



Deal Town Council Annual Report 2010/2011



Adjuvate Advenas

“Befriend the Stranger”

Chairman of the Council - Report 2010/2011

This has been a challenging but fruitful year for the Town Council. As budgets became ever tighter the Town Council took responsibility for the funding of facilities which had previously been managed by the District Council. For this reason we contributed £50,000 for the maintenance of the toilets in the town, since we believe these to be an essential amenity for residents and visitors alike. We will do the same for next year even though our precept in order to do this is rising by 6 pence per week for each household. Our role as a Council is equally to encourage and develop high quality facilities for our residents and we have contributed £25,000 in partnership with the District Council to develop a new playground in Victoria Park - we look forward to this new facility being enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

We have also placed emphasis on encouraging the economic and social life of Deal. We directly manage two markets each week and the Braderie in September was one of the best ever, bringing thousands of visitors in to enjoy the pleasures of our town. Through our grants amounting to £23,000 this year we enabled many voluntary organisations to sustain and develop their activities. And our Visitor Information Centre, now entirely funded by Deal Town Council, has a vital contribution to make in bringing a real boost to the local economy. In the course of 2011 we hope to provide an even better service to local residents by converting the previous District Council office in the Town Hall and providing a 'one-stop-shop' in the Undercroft which will combine the Visitor Information Centre with our office.

All our meetings are open to the public and there is a slot allocated for public participation at each meeting. Details of each meeting are shown on notice boards in prominent positions in the town. So come along and give us your views! As Mayor I have taken up causes which are important for the future of our town, such as the need for the High Speed Train to stop at Deal, and the future of Sampson Court in Mongeham.

None of this would have been possible without the commitment of our staff group. We have a very small staff team who do their very best to provide the residents of our town with a high quality service as well as taking forward developments for the future. I thank them on behalf of all my fellow Councillors for all the energy and enthusiasm they bring to helping to make our town a thriving place in which to work, live, and visit.

Councillor Ben Bano, Mayor of Deal and Chairman of Deal Town Council.

Annual Town Meeting

The Town Hall was packed on a very warm April evening for the Annual Town Meeting. Three guest speakers delivered presentations on Police activity in Deal, progress to date on the Deal Flood and Transport survey and the work of the Deal Community First Responders.

A vibrant celebration of the spirit of Deal then followed as representatives from 30 local organisations across the voluntary and community sector gave brief presentations on their work in and around Deal detailing what is available locally and how others can become involved. Due to the funds raised over the last 12 months, cheques were then presented from the Mayor's Civic Charity Fund before the meeting closed with an open question session followed by light refreshments. The evening demonstrated the generosity and commitment of local people who regularly give their time and energy on a voluntary basis for the benefit of this town. Thanks go to all who attended and participated.

Lin Dykes, Town Clerk of Deal.

Finance and General Purposes Committee

The Finance and General Purposes Committee in the past year has had a much better view of its function within Deal Town Council and therefore the decisions taken have been much clearer and more focused than in the past. This was borne out in the budget setting for the coming financial year where this committee focused on all aspects of the budget and together took very difficult decisions which will affect Deal Town Council's relationship with the town. As difficult as this was, the committee by and large worked together in achieving a robust budget in these difficult financial times.

Throughout the year this committee has considered requests for grant funding from a wide variety of local groups and organisations, and has supported a variety of events and initiatives of benefit to the community.

The committee members are grateful to the Finance Officer and Town Clerk for their support in the past year.

Councillor Jim Cronk - Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Accommodation and Personnel Committee

As the Chairman of the above committee, I would like to start by saying how grateful I am to the staff at Deal Town Hall and their colleagues working at the Visitor Information Centre for all that they have achieved. Our newly qualified Town Clerk and the team have cleared the outstanding Audit Report recommendations and are working on a draft Corporate Plan.

This committee has dealt with a wide range of issues. Negotiations are continuing over the future lease of the Town Hall and also longer term management of the Public Conveniences in Deal. Deal Town Council has agreed to take on responsibility for the toilet in the Undercroft whilst offering grant assistance of £46,000 to Dover District Council for 2011/2012 to continue to provide public toilet facilities at three other sites around the town in King Street, South Street and Victoria Park. Plans have been submitted for refurbishment of the area of the Town Hall previously occupied by Dover District Council and this could see the integration of the Visitor Information Centre back onto the site. The plans also include an application for a flag pole to be sited at the Town Hall once again – this time on the front of the building. No less important and in response to public requests, microphones are now in place for use at Deal Town Council meetings.

