



Deal Town Council
Annual Report
April 2023 to March 2024



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This report can be downloaded from www.deal.gov.uk

Hard copies are available on request from the Town Hall



Welcome to the Annual Report for 2023/2024 which reflects the activities and services delivered by this council during the last year.

This report will be available to download from our website www.deal.gov.uk which is regularly updated with details of council meetings, events and local information. In addition to the website, council information is displayed on our notice boards outside Deal Library, in and around the Town Hall itself and on social media. We also regularly update the community notice board in the precinct.

Deal Town Council is a 'parish authority' for the town of Deal. It acts as a consultee and lobbying force with the District and County Council, putting forward the wishes and needs of the local community with an overall responsibility for its wellbeing. We have an electorate of 15,673 and a population of approximately 30,000.

There were nine scheduled meetings of the Full Council during the past twelve months. In addition, the council has four statutory committees which hold regular meetings during the year. These committees are the:

- Environment Committee
- Planning Committee
- Transport and Infrastructure Committee
- Finance and General Purposes Committee

Our work covers

- Being the voice for the people of Deal and lobbying for change
- Supporting endeavour and good causes through grant funding
- Responsible for the Town Hall, civic duties, events, the Visitor Information Centre, allotments and Deal Saturday Market



Deal Town Hall

How does it happen?

Deal Town Council is made up of 15 councillors, elected by Deal residents, representing the three parish wards (Mill Hill, North Deal and Middle Deal), who meet regularly to make decisions on the work and direction of the council, supported by the Town Hall team. The council as a whole is responsible to the people it represents – that's you, our community.

Attending a council meeting is a good way to find out what we do and get involved. You can look through our news stories to keep up-to-date with what we're working on at the moment. You can also find out more about the council by having a look round our website and on social media.

What we do

- All statutory duties of a Town Council
- Monthly statutory council meetings that are open to the public to attend
- Manage more than 80 allotment plots on three allotment sites for our residents
- Grant funding for local groups and organisations
- Employ a dedicated Facilities Team who maintain the Town Hall, manage the hiring of the Town Hall and its Undercroft, maintain and manage the allotments, undertake weekly checks of the Town Centre for any Health & Safety or maintenance issues that may need reporting to KCC or DDC as appropriate, and maintain the council's street furniture
- Employ a dedicated office team who administrate the Town Council ensuring residents' voices are heard and ensure the council operates legally and efficiently
- Managing the council's committees, projects, Mayor's office, general enquiries and Visitor Information Centre
- Care for and maintain records of the Town Hall artefacts, paintings and history
- Maintain and fund the planters along the seafront, High Street, and Mill Hill
- Deal Warm Welcome
- Organise year-round events for the community, such as the Braderie, Heritage Open Days, Holocaust Memorial Day and International Women's Day
- Work with Kent County Council for better roads, pavements and services
- Lobby Dover District Council for better investment, funding and improvements
- Work across multiple local organisations such as schools, police and community groups to ensure the council are meeting the needs of the most vulnerable in Deal
- Respond to planning applications, taking into account residents' views
- Have an up-to-date website and social media page, full of information
- Produce an Annual Report
- Respond to local consultations which affect our residents
- Deal Town Council also contributed £35,000 towards the running costs of keeping open the Public Conveniences at King Street, South Street and Victoria Park.

We're always keen to hear your views and you can contact us in a number of ways. You can use the contact page on our website at www.deal.gov.uk, call us on 01304 361999 or email us on deal.town.council@deal.gov.uk.

Deal Town Council reception & Visitor Information Centre are open at the Town Hall on the High Street every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday morning from 9.30am - 12.30pm (except Bank holidays).

There is also weekly tourist information available at the Saturday Market, Union Road Car Park from 9.30am - 12.30pm.



The Mayor, Cllr Richardson

Message from the Chairperson of the Council and Worshipful Mayor of Deal Cllr Oliver Richardson

We saw new faces in the chamber after the elections and it is a joy to see young councillors elected. This is my second term and for the last four years the council has always wanted to know the opinion of the younger generation, we now have this opportunity for them to be represented and heard.

When I became Chairperson, I said that I wanted people to enjoy themselves. In my Christmas message I asked the good people of Deal to be neighbourly and watch out for each other. Going out representing Deal as Mayor, talking to people and businesses, I do honestly believe that this has happened, and I would like to highlight a few special occasions.

The Arthur Henry Hobbs Women's Football tournament took place in July. The event celebrated local talent and paid tribute to Arthur, a local man who championed women's football after it was banned by the Football Association in 1921. Over 70 teams took part in what was a wonderful day.

Also in July was Deal's first ever Pride Day & Festival - another great opportunity for people to enjoy themselves. I hope they can build on last year's success and be able to build a future where every individual in Deal can live authentically and with unapologetic pride.

