional and may be subject to change and/or cancellation)

The Committee met 6 times in this financial year. Our Working Groups were approved at the June Council Meeting and included a Christmas, Environment and Museum Working Groups.

The Officers worked hard to put together the annual events. We also provide financial support for football, hockey and cricket training in the community.

We continued to support the tree planting schedule and work with the District Council Tree Officer to improve the look of the Town by increasing the number of trees.

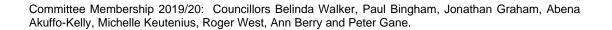
We had a very successful Armed Forces Day including a visit from the Red Arrows.

For the fifth year we took on organization of the Christmas lights in Cheriton and Folkestone, the Committee thanks the Officers for their hard work on this.

The Museum celebrated its 2nd Birthday and continues to go from strength to strength with various exhibitions and workshops throughout the year.

Thanks goes to all the Officers at the Town Council for their continued hard work and support.

Councillor Roger West Chairman





Christmas Lights in Folkestone



Armed Forces Day

This is the end of the first financial year of this administration. There have been 7 committee meetings during the past year. The F&GP committee plays an important role within the council. We work towards the finance and budgeting on behalf of tax payers. The budget is presented each year to the whole council for approval. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues on the committee for their hard work. We strive to keep the precepts as low as possible while maintaining and taking on new assets for the town. Looking to the future we will take on some play Parks from FHDC to FTC. Working with FHDC and others in partnerships, we are talking about working together to achieve a strong and vibrant town.

I would personally like to thank the Town Clerk and Finance Officer for all their help, support and hard work. Their diligence in ensuring the councils finances are healthy, maintaining documents and meeting audit standards. I especially want to thank them both for the help and advice they have personally given me.

Councillor Mary Lawes Chairman

Committee Membership 2019/20: Councillors Jackie Meade, Ray Field, Nicola Keen, Connor McConville, Paul Bingham, Peter Gane, Dan Brook, Dylan Jeffrey, Mary Lawes and Tim Prater.



Museum Exhibit - Frontline Folkestone

Personnel Sub-Committee

During 2019-2020, the Personnel Sub-Committee met 5 times. Following the election in May the Sub-Committee has reviewed and extended the Council's HR policies in consultation with the Town Clerk and staff. The Sub-Committee has also approved the addition of two permanent full-time positions, a Visitor Services Officer to provide front of house support across all Council services and an Audience Development Officer to support the new Curator, who having joined the establishment in October, is focusing on caring for the towns heritage which has been gifted to the Town Council by Kent Council for our fully accredited museum.

The Personnel Sub-Committee wish to extend they're thanks to our team of loyal and dedicated officers, who go above and beyond to provide the town and Councillors with a gold star service and who under the Town Clerk's excellent leadership, work tirelessly to achieve the many and varied aims and objectives detailed in Councils adopted Corporate Plan. As I am sure all Councillors will agree the Town Clerk and her team make visiting the Town Hall an absolute pleasure for all ages, nothing is ever too much trouble and advice is freely given, thus enabling our Town Council to continue to grow and provide a first class service to our residents and visitors alike.



Museum Exhibit - Maritime Folkestone

Councillor Nicola Keen Chairman The Folkestone Town Council planning committee is a consultee in the Folkestone and Hythe District Council planning process for those applications made in Folkestone Town Council's area and can comment on proposals close to the boundary. It had a year with a new committee with only Councillors Berry, Lawes, Meade and Wallace carrying over. Councillor Wallace was elected chair and Cllr Horton vice chair.

Most applications that we were unhappy with had excessive density, inadequate parking or unnecessary tree removal as the crux of objections, although the occasional bizarre application that the District itself quickly refused crept through. We do seem to have had some influence in that many applications that we did not like were refused or revised, often because too much was being placed on the site. The Committee was less successful in its view that the provision of on-site parking couldn't virtually be ignored in town centre sites such as The Bayle, but still believes the District is slowly moving to demanding more parking. The Committee successfully objected to wholesale demolition of beach huts and tried to keep 1920s and earlier detailing in the best beach huts and in many buildings.

