

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL



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COMMUNITY, CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

Meeting: Community, Climate and Environment Committee
Date: 9 June 2026
Time: 7.00 p.m.
Place: Council Offices, Town Hall, 1-2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone.

To: The Community, Climate and Environment Committee
(All other Councillors for information only)

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend a meeting of the Community, Climate and Environment Committee on the date and at the time and place shown above to transact the business shown on the agenda below. The meeting will be open to the press and public.

Any member who wishes to have information on any matter arising on the Agenda which is not fully covered in these papers is requested to contact the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

Toni Brenchley
Town Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive and approve any apologies for absence.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

To appoint a Chair for the Committee for the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

To appoint a Vice-Chair for the Committee for the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of either personal or prejudicial interest that Members may wish to make.

5. MINUTES

To receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate & Environment Committee held on 7 April 2026, and the Community Services Committee held on 14 April 2026 and to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

6. REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

In line with the Town Council's adopted Standing Orders, the Committee is asked to consider the Terms of Reference for the Community, Climate & Environment Committee. Any changes which the Committee wishes to make to the Terms of Reference must be approved by Full Council at a future meeting. The current version is attached.

7. WORKING GROUPS 2026/27

Members are invited to consider whether the continuation or establishment of any Working Groups would be beneficial for the 2026/27 municipal year, and, if so, to agree memberships accordingly. Working Groups for 2025/26 were as follows:

Fairtrade: Cllrs Meade, McShane and Walker

Museum: Cllrs Akuffo-Kelly, Chapman, McGirr and Walker

Trees: Cllr Walker

Parks and Open Spaces: Cllrs Keen, Renshaw and Walker

Allotments: Cllrs Keen, Meade and West (Substitute Cllr McGirr)

Members may wish to confirm, amend, or propose alternative arrangements to ensure the Working Groups remain aligned with the Committee's priorities.

8. ROOTING FOR WILDLIFE

The Communities and Events Officer will update the Committee in respect of applications submitted to Affinity Water by the Tile Kiln Lane and Park Farm Road Allotment Associations for funding to deliver biodiversity enhancement projects.

Cllr John Renshaw will provide feedback in respect of the All Souls Church of England primary school application for funding to install raised flowerbeds and a garden on its site.

9. TREE PLANTING

Further to a request from members at the last Climate & Environment Committee meeting, the Communities & Events Officer will update members regarding suggested tree planting.

The Committee is asked to review the Tree Planting Schedule (attached) and consider whether it agrees to release the £15,000 Tree Planting Budget for 2026/27 to deliver the scheme.

10. DISTRICT COUNCIL GREEN GRANTS SCHEME – NEW FUNDING AVAILABLE

A £250,000 package of support for organisations to deliver sustainable and carbon reducing projects in the Folkestone & Hythe district has been agreed.

The F & HDC Green Grants third round of funding welcomes applications for four categories of funding and bids must be received by Friday 17 July. The categories are:

- Climate action micro grants – up to £2,000
- Rewilding, tree planting and wildflower meadow grants – up to £10,000
- Social and community grants – up to £15,000
- Premises grants – up to £20,000

If the Committee wish FTC to apply for funding, it is asked to provide suggestions of potential projects.

11. CIL CONSULTATION

Report CCE/26/418 outlines the feasibility of projects identified through the 2025 public consultation. Following further research and assessment, it provides additional detail on each proposal, including any requirements, constraints, and indicative costs, to support decisions on whether these projects should be progressed. The Committee is asked to receive the report and consider the recommendations set out within it.

12. FOLKESTONE MUSEUM REPORT CCE/26/419

The Committee is asked to receive and note Report CCE/26/419, consider approving signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Stowting Parish Meeting (attached) for the loan of exhibition objects, and support grant bids from Kent Downs National Landscape and Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

13. ARMED FORCES DAY FOLKESTONE WITH AIR DISPLAYS 2026

The Communities & Events Officer will update the Committee in respect of developing arrangements.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18 August 2026 at 7.00pm

Councillors on Committee

Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly
Councillor Charles Bain Smith
Councillor Bridget Chapman
Councillor Jane Darling
Councillor Laura Davison
Councillor Peter Gane
Councillor Nicola Keen
Councillor Kieran Leigh
Councillor Lucy McGirr
Councillor John Renshaw
Councillor Belinda Walker
Councillor Roger West

Parking available for Councillors @ 6.00pm on the precinct area at the front of the Town Hall.



FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday,
7 April 2026 at the Town Hall at 7pm.**

Present: Councillors Kieran Leigh, John Renshaw (Chair) and Belinda Walker.

In attendance: Liz Timmins (Communities and Grants Officer)

**Apologies: Councillors Abena Akuffo-Kelly, Laura Davison (retrospective),
Lucy McGirr and Roger West.**

Absent: Councillor Charles Bain Smith.

180. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors were asked to receive apologies from Councillors Abena Akuffo Kelly, Lucy McGirr, Nicola Keen and Roger West.