Councillor Bryan Henderson - Chair of Accommodation and Personnel Committee.

Youth Mayor's Report/Youth Working Group

James and Maria have flown the flag for the young people of Deal during their year of office. The many events they have attended included the Charter Day Service at St Thomas Mores Church, with a reading by James, and a Trafalgar Day service at St Georges Church, both youngsters have supported Fairtrade throughout their year.

Councillor Kath Blackburn – Chair of Youth Working Development Group.

Communities Committee

This has again been another very busy year due to the number and variety of issues dealt with by this committee over the past 12 months. Rail timetables continue to cause anger, emotion, debate, disbelief and frustration and are still high on the public's agenda with the feeling that Deal has had a raw deal and a proper resolution is required. Hopefully this will come to fruition with the round of consultations on the Network Southeast franchise renewal.

Town signage is finally moving towards a solution with help of KCC member Julie Rook and we could have a resolution in the next few months. New information signposts have been ordered and will be in place in the near future. This has been a good year for the Wednesday and Saturday markets despite some very difficult weather conditions at the end of last year and the beginning of this, and hopefully they will continue to flourish in the future. The annual Braderie was again a roaring success in September and the street was packed on the day. With the co-operation of local businesses this was a good day to show Deal at its most vibrant for residents and visitors.

The three allotment sites are thriving with an ever growing waiting list. Investment in the allotments in the past year has helped to bring the allotment amenities to a higher standard. Further work is required to bring the Golf Road allotment site up to an acceptable standard as it has been sadly neglected for some years. This has now been realised and in the next few months real improvements will be made.

The Astor Community Theatre continues to thrive with a variety of different activities and productions being held daily. The venue is widely used and is cementing its place as a key landmark for celebration of music, performance and the arts in the South East.

The committee members are grateful to the Deputy Town Clerk for all her support over the past year.

Councillor Jim Cronk – Chair of Communities Committee

Strategic Planning and Governance Committee

This committee is responsible for the review of all the Deal Town Council policies and internal audit control systems which monitor compliance with statutory regulations. The committee began the year by monitoring the work undertaken by the staff to deal with the previously outstanding Audit Reports of 2007 and 2009 which are now fully cleared.

During the year decisions have been taken regarding the format for the Annual Report for distribution across the three electoral wards, and for the timetabling of meetings and events throughout the year. It is this committee that reviews the Town Council Risk Management schedule as well as reviewing the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations which are necessary for a Council to conduct its business.

Altogether, this is an extremely important committee for the local electorate and the future running of the Town Council of Deal.

Councillor Marlene Burnham - Chair of Strategic Planning and Governance Committee

Planning Committee

As well as our usual cycle of monthly meetings, this year the committee also held special planning meetings to consider the 2 large applications for 250 and 290 houses in Sholden. These meetings were well attended by the public, and the recommendation from this committee was to object to both applications to Dover District Council, the local planning authority.

Although the legal power to make the final decision on planning applications sits with DDC, as a Town Council we are consulted on applications in the local area for our recommendations and it is a contribution we take very seriously. This committee has also looked at licensing issues over the last 4 years, although DDC do not have to consult with Town and Parish councils on this area of control.

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Planning Committee and to participate at the agenda item allowing the opportunity to speak to committee members. No advance notice of attendance is required and you are welcome to just turn up on the night and give your point of view on applications that could affect you or your neighbourhood.

As Chairman of this committee I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their valuable contributions during the past year

Councillor Bill Gardner - Chairman of Planning Committee.

Fairtrade Working Group

Fairtrade Town Status. Following Fairtrade Town accreditation in March 2010, we have been able to devote more time to promoting Fairtrade and Deal Town's fair-trade status, both within the town and beyond. After the first year, accreditation is sustained by an audit, therefore, we have to ensure that thought and effort continue to be put into not only maintaining, but also developing Deal's Fairtrade status. Would you like to join us?

During the year, supported by the Co-op group, we have worked with a number of local organisations and taken part in a variety of community events with stalls and raffles. We have catered for seven of the Mayor's community receptions, given talks to local groups, provided raffle prizes for local organizations and persuaded six local organizations and groups to incorporate support of Fairtrade into their policies. During Fairtrade Fortnight 2011 we had a number of stalls to promote Fairtrade, gave a talk to Year 6 at the Parochial School, and contributed to a reception to celebrate International Women's Day centenary celebrations. We also supported Dover and Thanet Fairtrade groups, attending a dinner and a reception and Trinity Church's Pancake Evening.