The Committee went as far as making representations at District Planning and Licensing Committee meetings on several items, but usually had more influence before the meeting e.g. in limited floodlighting hours on the Cornwallis Avenue running track or improving site management for neighbours of the Royal Victoria Hospital development. It also had its views on licensing hours largely taken into account, probably more by identity of views than otherwise, being alive to the need for some post 11:30pm opening in commercial areas, but not opening to 2.00 or 3.00am in premises near to any flats .

Consultation was dislocated for a seemingly unnecessarily long time in January by District computer updates, and we are now trying to adapt to the Corona Virus crisis which has however slowed down the whole planning process.

Councillor Richard Wallace Chairman

Committee Members 2019/20: Councillors David Horton, Jonathan Graham, Belinda Walker, Jackie Meade, Richard Wallace, Ann Berry and Mary Lawes.

2019-20 has been another successful year for individuals, organisations and schools that have applied to us for grants to help fund their projects.

During the financial year, over £36,000 has been awarded to support various events throughout the town e.g. Strange Cargo, Folkestone Fringe, United Response, Folkestone Festivals and Girl Guiding to name a few.

We provide financial assistance with the Winter Shelter organised by The Rainbow Centre.

Although the Committee will consider applications up to a maximum of £2,500 via the Town Grant Scheme, for small amounts that would benefit only a particular ward, applicants are advised to contact their Ward Councillors for support from their Ward Grants.

All information is available on our website. The Committees thanks go to all Officers involved in the Grant Scheme.



Local children taking part in the Charivari

Flowerbeds on the Leas

Councillor Roger West Chairman

Committee Members 2019/20: Councillors David Horton, Connor McConville, Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Michelle Keutenius, Richard Wallace, Roger West and Tim Prater.

GRANTS AWARDED 2019/20 – Total £46,462

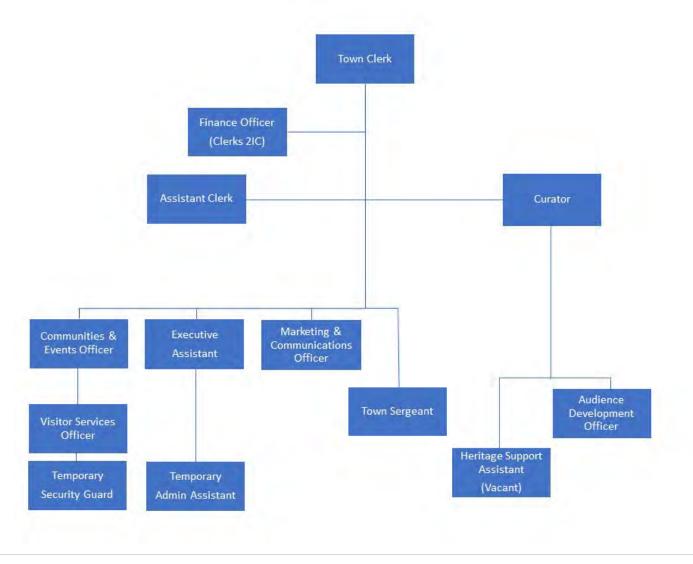
TYPE	ORGANISATION	PURPOSE	AWARD
W	Touchbase Care	No Waste Café	£50.00
W	FTC Reserve	Cheriton Christmas Lights	£100.00
W	Community Network	Eco Garden Club	£115.00
W	Community Donation Station	Summer Uniform for Volunteers	£125.00
W	Bayle Residents Association	BRAT Community Pot	£150.00
W	Strange Cargo	Cheriton Christmas Lights Switch on Community Workshop	£150.00
W	99 (Folkestone) Squadron Air Cadets	Custom Printed 3x4.5 metre Gazebo	£200.00
Т	Disabled Friends and Family	Autistic Children's Project	£200.00
W	FYP Youth Charity	The Loft fa Fives	£200.00
W	Strange Cargo	Cheriton Light Festival	£200.00
W	Strange Cargo	Cheriton Light Festival	£200.00
W	The Art/Studio/Work/Shop: Archived	The Art/Studio/Work/Shop: Archived	£200.00
W	Tyson Road Residents Association	Children's Xmas Party	£200.00
W	United Response	Incredible Edible Cheriton & Broadmead	£200.00
W	Folkestone Fringe	SALT Festival	£243.00
Т	Folkestone Fencing Club	Sessions for Disabled	£250.00
W	Home Start Shepway	Summer Activities for Families	£250.00
W	Martello Learning and Lifeskills Centre	Charivari Workshops	£250.00
Т	Beacon School	Residential Trips	£300.00
W	Folkestone Rainbow Centre	Foodbank	£300.00
Т	HG Wells Short Story Competition	Short Story Competition	£300.00
W	Little Acorns	Develop Outside Classroom	£300.00
Т	Over 50's Club	Over 50's Day Trips	£300.00
W	S.Shaw	Replacement of Stolen Charity Money (Navy)	£300.00
W	Angels Allstars	Angels Allstars Baton Twirling and Winter Guard Corps	£350.00
W	MHA Live at Home Scheme	Chair Based Exercise Scheme	£350.00
W	Origins	Black History Month	£350.00