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies from Councillors Abena Akuffo Kelly, Lucy McGirr, Nicola Keen and Roger West.

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw
Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker
Voting: F:3, Ag:0, Ab:0

181. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

182. MINUTES

The Committee was asked to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate & Environment Committee held on 3 February 2026 and to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2026 be received and to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Belinda Walker
Seconded: Councillor Kieran Leigh
Voting: F:3, Ag:0, Ab:0

183. ROOTING FOR WILDLIFE

The committee were briefed on the Affinity Water funding available to deliver biodiversity enhancement projects.

The Allotments Associations have been asked to identify any potential projects that meet the funding criteria, with a particular emphasis on water conservation initiatives.

It was also noted that Cllr John Renshaw will contact All Souls School, who has recently applied for funding for raised beds and school garden and report back to the next meeting.

184. TREE PLANTING

The Committee reviewed the tree planting proposals submitted Kent Highways for 2026/27, it was noted that some trees were originally proposed to be planted in tubs on Earls Avenue, Shaftesbury Avenue and Cheriton High Street. Councillors would like to query why tubs were recommended rather than planting in the soft verges along the roadside, particularly as Earls Avenue is in a conservation area and the intention is to replace trees that have been felled. Councillors have asked for them to be included when the final draft is reviewed on the 9th June 2026.

RESOLVED: That the proposed tree planting schedule for 2026/27 is agreed with the addition of the sites noted above.

Proposed: Councillor Belinda Walker

Seconded: Councillor John Renshaw

Voting: F:3, Ag:0, Ab:0

185. CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT - KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS REPORT CE/26/413

Report CE/26/413 presents the Council's performance against the agreed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the reporting year, in accordance with the Four Year Plan. The Committee were asked to receive the report and consider the recommendations set out within it.

RESOLVED:

i) To receive and note report CS/26/413

ii) To approve the recommended amendments to the existing KPIs.

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

Voting: F:3, Ag:0, Ab:0

186. CIL CONSULTATION

An update was provided to the Committee in relation to further research having been undertaken to ascertain costs, required resource, land ownership, responsibility and viability of potential projects identified at the last meeting.

RESOLVED: The Committee noted the CIL consultation results.

Proposed: Councillor John Renshaw
Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker
Voting: F:3, Ag:0, Ab:0

187. DRAFT COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

The committee received and noted the Community Resilience Plan and are keen to operationalise the recommendations giving priority to train flood wardens for the area that would be immediately affected by the Pent Stream

RESOLVED: The Committee received and noted the Community Resilience Plan and recommended follow up with relevant partners giving priority to training the Flood Wardens.

Proposed: Councillor Kieran Leigh
Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker
Voting: F:3, Ag:0, Ab:0

188. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Community, Climate & Environment Committee 9 June 2026 at 7.00pm

The meeting concluded at 7.50 pm.

Chair

Date

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held at the Town Hall,
1 – 2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone, CT20 1DY on Tuesday, 14 April 2026 at
7.00pm.**

Present: Councillors Peter Gane, Lucy McGirr, Belinda Walker, Jane Darling and Roger West (Chair).

In Attendance: Toni Brenchley – Town Clerk

Absent: Councillor Bridget Chapman

1361. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

1362. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Peter Gane and Jane Darling declared an interest in 'Folkestone Town Centre and Cheriton Christmas Lighting Installations' as members of the Cheriton Christmas Lights Committee.

1363. MINUTES

The Committee was asked to receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 10 February 2026 and to authorise the Chair of the Committee to sign them as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 10 February 2026 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr

Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker

Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:0

1364. COMMUNITY SERVICES – KEY PERFORMANACE INDICATORS REPORT CS/26/414

Report CS/26/414 presented the Council's performance against the agreed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the reporting year, in accordance with the Four-Year Plan.

The Committee was asked to receive the report and consider the recommendations set out within it.

RESOLVED:

- i) **To receive and note report CS/26/414**
- ii) **To approve the recommended amendments to the existing KPIs.**

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded: Councillor Lucy McGirr
Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:0

1365. CIL CONSULTATION

An update was provided to the Committee regarding the research conducted by the Town Clerk and Communities & Events Officer in respect of ascertaining costs, required resource, land ownership, responsibility and viability of potential projects.

A report will be submitted to the newly combined Community, Climate & Environment Committee on 9 June 2026.

1366. FOLKESTONE MUSEUM REPORT CS/26/417

The Committee was asked to receive and note Report CS/26/417.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To receive and note report CS/26/417**
- 2) **To agree that Folkestone Town Council will release £5300 from the Museum Reserve to complete the radon remediation project.**

Proposed: Councillor Lucy McGirr
Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker
Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:0

1367. ARMED FORCES DAY WITH AIR DISPLAYS 2026

The Committee were updated in respect of developing arrangements for this year's event.