And of course, Carnival week where Deal comes together, culminating in the procession and fireworks. It is the envy of the South East of Kent and celebrates its 200th birthday in 2026.

At the beginning of March, His Royal Highness, The Duke of Gloucester, made a visit to Deal's Victoria Hospital. It was to celebrate 100 years of the hospital opening, a ceremony that was performed by his father. The visit lasted for over two hours with HRH showing great interest in all he was shown.

There were many other organisations that the Mayoress and I visited. Each visit we enjoyed tremendously, including International Women's Day, the Winter Lights parade and of course our Saturday Market which continues to go from strength to strength and is a jewel in Deal's crown.

I am pleased with what the Town Council have achieved this year. And, most importantly, the Deal Town Plan was adopted.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to the Town Clerk and Officers at Deal Town Council whose hard and dedicated work has allowed the council to work seamlessly, helping councillors carry out their duties.



The Mayor



Update from the Town Clerk

As we welcomed the arrival of spring at the Town Hall, so too did we welcome our councillors who were elected to serve Deal at the beginning of May 2023.

We also welcomed our new monarch His Royal Highness King Charles III. As a member of the Cinque Ports, we were extended a special invitation to select a Baron to attend the Coronation. The Mayor at that time, Chris Turner, was “delighted to represent the people of Deal at the Coronation.”

Closer to home, £2,000 was set aside by the council for local people, groups, and organisations to bid for funding for events they were hosting to celebrate the Coronation. Grant recipients included the Deal and Walmer Chamber of Trade whose glorious red, white, and blue bunting decorated the whole of the High Street for many months.

Out on the council allotments, our water harvesting campaign proved very popular indeed. We asked the plot holders to let us know if they would like a free water butt to capture rainwater to use on their crops. Not only is it better for the plants and for the planet, it means we are using much less mains water too. We declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and this project is part of a raft of work we are doing to become carbon neutral by 2025.

The summer was very busy, full of colour and joy. The town’s first Deal Pride was held, and we proudly flew the rainbow flag at the Town Hall in support and in celebration of LGBTQIA+ communities and the Mayor, Cllr Oliver Richardson, was asked to attend and made a speech at the inaugural event. In his closing remarks he said: “Thank you for being a part of this extraordinary moment in Deal. Let us make it one to remember, not just for today, but for all the generations that will follow. Together, we will build a future where every individual can live authentically and with unapologetic pride.”

Also in the summer, football came home to Deal as we hosted The Arthur Henry Hobbs Women’s Football Tournament for players under 16. On the day 30 teams were involved in the seven-a-side tournament, seeing 270 players taking part.

Arthur was a local man who championed women’s football after it was banned by the Football Association in 1921. His daughter Jill joined us on the day to present medals and trophies to those who took part.



Deal Town Council corner flag



Hut 55

Our e-bike hire scheme moved to the seafront to be hosted by Hut 55, allowing people to enjoy cycling around our beautiful town with only gentle exertion!

We also helped people get back in the saddle by providing free bike kits throughout #cycleseptember. Encouraging people to walk and cycle instead of driving not only supports our climate commitments, it is one of our action points in the Town Plan too.

Once again, we were able to host the Braderie which continues to be a great draw for people to come and spend a day in the town. It's back again this year so we hope to see you in the High Street on Sunday 15 September!

It was also our pleasure to fund Deal Warm Welcome for the second year running. Seven venues across the town open their doors to provide a safe, warm and friendly place for people to visit, free of charge and to be made welcome. It ran for four months in the winter and this year included direct funding through United Families and the Deal Area Foodbank who were able to give immediate financial and practical support to people in need.

Deal's motto is 'Welcome the Stranger' and the council has been working towards becoming a Town of Sanctuary. The next stage of that work was supported at Full Council in the autumn and we began working with local human rights charity Samphire Project to host a special Christmas event on Deal pier.

One Friday evening in December, the pier was lit up with a beautiful lantern parade, a procession celebrating life, light, hope and love. Samphire worked with local primary school children to learn about togetherness and welcome, and created colourful painted lanterns to use in the procession. We captured the event on film and you can watch it on our [Youtube channel](#) or on our website.

In March we held a special Sparkling Reception to mark International Women's Day. It brought together women of the town to network and this year we invited guests to give donations of sanitary and hygiene products. These were then gifted to local people who may be experiencing period poverty. No-one should have to miss school because they don't have any period products and nor should they have to miss work either.

It has been a busy and rewarding year and we once again look forward to supporting our residents and serving the town of Deal.



The Mayor and Town Clerk at United Families

The Town Plan

The Deal Town Plan has been officially adopted by council and work is now underway to deliver the list of actions.

The three to five year strategy was created in consultation with local residents and organisations. A questionnaire was posted to each household in Deal and regular meetings were held at the Town Hall for people to share their views. The final report now steers the activities of the Town Council.