Т	Vincent Williams	Folkestone in The War	£375.00
Т	Beacon School	Duke of Edinburgh Award	£400.00
W	FTC Reserve	Weekend Planting Radnor Park	£400.00
W	FTC Reserve	Armed Forces Day	£450.00
W	Granny Drops a Clanger	a:dress Women, Fashion and Eco-Action	£450.00
W	Martello Learning and Lifeskills Centre	Charivari Workshops	£450.00
Т	Folkestone Festivals	UK Strongest Man	£500.00
Т	Folkestone Festivals	One Great Day	£500.00
W	Pavement Pounders	Folkestone Under Attack	£500.00
W	Church Street Project	Sunnysands Sandcastle Competition	£550.00
W	Sunflower House	Town Sprucer	£550.00
W	Touchbase Care	No Waste Café	£575.00
Т	Folkestone Sports Centre Trust	Eco Club	£600.00
Т	Folkestone Division Girlguiding	Brownsea Island Camptrip 2020	£650.00
W	FTC	KCC Parish Bus Shelter	£700.00
Т	Amanda Atkins (Hell Fire Corner)	War Of The Words	£1,000.00
Т	Fat Lady Opera CIC	Invisible Opera House	£1,000.00
Т	Folkestone Fringe	Urban Room - Harbour Branch Line	£1,000.00
Т	Folkestone Skabour Festival	Folkestone Skabour Festival	£1,000.00
Т	Hand of Doom	Folkestone Storymap	£1,000.00
Т	Harbour Ward Community Gardens CIC	Refurbishment of Raised Planters	£1,000.00
Т	Hi Kent	Lip Reading Classes	£1,000.00
Т	United Response	Rest/Social Area for Staff	£1,000.00
Т	Musical Walkabout	Young Onset Dementia Music Project	£1,329.00
Т	Friends of St Mary's and St Eanswythe	The Unsung Hero Exhibition	£1,500.00
Т	Touchbase Care	Festive Community Party	£1,500.00
Т	A:dress	a:dress Women, Fashion and Eco-Action	£1,850.00
Т	Folkestone Festivals	Vintage Music Festival	£2,000.00
T & W	Future Skills CIC	Folkestone Project - The Junction	£2,050.00
Т	Folkestone Fringe	SALT Festival	£2,250.00
Т	The Folkestone Arrows	The Folkestone Arrows	£2,250.00
Т	Living Words	Level Up Folkestone	£2,450.00

Т	Folkestone Rainbow Centre	Folkestone Churches Winter Shelter	£2,500.00
Т	Strange Cargo	Charivari Day	£2,500.00
Т	Strange Cargo	Cheriton Light Festival	£2,500.00

STAFFING STRUCTURE

During the year the Council maintained a well-qualified staff to match its approved establishment



NEWS IN BRIEF

As we look back on 2019/20

The year started as a business as usual with over 40,000 visitors to the town hall but ended with us locking the doors before the end of the financial year and moving to working from home due to the coronavirus pandemic and the need to self-isolate.