1368. FOLKESTONE TOWN CENTRE AND CHERITON CHRISTMAS LIGHTING INSTALLATIONS

The Committee received an update on the current Christmas lighting assets and installations in Folkestone Town Centre and Cheriton, including the

associated essential tree works being undertaken by Kent County Council (KCC).

Members were advised that KCC have determined that, prior to these works, all Christmas lights installed on KCC-owned trees will be required to be removed. Furthermore, KCC have confirmed that, moving forward, any lights installed on their trees will need to be removed and reinstalled annually prior to the Christmas period.

The Committee expressed disappointment at KCC's sudden decision, particularly given that the lights had been left in situ for a number of consecutive years to avoid the significant costs associated with repeated removal and replacement.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To request £10,000 from reserves to fund the following:**
 - i. **10 trees – Permanent removal of unsalvageable lights**
 - ii. **24 trees - Careful removal of lights, which will not be reinstalled in the current locations, but which may be reused elsewhere where feasible.**
 - iii. **6 trees in the precinct area – Careful removal of lights, with the intention that these will be reinstalled annually in future.**

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane
Seconded: Councillor Roger West
Voting: F:4, Ag:0, Ab:1

1369. AGE FRIENDLY TOWNS

The Committee was briefed on the concept of an 'Age Friendly Town', including the general principles and aims underpinning the initiative.

Members were informed that further information and details of any potential projects or opportunities arising from this work will be reported to the Committee at a future meeting.

1370. YOUTH PROJECTS

Due to the underwhelming uptake of the Kwik Cricket and Councillor Cup Football Tournament, Officers have explored other activities that may appeal to the youth of Folkestone.

Two projects have been identified for further development:

- Chess introduction: The local Junior Chess club has expressed an interest in introducing more young people to chess, the potential for Folkestone to host a junior chess competition in the future.

- Folkestone archaeology: Officers propose engaging an outside body to host outdoor workshops and introduce schools to the world of archaeology and local history.

RESOLVED:

- i. To proceed with the Chess Introduction project.
- ii. To proceed with the Folkestone Archaeology project.
- iii. That Officers approach local schools once more regarding participation in the Councillor Cup Football Tournament.
- iv. That Councillors explore the possibility of a competition inviting local schools to develop ideas to regenerate the high street with proposals to be reported back to the Committee

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane
 Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker
 Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:0

1371. SCALE OF FEES

The Committee was asked to review and determine whether to approve the revised scale of fees.

RESOLVED: To approve the revised Scale of Fees

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane
 Seconded: Councillor Belinda Walker
 Voting: F:5, Ag:0, Ab:0

1372. DEFIBRILLATORS & BLEED KITS

An update was provided to the Committee on the Council-managed defibrillators and bleed kits located across Folkestone, including their current status, maintenance arrangements and any actions required.

1373. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Community, Climate & Environment Committee - Tuesday 9 June 2026 at **7pm**

The meeting concluded at 7.55pm

Chair.....

Date.....

	Ward	Surface Type	FTC Yes	KCC Yes	KCC Review	Budget Estimate
66 Earls Avenue	Folkestone Central	Soft		Potentially as in conservation area		
57 Earls Avenue	Folkestone Central	Soft		Potentially		
Earls Cliff, Earls Avenue	Folkestone Central	Soft		Potentially		
No.10 Jointon Road	Folkestone Central	Soft		Potentially		
No.8 Jointon Road	Folkestone Central	Soft		Potentially		
No.2 Jointon Road	Folkestone Central	Soft		Potentially		
No.3 Jointon Road	Folkestone Central	Soft		Potentially		
No. 1 Primrose House	Folkestone Central	Soft		Potentially		
No 38 Turketel Road	Harvey West	Soft		Potentially		
No 43 Bouverie Rd West	Folkestone Central	Soft		Potentially		
No 39 Bouverie Rd West	Folkestone Central	Soft		Potentially		
No 33 Bouverie Rd West	Folkestone Central	Soft		Potentially		

No 20 Bouverie Rd West	Folkestone Central	Hard		Potentially		
No 14 Bouverie Rd West	Folkestone Central	Hard		Potentially		
No 12 Bouverie Rd West	Folkestone Central	Hard		Potentially		
No 1 Welson Road	Harvey West	Soft		Potentially		
No 5 Bathurst Road	Harvey West	Soft		Potentially		
No 24 Bathurst Road	Harvey West	Soft		Potentially		
No 15 Bodenham Road	Harvey West	Soft		Potentially		
No 13 Bodenham Road	Harvey West	Soft		Potentially		
No 7 Bodenham Road	Harvey West	Soft		Potentially		
No 1 Bodenham Road	Harvey West	Soft		Potentially		
No 8 Hardwick Road	Harvey West	Soft		Potentially		
No 2 Baldric Road	Harvey West	Soft		Potentially		
Churchill Avenue (Bypass)	Folkestone East	Soft				
Bowen Road	Cheriton West	Soft				
No 9 William Avenue	Broadmead	Soft				
No 11 William Avenue	Broadmead	Soft				
No 6 William Avenue	Broadmead	Soft				

