

# FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL



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26 January 2026

Councillor Linden Kemkaran  
Leader of Kent County Council  
[linden.kemkaran@kent.gov.uk](mailto:linden.kemkaran@kent.gov.uk)

Dear Councillor Kemkaran

## GRACE HILL LIBRARY BUILDING, FOLKESTONE

I write on behalf of Folkestone Town Council further to a resolution passed at a meeting held on Thursday 22 January 2026.

At that meeting, it was formally resolved that Folkestone Town Council should approach Kent County Council to offer to purchase the freehold of the Grace Hill Library building for a nominal amount. Members recognised the building's long-standing role within the town and its importance to residents as a valued and well-known community asset, and noted that securing its future would represent an opportunity to invest in wider regeneration objectives, ensuring it continues to serve the community in a sustainable and meaningful way.

FTC understand we would become liable for, and is well placed to manage, the short-term liabilities of the building while we develop plans with community partners to regenerate the building as a community space. Critical to these plans is a tacit commitment to return Folkestone Library to Grace Hill at an appropriate point when the building becomes suitable to do so

In light of this and the comment at KCC's recent meeting stating that "the door remains fully open for alternative proposals for the old library premises at Grace Hill", and with the knowledge that KCC are exploring to dispose of the building at auction, FTC would hope to meet with the relevant members and officers to discuss our proposal before those plans are taken forward.

We approach this matter in a spirit of partnership and constructive engagement and would welcome further discussion at a mutually convenient time. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely

Toni Brenchley  
Town Clerk

Cc: Amanda Beer, Chief Executive, KCC  
Councillor Paul Webb, KCC  
Emma Wilcox, Creative Folkestone

Simon Jones, Corporate Director, KCC  
Tony Vaughan MP  
John O'Connor, One Folkestone