Having got the technology in place, emergency procedures set-in to allow services to still operate wherever possible, this meant planning applications being sent to members electronically for comments to be collated, ward grants and account payments being approved using my scheme of delegation in collaboration with the Mayor and the Chairman of Finance & General Purposes and virtual meetings being held via Microsoft Teams. Sadly, several civic and community events and activities have had to be cancelled but we must work together to stay safe and support all key workers, who I would like to take this opportunity to thank for all their hard work. I would also like to thank our members who have been an incredible support to me personally over the past few months and who have adapted well to the new ways of supporting their constituents.

But, most importantly, I would like to thank my small team of officers who work tirelessly to deliver the aspirations of the town each and every year, and who have adapted or been redeployed to support the community during the pandemic without hesitation, it again highlights their true passion for the town and their can-do spirit; they are all a real credit to Council, and as I have always maintained it would be impossible to provide a first class service to the town without their skill, commitment, loyalty and support.





Please all stay safe and well.

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OFFICER CONTACTS

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Town Clerk	Finance Officer
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Toni Brenchley	Georgina Wilson
Assistant Clerk	Executive Assistant
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Vicky Deakin	Jennifer Conway
Communities & Events Officer	Visitor Services Officer
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lan Bishop	Liz Timmins
Town Sergeant/Allotments Manager	Marketing & Communications Officer
Tel: As above	Tel: As above
Email: <u>ian.bishop@folkestone-tc.gov.uk</u>	Email: <u>liz.timmins@folkestone-tc.gov.uk</u>

YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR 2019-20

Ann Berry (Conservative)	Ward: Broadmead	Richard Wallace (Conservative)	Ward: Broadmead
35 Birkdale Drive	Telephone: 01303 278644	4 Beachborough Road	Telephone: 01303 277567
Folkestone		Folkestone	
CT19 5LP	Email: annber35@outlook.com	CT19 4AB	Email:richard.wallace.ba.mrics@gmail.com
Dan Brook	Ward: Central	Abena Akuffo-Kelly	Ward: Central
(Conservative) 13 Castle Mews Folkestone	Telephone: 07481522127	(Labour)	Telephone:
CT20 2NU	Email: brook.danny@yahoo.co.uk		Email: a.akuffo-kelly@outlook.com
David Horton	Ward: Central	Belinda Walker	Ward: Central
(Labour)	Telephone:	(Labour)	Telephone:
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Jonathan Graham	Ward: Cheriton East	Paul Bingham	Ward: Cheriton West
(Labour)	Telephone:	(Labour)	Telephone: 07486570373
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Peter Gane (Conservative)	Ward: Cheriton West	Roger West (Conservative)	Ward: Cheriton West
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Cheriton CT19 4LX	Email: cheritonpet200@gmail.com	CT20 3SL	Email: thewests9@hotmail.co.uk
Michelle Keutenius	Ward: East Folkestone	Dylan Jeffrey	Ward: East Folkestone
(Labour)	Telephone: 07495041999	(Conservative)	Telephone: 01303 255773
	Email:michellefolkestonelabour@gmail.com		Email: dylanjeffrey30@gmail.com

YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR 2019-20

Connor McConville	Ward: East Folkestone	Jackie Meade (Labour)	Ward: East Folkestone
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Mary Lawes (Foundation)	Ward: Harbour	Nicola Keen (Labour)	Ward: Harbour
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	Email: marylawes@gmx.co.uk		Email: nicolakeen@sky.com
Ray Field (Independent)	Ward: Harbour	Tim Prater (Liberal Democrat) 98a Sandgate High	Ward: Harvey West
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