No 8 William Avenue	Broadmead	Soft				
No 2 William Avenue	Broadmead	Soft				
No 13 Lucy Avenue	Broadmead	Soft				
No 17 Lucy Avenue	Broadmead	Soft				
No 102 Lucy Avenue	Broadmead	Soft				
No 104 Lucy Avenue	Broadmead	Soft				
No 114 Lucy Avenue	Broadmead	Soft				
No 27 + others to fill gaps at this location	Broadmead	Soft				
Near No. 8 Pike Close but Lucy Avenue	Broadmead	Soft				
Lucy Avenue opp. Martha Close	Broadmead	Soft				
No 36 Cornwallis Avenue	Broadmead	Soft				
No 37 Cornwallis Avenue	Broadmead	Soft				
No 39 Cornwallis Avenue	Broadmead	Soft				
No 40 Cornwallis Avenue	Broadmead	Soft				
No 41 Cornwallis Avenue	Broadmead	Soft				
No 44 Cornwallis Avenue	Broadmead	Soft				
No 48 Cornwallis Avenue	Broadmead	Soft				
No 50 Cornwallis Avenue	Broadmead	Soft				
No 56 Cornwallis Avenue	Broadmead	Soft				

Cherry Tree Avenue from Main Road Cheriton to Cherry Garden Road	Cheriton East	Soft				
Roman Way	Cheriton West	Soft				
Fairway Avenue	Broadmead	Soft				
Broadview (cul-de-sac) opp. No 16,17	Cheriton West	Soft				
No. 6 Pond Hill Road (Cheriton)	Cheriton West	Soft	Pursue with Taylor Wimpey			
No. 14 Pond Hill Road (Cheriton)	Cheriton West	Soft	Pursue with Taylor Wimpey			
No. 20/22 Pond Hill Road (Cheriton)	Cheriton West	Soft	Pursue with Taylor Wimpey			
Opp. No. 8 Pond Hill Road (Cheriton)	Cheriton West	Soft	Pursue with Taylor Wimpey			
Opp. No. 10 Pond Hill Road (Cheriton)	Cheriton West	Soft	Pursue with Taylor Wimpey			
Opp. No 42 Castle Hill Avenue	Folkestone Central	Soft		Conservation		
Opp. No 32 Castle Hill Avenue	Folkestone Central	Soft		Conservation		
Opp. No 21 Castle Hill Avenue	Folkestone Central	Soft		Conservation		
Opp. No 15 Castle Hill Avenue	Folkestone Central	Soft		Conservation		
Opp. No 7 Castle Hill Avenue	Folkestone Central	Soft		Conservation		
Opp. Civic Centre	Folkestone Central	Soft		Conservation		

Opp. No 58 Castle Hill Ave	Folkestone Central	Soft		Conservation		
Cheriton High Street / Cheriton Road - Small trees in large tubs	Cheriton West	Not viable as full required root growth will be prevented				
Small trees in large tubs – Earls Avenue	Folkestone Central	Not viable as full required root growth will be prevented				
Small trees in large tubs – Shaftesbury Avenue	Cheriton West	Not viable as full required root growth will be prevented				
Grand Total						

FTC mostly sponsored the planting in hard sites in 2025 / 26 and therefore, as KCC have advised that creating hard sites will be at least 3 times more expensive in 2026 / 27 it is suggested that mainly soft sites are planted this year.

If trees are planted as replacements in conservation areas, the costs are normally covered by KCC.



COMMUNITY, CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
TERMS OF REFERENCE
COMMITTEE STRUCTURE – 12 MEMBERS

Purpose

To oversee and develop matters relating to community wellbeing, climate action, the natural and built environment, transport, culture, leisure and local services, and to make recommendations aligned with the Town Council's strategic objectives.

1. Finance & Governance

- Prepare budget forecasts for all Committee activities for submission to the Finance & General Purposes Committee to support the calculation of the precept for the ensuing year.
- Recommend amendments to these Terms of Reference where required.

2. Highways & Transport

Exercise Town Council powers in relation to:

- Ferry, bus and rail matters; bus shelters and related infrastructure.
- Cycling, community transport, rights of way, traffic and parking (in consultation with Highways England, KCC and FHDC).

3. Environment, Community & Local Services

Exercise Town Council powers in relation to:

- Local projects including horticulture, leisure, sport, recreation and Christmas lighting.
- Arts, libraries, education and health initiatives.
- Community safety (CCTV, Community Resilience Plan), including preparedness and response to climate-related risks and emergencies.
- Employment, skills, economic development and markets.
- Public conveniences, Folkestone Museum and Visitor Information Services.
- Car parking, public clocks, seating, street cleansing and youth facilities.
- Events, carnivals, communications and tourism.

Continued

COMMUNITY, CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE - Continued

- Oversee the Council's responsibilities under the Armed Forces Covenant and ensure fair treatment and support for serving personnel, veterans, and their families.