Fairtrade District and County Status. Together with Dover Town Council and Dover Churches we are working with Dover District Council to achieve Fairtrade District Status. We are also working with the Fairtrade in Kent steering group for Kent to become a Fairtrade County.

Councillor Patrick Acarnley and Mrs. S. Delling – Fairtrade working group.

Town Clerk's Report

The combined hours for all the part time staff at Deal Town Council amount to just under the equivalent of 6 full time staff. This team serves the 15 elected councillors and carries out all statutory functions required of a Town Council along with delivery of all events and services detailed in the earlier reports. As the tier of government closest to the electorate it is essential that links are maintained between the Town Hall and the community. In excess of 50 evening Council and committee meetings have been held this year and they were all open to the public. Our public notices are displayed on the website www.deal.gov.uk and on the notice boards sited in the Town Hall Undercroft, outside the Co-operative supermarket and outside Deal Library. Copies of the minutes of our meetings are placed in Deal Library for viewing and we also maintain the events notices on the community board in the High Street precinct.

The Town Hall is very well used as a regular venue for weddings and civil ceremonies and for table top sales in the Undercroft itself. Rooms are also available for hire for regular surgeries or as a venue for meetings or other events. As custodians of Deal Town Hall and the artefacts within, we opened in September as part of the National Heritage Open Day scheme for the first time. This was so well attended that this year the opening times will be extended over 2 days including a Saturday and we are also planning to repeat the free entry festive afternoon of music and celebrations on the Sunday before Christmas. If you would like to visit the Town Hall at any other time, please contact the Town Clerk to arrange an appointment when somebody will show you around. The Town Clerk will also check availability if you would like a member of staff to attend your local meeting to give an insight to the role of Deal Town Council including our civic and ceremonial duties.

Key diary dates this year: Friday 9th and Saturday 10th September 2011 - Town Hall Heritage Open Days
 Sunday 18th September 2011- Deal Town Braderie
 Sunday 18th December 2011 - Town Hall festive afternoon event.

Lin Dykes, Town Clerk of Deal.

Remembering Keith Turner 21.06.1942 to 07.02.2011 - Councillor for North Deal Ward.

Meetings Schedule 2011-2012

Meetings are held in the Town Hall Chamber at 7.15pm – members of the public are welcome to attend.

Meeting Dates:	Jun 2011	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 2012	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Full Council	28	26	30	27	25	29	20	31	28	27	12* + 30 *Annual Town Meeting	17* + 29 *AGM Mayor Making
Finance & General Purposes	20	18	22	19	17	14	12	23	20	12	23	21
Planning	7	5	9	6	4	8	6	10	7	6	10	8

Income, Expenditure and Allowances

From the start of the financial year 2010/11 Deal Town Council has taken on additional expenditure for contributions to Dover District Council for the cleansing and maintenance of Public Conveniences in Deal. This combined with the Council's decision not to raise the Precept for the year 2010/11 has resulted in an increased deficit for the year. With the guidance and support of the Finance and General Purposes Committee the budget for 2010/11 was reduced by 5% during the year and the budget for 2011/12 has been cut back by a further 8%. Despite taking these decisions the Council's reserves could not support a second year of maintaining the Precept at the same level. Having taken into account the views of Deal residents who assisted by completing a 'Budget Consultation Questionnaire' the Council have managed to restrict the Precept rise to 8.2%. This will mean an increase in Council Tax of £3.20 per year for a 'Band D' household.

DEAL TOWN COUNCIL'S INCOME and EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

INCOME	2009/10	2010/11
Precept	£275,885	£275,885
Visitor Information Centre	£32,317	£22,583
Markets/Braderie	£24,263	£24,193
Allotments	£2,122	£3,251
Astor Theatre Grants	£27,500	£5,000
Other Grants	£10,350	NIL
Other Income	£33,180	£42,348
TOTAL	£405,617	£373,260
EXPENDITURE	2009/10	2010/11
Mayoral & Civic Expenses	£8,355	£10,749
Promoting Town	£16,221	£10,225
Visitor Information Centre	£32,605	£24,383
Markets/Braderie	£9,744	£6,671
Grants/Donations	£15,460	£14,503
Playgrounds	£4,990	£25,000
Allotments	£10,942	£2,439
Salaries & Pensions	£151,788	£158,681
Astor Theatre	£57,500	£5,000
Town Hall & Other Costs	£108,082	£56,337
Public Conveniences	£6,000	£50,000
TOTAL	£421,687	£363,988
Net Surplus /(Deficit)	(£16,070)	£9,272

