

## **Statement on Providing Leadership in Planning for the Future of the Community**



Folkestone Town Council is committed to providing an opportunity for the community to state its views and provide information regarding how people feel about where they live.

The Town Council has a Planning Committee that has delegated authority to make comments and representations on behalf of the Council, the Committee meets monthly to consider and respond to planning applications and consultations with the statutory time frame.

Agendas are available via our website and applications can be viewed via a public kiosk in the foyer of the Town Hall.

The Town Council works proactively wherever possible to strengthen and improve relationships with community groups, local organisations, businesses, statutory bodies, voluntary groups, Borough and County Councils. For example, hosting public engagement events at the Town Hall.

Folkestone Community Magazine enables the Town Council to engage with registered electors to gain an insight into local opinion.

Folkestone Town Council will:

### **Strengthen Partnerships**

- Encourage partners to approach the Town Council with clear, well thought out constructive ideas which will benefit all sections of the community and on which there can be joint working.
- Publicise the work of the Town Council through its website, Community Magazine and at Council meetings.
- Give the public the opportunity to ask questions at all of its public meetings.
- Facilitate the use of the Town Hall for public engagement projects hosted by external bodies to ensure access to information on future planning projects to all sectors of the community.

### **Communication at all levels**

- Have a clear method in which the public can give feedback to the Council both positive, negative and with ideas for development.
- Promote communication via the website, noticeboards, public participation at meetings, questionnaires, Annual Report and Community Magazine.
- Manage the Council's resources to ensure that they are spent on the needs of the community.
- Focus resources on what matters to our community and those that visit the area.
- Continue to comment on proposed planning applications and developments.

### **Managing the Council's resources wisely**

- Attain maximum benefit from management of the Council's assets.
- Acknowledge the diversity of what heritage means to Folkestone and seek to maintain this through active involvement in local projects along with investigating the development of a Neighbourhood Plan.
- Encourage ways in which our community can improve our environment and promote building resilience for the future.
- Work to encourage balancing the current needs of people, the economy and the environment without compromising the future.
- Be sensitive to our environment and contribute to a high quality of life.
- Ensure a fair and equitable precept is set annually.

### **Sustainable community**

- Work wherever possible with the business community to sustain economic vibrancy.
- Actively support local business by employing local tradesmen whenever possible.
- Actively support the local business and tourism economy.