4. Climate, Environmental and Resilience Responsibilities

Exercise Town Council powers in relation to:

- Open spaces, common land, parks, gardens, recreation grounds and community gardens.
- Tree planting, flowerbeds and carbon-reduction planting strategies.
- Play equipment, sports and recreation facilities.
- Allotments, biodiversity plans, wildlife habitats and associated engagement with Allotment Associations.
- Beaches and Harbour (with relevant stakeholders).
- Delivery, monitoring and review of the Council's Climate Action Plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.
- Environmental communications, partnerships and climate-related community initiatives.
- Plastic Free Folkestone initiatives and the town's Fairtrade status.
- Integration of climate resilience principles into all relevant Council services, projects, planning responses and asset management.

5. Environmental & Youth Initiatives

Make recommendations on:

- Projects supporting biodiversity, air quality, wildlife enhancement and renewable energy.
- Litter management and environmental cleanliness campaigns.
- Climate action, carbon reduction strategies and youth engagement opportunities.

This report will be made public on 2 June 2026

**Folkestone
Town Council**



Report Number CCE/26/418

To: Community, Climate and Environment Committee
Date: 9 June 2026
Status: Non-Exempt Report
Responsible Officer: Town Clerk

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVEY (CIL) FUNDING PROJECTS

SUMMARY:

This report outlines the feasibility of projects identified through the 2025 public consultation. Following further research and assessment, it provides additional detail on each proposal, including any requirements, constraints, and indicative costs, to support decisions on whether these projects should be progressed.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To improve recreational and inclusive play facilities, and support sustainable transport, while ensuring schemes are developed in consultation with residents and businesses and funded through CIL reserves.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) **Receive and note report CCE/26/418**
- 2) **To progress the installation of a Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGA) at Naseby Avenue, subject to consultation with local residents and to request the release of funding from CIL reserves.**
- 3) **To progress the installation of communication boards and play panels at Coniston Road, Nasby Avenue, Roman Way, Downs Road, Pine Way and Firs Lane Play Parks, and to request the release of funding from CIL reserves.**
- 4) **To progress the provision of cycle hoops and secure cycle storage at the top of Sandgate Road, outside Chaos Cards and at Cheriton Place (4 no.), subject to consultation with shop owners in the immediate vicinity, and to request the release of funding from CIL reserves.**

Aims and Objectives – Key Priority One – Create a Better Environment for Folkestone
Financial Implications – CIL Funds £33,000
Equal Opportunities – Access to all.
Environmental Impact – The environmental impact has been considered in the preparation of all budgets.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Council approved the CIL Policy in August 2025 which stated that Council will engage with the community for future prioritisation of CIL spending.
- 1.2 A public consultation took place at the end of 2025, inviting proposals from community groups, councillors and local service providers.
- 1.3 The appropriate proposals received were passed to the Community Services & Climate and Environment Committee for consideration in February 2026, with further investigations to be undertaken.

2.0 SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS & OUTCOMES

The following proposals were identified for further investigation:

2.1 Community Services

i) Installation of a MUGA at Coniston Road Play Park and Installation of new equipment suitable for older youths at Naseby Avenue Play Park.

A Half MUGA/Sports Wall usually consists of inclusive and versatile sports solutions featuring football, handball and basketball goals.

Unfortunately, the park at Coniston Road has a number of trees and space is limited. A MUGA would be best placed at Naseby Avenue. Considerations must be made first for the neighbouring properties, as sometimes when equipment like this is installed, it can create noise and cause a problem where there wasn't one previously. It is recommended councillors consult with neighbours first, before it's taken further.

For a half MUGA the cost would be about £9,000-£14,000 depending on the type and if any surfacing is required.

ii) Installation of equipment designed and suitable for those with disabilities and accessibility difficulties.

A communication board is a tool that uses pictures and symbols to help children share what they need, want, or feel. Instead of using words, children can simply point to the image that best expresses what they want to say.

Playgrounds are full of opportunities for fun, friendship, and learning but for children who have speech or language differences, it can sometimes be hard to join in, ask for help, or share their ideas.

Communication boards make it easier. With simple pictures showing playground equipment, feelings, and common phrases, children can point to what they need – whether that's asking a friend to play, letting an adult know they're hurt, or sharing how they feel.

FTC installed a communication board and play panels in Southern Way in October 2025. The communication panels range from £900-£1400 each including installation. It is recommended that these are installed in the following parks:

*Coniston Road
Nasby Avenue
Roman Way
Downs Road
Pine Way
Firs Lane*

iii) Installation of a shelter for sea swimmers at Mermaid Beach.

Initial discussions have highlighted some challenges relating to planning, access, and maintenance, which have limited the scope to take this forward at this time due to resources.

iv) Provision of cycle hoops and storage to secure bicycles at top of Sandgate Road, outside Chaos Cards on Sandgate Road and on Cheriton Place.