2010/2011 ALLOWANCES PAID

Cllr P A Acarnley	£420
Cllr B Bano	£420
Cllr Mrs K Blackburn	£420
Cllr T A Bond	£420
Cllr Mrs M Burnham	£420
Cllr J A Cronk	£420
Cllr A Friend	£420
Cllr B Gardner	£420
Cllr D P A Gore	£420
Cllr B R Grivell	£420
Cllr B R Henderson	£420
Cllr Mrs C Stickler	£420
Cllr J C Trickey	£420
Cllr W Elliott	Nil
Cllr K Turner	Nil
Special Allowance:	
Cllr B Bano	
Chairman's Allowance	£420

All the above figures are taxable.

Deal Town Councillors 2011 - 2015		
Cllr Ben Bano 95 College Road Deal Kent. CT14 6BU. Tel: 01304 366559 E-mail: cllrbenbano@aol.com Mill Hill Ward	Cllr Jim Cronk 8 Roman Close Deal, Kent. CT14 9XJ. Tel: 07745 163898 E-mail: CllrJim.Cronk@dover.gov.uk Middle Deal Ward	Cllr Bryan Henderson 1 Farrier Street Deal, Kent. CT14 6JP Tel: 07815 873256 North Deal Ward
Cllr Mrs Kath Blackburn 7 Dorset Court Lord Warden Avenue Walmer, Kent. CT14 7JT Tel: 01304 362044 Mill Hill Ward	Cllr Wayne Elliott 33 Golf Road Deal, Kent. CT14 6PY Tel: 01304 365893 E-mail: wayneelliott33@hotmail.co.uk North Deal Ward	Cllr Deryck Murray 9 Homefield Row Church Lane, Deal, Kent. CT14 9XG. Tel: 01304 366127 Middle Deal Ward
Cllr Mrs Marlene Burnham 156 Middle Deal Road Deal, Kent. CT14 9RL. Tel: 01304 372876 E-mail: lobster.pot@tiscali.co.uk Middle Deal Ward	Cllr Bob Frost 46 Victoria Road Deal, Kent. CT14 7BQ. Tel: 01304 362451 E-mail: bobfrostdeal@gmail.com North Deal Ward	Cllr Mrs Eileen Rowbotham Vale Cottage, Northbourne Deal, Kent. CT14 0LD. Tel: 01304 362842 E-mail: eileenrowbotham@goolemail.com Mill Hill Ward
Cllr Mrs Maggie Cosin 3 Halliday Drive Deal, Kent. CT14 7AX Tel: 01304 361074 E-mail: maggiecosin@yahoo.co.uk Mill Hill Ward	Cllr Bill Gardner 8 St Patricks Road Deal, Kent. CT14 6AW Tel: 01304 369568 E-mail: billkimi@hotmail.co.uk North Deal Ward	Cllr Mrs Carol Stickler 3 Alfred Square Deal Kent. CT14 6LU. Tel: 01304 362406 E-mail: carolstickler@tiscali.co.uk North Deal Ward
Cllr David Cronk 6 Roman Close Church Lane Deal, Kent. CT14 9XJ. Tel: 05602 531083 E-mail: davidcronk@btinternet.com Middle Deal Ward	Cllr Brynley Hawkins 6 Church Path Deal, Kent. CT14 9TH. Tel: 01304 365437 Middle Deal Ward	Cllr C Tough 15 Pittock House Freemens Way, Deal Kent. CT14 9DW. Tel: 07939 626237 E-mail: cjtough@gmail.com Mill Hill Ward

Staff at Deal Town Council

Linda Dykes – Town Clerk	Cathy Whitnall – Tourist Officer
Lorna Crow – Deputy Town Clerk	Kelly Lawrence – Tourist Officer
Paul Bone – Finance Officer	Sue Morbey – Tourist Officer
Joanne Pitcher – Mayor’s Secretary	Tony Higgins – Town Sergeant
Mike Osborne – Premises Officer	Barry Finch – Deputy Town Sergeant
Przemyslaw Kononowicz – Deputy Premises Officer	David Manning – Saturday Market Officer

Contact details for comments or enquiries:

Town Hall, High Street, Deal, Kent. CT14 6BB. Tel: 01304 361999 or e-mail: deal.town.council@deal.gov.uk	Visitor Information Centre High Street, Deal, Kent. CT14 6BB. Tel: 01304 369576 or e-mail info@deal.gov.uk
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