There has been considerable support for the installation of further cycle stands in the town. The pavement on the corner of Sandgate Road and Cheriton Place was identified as a potential site. Permissions from the relevant authorities has been sought and plans drawn up for the installation. The cost for the purchase of x 4 stands installation is detailed below:

- *Sheffield cycle stands @ £42per stand = £168*
- *Installation by a KCC approved installer = £2,000*

KCC have asked that retailers, such as Chaos Cards, are consulted before any decisions are made.

v) Installation of specialist beach wheelchairs at the Sunny Sands.

Following further investigation, this is not a project that can be progressed. This has previously been explored and due to the steep gradient of the slope leading onto the sands, it is not possible to safely use beach wheelchairs at this location, as it presents significant health and safety concerns.

2.2. Climate & Environment

- i) **Engagement with local schools teaching the value of managing and re-using rainwater to potentially include FTC assisting schools to install small SuDS planters and rainwater harvesting systems on their respective sites.**

Due to current staff resource limitations, this has not been progressed. However, this could be explored further if there is Member interest in taking it forward.

- ii) **Create a community meadow and food growing area developed with forest gardening principles at the green space beyond 'Jocks Pitch', Wear Bay Road and the enclosed / gated triangle of land opposite this site.**

This proposal has not been progressed further due to ongoing issues with temporary encampments and site use.

- iii) **Cheriton Road Cemetery to receive additional grounds maintenance including three grass strims annually with cuttings removed to encourage the return of wildflowers and increase numbers of butterflies, bees, insects, wagtails and other small birds.**
- **Regular inspections undertaken by a Community Officer and / or Ward Councillors to ensure any approved works are regularly carried out.**

This has not been progressed at this stage due to resource considerations. Opportunities to work with the District Council on enhanced maintenance could be explored, subject to delivery arrangements and resourcing for ongoing oversight.

3.0 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

3.1 Summary of CIL Receipts

2020/21	£22,011.30
2021/22	£14,926.92
2022/23	£65,740.95
2023/24	£71,058.10
2024/25	£16,227.07
2025/26	£9,362.22
Total	£199,326.56

3.2 Summary of Expenditure To Date

Year	Project	Cost	STATUS
		Income	£199,326.56

2022/23	Purchase of additional play equipment	£33,859	Completed
2024/25	Supply of fencing & gates – Pine Way	£4,444	Completed
2025/26	Play park improvements	£27,916	Completed
2025/26	Highways improvements	£21,650	Approved & in progress
	Total Expenditure	£89,086	
	Balance Available	£110,240.56	

3.3 Summary of Proposed Expenditure

The expenditure for recommended projects, subject to consultations with businesses and residents as required and appropriate permissions, are as follows:

Description	Estimated Costs	Total (estimated)
Installation of a MUGA at Naseby Avenue Play Park	£14,000	£14,000
Installation of a communication board and play panels in the following parks: <div style="margin-left: 40px;"> Coniston Road Nasby Avenue Roman Way Downs Road Pine Way Firs Lane </div>	£900 - £1,400 each <i>(dependant on installation method) x 12 no.</i>	£16,800
Provision of cycle hoops and storage to secure bicycles at top of Sandgate Road, outside Chaos Cards on Sandgate Road and on Cheriton Place (4 no.)	Stands x 4 £168 Installation x 4 £2,000	£2,200
		£33,000

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this report demonstrates that several of the proposed projects are both feasible and aligned with the Council's priorities to enhance recreational provision, accessibility, and sustainable transport across Folkestone.

While some proposals face constraints relating to space, safety, or resourcing, a number of deliverable schemes have been identified for progression, subject to further consultation and approval of CIL funding.

CONTACT OFFICER

If you have any queries about this report, please contact the Town Clerk of the Council.
Tel: 01303257946 or email toni.brenchley@folkestone-tc.gov.uk prior to the meeting.

This report will be made public on 9 June 2026

**Folkestone
Town Council**



Report Number: CCE/26/419

To: Community, Climate & Environment Committee
Date: 9 June 2026
Responsible Officer: Town Clerk
Report by: Museum Manager/Curator
Subject: MUSEUM CURATOR'S REPORT

SUMMARY:

This report provides an update on Folkestone Museum's work covering the period 1 April to 30 May 2026.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The long-term agreement (2020-2040) between the Town Council and National Lottery Heritage Fund (principal funder) to deliver its heritage objectives: to preserve and enhance the town's heritage through the provision of Folkestone Museum.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. To receive and note report CCE/26/419**
- 2. To resolve to sign a memorandum of understanding with Stowting Parish Meeting, regarding loaning objects from them for our upcoming exhibition**
- 3. To agree to support the Kent Downs National Landscape's grant bid to promote the walking path between Folkestone and Dover**
- 4. To agree to support Canterbury Archaeological Trust's grant bid for the continuation of the East Wear Bay project**

Aims and Objectives – Maintaining an accredited museum and Corporate Priority Ten – Preserve the Town’s heritage and regenerate community spirit.
Financial Implications – Meeting the requirements of NLHF & Council within budget
Equal Opportunities – Access to all
Environmental Impact – The environmental impact has been considered in the preparation of all budgets.

1. Introduction

The Museum continues to open on a five-days-per-week basis alongside the Town Hall and visitor information service.

2. Exhibitions

Our next exhibition, ‘Raising the Dead’, will open on the 4 July. It features finds from a local Anglo-Saxon cemetery (as seen on the last two series of Digging for Britain). We have selected goods from four graves to feature, including the sword which came to international attention. The goods found in these graves will help us tell the story of some of the people who lived locally during the 5th and 6th centuries AD.

To tie in with the exhibition, we will also host a week of family activities, a ‘sip and bead’ evening, and have a visit from the Thegns of Mercia.

To facilitate the loan of the objects for this exhibition, and in future, we have worked on a Memorandum of Understanding with Stowting Parish Meeting (the owner of the objects) to govern the terms under which we will look after these objects (please see attached). These terms are standard for museums loaning objects; the document is based on the Collections Trust Loans In Template.

3. Outreach and Education

Over the Easter Holidays, the Museum held two weeks of family activities. 140 children took part over the fortnight. Across May Half Term, 89 children took part in activities all about our natural world. Our numbers were lower this year, in part because of the unseasonably good weather over both holidays.

In our other regular craft activities, 24 young people took part in our ‘Paper Bag Otter’ activity at the Museum.

Our Heritage Learning Officer has hosted 6 class visits in this reporting period, including a session for homeschoolers.

In May, we hosted St Eanswythe’s Primary School, in partnership with the Folkestone Leas Lift CIO, to create their own display all about the Leas Lift. Their display in our Community Case will be in situ until the first week of July.

In April, the museum hosted a visit from Rockwatch, the junior club of the Geologists Association. Twenty people from all over the UK joined us for a version of our Rocks, Fossils and Dinosaur session, and we will be running two more sessions for them in June and October.

4. Collections Development & Care

We continue to work on our botany collection to identify missing accessioned specimens we're now halfway through the collection. We have also nearly completed our review of the shell collection.

Our Collections Development and Access Officer repacked our taxidermy collection in this reporting period. In the past, our taxidermy was kept in oversized boxes, which could not be moved by one person. They were also inefficient in terms of space.

By packing these objects more appropriately, we have created a significant amount of space in our store, which will be vital for the future health and storage of the collection.

5. Volunteering

Three of the Museum's volunteers completed 21.5 hours of work in the last reporting period. I am looking to recruit more volunteers to help with our summer holiday activities.

6. UNESCO Cross-Channel Geopark Transmanche

Folkestone Museum is one of the 'Geosites' in the proposed 'UNESCO Cross-Channel Geopark Transmanche'. The proposed Geopark, which is led by the Kent Downs National Landscape and Caps et Marais d'Opale Regional Nature Park in France, seeks to celebrate the unique geology of our local area.

The Kent Downs National Landscape, as part of this initiative, intend to promote the walking path between Folkestone and Dover (which has already risen in popularity in recent months, according to their data). They would like to place Folkestone Museum and Dover Museum as the official starting and ending points of the walk.

This would complement the current walking tours on offer in our Visitor Information Centre and have a positive impact on our visitor numbers. I would like to write a letter of support for this initiative.

7. Website Accessibility

In line with Folkestone Town Council's accessibility push this year, I have completed an audit of the museum's website using Webaim's Website Accessibility tool. Using the results of this audit, I have updated the website to improve its accessibility to all.

8. East Wear Bay Project

The East Wear Bay Project, run by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT), is revving up for its next year. CAT are looking for significant funding for the project in 2027 and 2028. As a key stakeholder in the project, the Museum has been asked to lend its support to this bid. I would like to write a letter of support for CAT's project.

9. Corporate Plan KPI Performance 2026-2027 Financial Year

KPI	Reporting period (Apr '26-May '26)	Previous Year (2025-6)	Year to Date
C1 Visitors to Town Hall	4937	5659	4937
C10 Website visits (Museum only)	2372	1797	2372
C11 Facebook followers	4145	3921	4145
CS3 Exhibition room bookings	0	2	0
CS4 Volunteer hours	21.5	38.5	21.5
CS5 Wellbeing activity sessions	2	0	2
CS6 Formal education sessions	19	9	28
CS7 Loan box bookings	2	2	2
CS8 Young people involved in engagement activities	273	386	273
CS9 Adults engaged in Museum engagement activities	12	29	12
CS10 Uplift in Donations	£246.92	£186.86	£246.92

Folkestone Museum's Instagram account also has 2818 followers (up from 2806 reported in CS/26/417).

Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is not intended to be legally binding and does not create legal relations between the parties. It sets out a shared understanding between Folkestone Museum (a brand name of Folkestone Town Council, “the Borrower”) and the Stowting Parish Meeting Trustees (“the Lender”) regarding the future storage, display and care of archaeological finds excavated from the Parish Field at Stowting (“the Collection”).

The absolute legal owner of these objects is Stowting Parish Meeting unless expressly transferred in writing.

This agreement does not include the human remains excavated from the same site, which are subject to separate statutory, ethical and curatorial requirements.

1. The Lender, that is the Stowting Parish Meeting Trustees, will:

Loan the Collection to Folkestone Museum for a period of not less than twenty-five (25) years, which will be re-assessed and confirmed every five (5) years, with the understanding that not every object in the Collection will be displayed.

Provide a list of items in the Collection in advance of the loan agreement being formally accepted.

Ensure that the items in the Collection are in good enough condition to be loaned. This will be agreed by both parties at the start of the loan period. A condition report must be supplied by the Lender, which will be checked and countersigned by the Borrower both on the Collection’s arrival at the museum premises and again at the end of the loan period.

Contribute towards the initial costs of storing the loan, including acid-free boxes and packing materials.

Give Folkestone Museum absolute discretion on all matters of display and/or study or research access, including location within the public galleries, the method by which the material is displayed, the content of any accompanying text and the choice of any images used, subject to the professional and ethical standards applicable to accredited museums.

Allow Folkestone Museum to take photographs of the items in the Collection for the purposes of collections management, display, website and intranet use, education, publicity, marketing and publications, as well the non-commercial uses of any of its sponsors.

Assign any interest in the copyright in photographs and recordings that they may have in relation to the Collection to Folkestone Museum and waive any right to any payment for the use of any such photographs and recordings for any purpose.

Allow the Borrower to permit members of the public to photograph the Collection items for their non-commercial research or private study purposes only. In all cases, the Borrower takes full responsibility to ensure that these restrictions are always communicated to the public.

2. The Borrower, that is Folkestone Museum, will:

Accept the loan of the Collection from the Lender.

House the Collection at Folkestone Museum on display or stored at the museum's discretion. The Collection will not be removed from any of the borrower's premises except in an emergency, or with the express written permission of the Lender.

Take the same care and precautions for the protection of the items in the Collection during the duration of this MoU and whilst in its custody as it does for items in its permanent collection, and in accordance with recognised museum best practice and Arts Council England Museum Accreditation standards.

Contribute to the conservation costs of the Collection items selected for display in the museum, subject to prior agreement with the Lender.

Monitor the Collection while this agreement is active, and notify the Lender of any loss or damage as soon as reasonably practicable. The Borrower may take necessary emergency remedial action to protect any such object from further damage/danger. No subsequent repair, restoration or conservation will be undertaken without written permission from the Lender.

Agree to insure the Collection for a value agreed by both parties while it is held at Folkestone Museum.

Acknowledge the Lender's ownership of the Collection in all reproductions of any Collection items and exhibition labels, to be credited as 'Stowting Parish Meeting', unless Folkestone Museum is informed otherwise.

Allow the Lender to temporarily remove items from the Collection with the written consent of the Borrower. The Borrower's responsibility and liability for any removed Collection items cease to exist during this period and insurance cover or associated costs will become the responsibility of the Lender.

Facilitate transport of the Collection items to other institutions for temporary display, with the prior written consent of the Lender and subject to separate loan-out agreements covering transport, insurance and security by the third party institution.

3. Renewing the loan agreement

At the expiration of the loan agreement after 25 years and at re-assessment every five (5) years, the Borrower will contact the Lender to discuss whether the loan will be renewed. Any renewal must be countersigned by both parties.

Contact by the Borrower pertaining to renewal of the loan agreement will, as a minimum, be in the form of an email to the Chair of the Parish Meeting.

In the event that the Borrower receives no response from the Lender within three (3) months, the Borrower shall have a further nine (9) months in which it must take reasonable steps to trace the Lender. If tracing is unsuccessful and no response is received from the Lender by the end of that additional nine (9) month period, then, and in those specific circumstances only, the Lender shall be deemed to have made a gift of the Collection to the Borrower. The Borrower then reserves the right to accession the Collection into its permanent collection or dispose of it as it sees fit. If so decided by the Borrower, any legal or other fees relating to reestablishment of contact shall be payable by the Lender.

4. Terminating the loan agreement

Either party may end this MoU by giving not less than two (2) months' written notice.

Upon termination of this Agreement, for any reason, the Lender shall be responsible for collecting the loan Collection items within a thirty (30) day period and paying for any packing or transportation costs this may incur.

5. General Provisions

Non-binding status

This MoU reflects the intentions of the parties but does not create legally enforceable obligations.

Dispute resolution

The parties will seek to resolve any disagreement arising from this MoU through good-faith discussion. If unresolved, the matter may be referred to informal mediation by mutual agreement.

Force majeure

Neither party shall be regarded as in breach of this MoU where performance is prevented by events beyond reasonable control, including fire, flood, or closure of premises.