The full action plan can be viewed online at www.deal.gov.uk.

We would like to extend our thanks once again to all residents, local groups and organisations who took part in the consultation, helping us shape a better future for the town.

Here are a selection of some of the actions that have been taken.

- A team was set up to **work with local groups and DDC on a campaign about waste and recycling** which will result in a new eye-catching campaign to encourage people to use the bin for their waste, not drop it.



Deal Pier



Park Street

- We found several **ways to engage and involve young people** with a football tournament in the summer of 2023 and a Winter Lantern Procession held on the pier at Christmas which was attended by local school children.
- We continue **to seek ways to engage better and make people feel they are listened to** with our extended opening hours at the Town Hall. We will also be updating and improving our Communications Policy to strive to make sure every voice is heard.
- Our Annual Grant scheme sees £20,000 set aside to help support projects that directly help our residents. It allows us to **build links with organisations which support vulnerable people**.
- Our Mayor and councillors are often invited to and attend meetings and special occasions in Deal, helping us **promote local events and activities**. Work is also underway to make better use of our website and social media to share the news even further.

The strategy is a living document and will be reviewed and updated periodically to reflect the needs of Deal

Deal Town Council Grant Streams 2023-24

A total of £19,250.59 was paid out from three grant streams:

Annual Grants £16,914.16, Green Grants £1,536

Coronation Grants £800

Annual Grants

Deal Music & Arts Ltd £ 500
Deal Community Carnival Association £500
Warden House Primary School £500
Treetops Pre-School £476.16
Deal & Sandwich Primary Care Network £250
Deal Film Festival £500
Give It A Go bingo £500
Lets go Escargot CiC £119
Deal Speaking up Group £900
The Deal Rotary Ice Breakers £540
Astor Community Arts Trust £650
Cinque Ports Football Club £1,000
Deal Maritime & Local History Museum £1,000
St Andrews Church £1,000
Espression Arts CiC £375
D.A.R.A. £500
Deal Brass Academy £500
Deal Town Rangers £1,000
North Deal Community Company £1,000
2235 Deal RAF Air Cadets £790
Walmer & Deal Action For Swifts (WALDAS) £443
Deal & Walmer Chamber Of Trade £500
The Deal Pirates Community Association £250
The Deal Society £500
Rotary Club of Deal £121
Bright Sparks £500
Deal Tiger Gym International (TGI) Tang So Doo £500
Deal & Walmer Allotment Holders Association £500
Deal Pride £500
Deal, Walmer & Kingsdown Amateur
Rowing Club £500

Eight Coronation Grants 2023-24 each paid £100

2 Deal Residents
Maddie for Music
Age UK South East
North Deal Community
Company
Give It A Go bingo
Deal Bowling & Social
Club
St Andrews Church

Green Grants paid during 2023-24

Cinque Ports Football Club £136
Dover & District Beekeepers £100
The Deal Pirates £300
Walmer Cricket Club £1,000

Income, Expenditure and Expenses

DEAL TOWN COUNCIL

INCOME and EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Income	2022/23	2023/24
Precept	£475,261	£475,932
Markets	£34,549	£37,120
Braderie	£420	£3,215
Allotments	£5,304	£3,910
Town Hall Income	£12,995	£12,913
Other	£10,821	£17,847
Total	£539,350	£550,937
Expenditure	2022/23	2023/24
Mayoral & Civic Expenses	£1,729	£2,291
Promoting Town	£4,865	£19,868
Visitor Information Centre	£726	£616
Markets	£23,743	£21,352
Braderie	£143	£2,880
Grants/Donations	£21,954	£38,079
Councillors allowances	£5,400	£5,100
Allotments	£9,614	£19,283
Salaries & Pensions	£319,243	£393,606
Town Hall & Other costs	£101,593	£139,976
Public Conveniences	£39,431	£35,000
Election Costs	NIL	£13,997
Total	£528,441	£692,048

2023/24

ALLOWANCES PAID

Councillor Allowances	
Cllr B Bano	£300
Cllr S Beer	£300
Cllr T Bond	£300
Cllr S Brookfield	NIL
Cllr L Craggs	£300
Cllr D Cronk	£300
Cllr M Cronk	£300
Cllr S Cullen	£300
Cllr M Eddy	£300
Cllr P Findley	£300
Cllr A Friend	NIL
Cllr P Jull	£300
Cllr D Parks	£300
Cllr O Richardson	£300
Cllr M Walters	£300
Chairperson's Allowance	
Cllr O Richardson	£300
Backdated Allowance	
Cllr E Rowbotham	£900

All the above figures are taxable

Town Council Committee Aims

Environment

Deal Town Council recognises that we face an unprecedented climate and environmental emergency and have committed to becoming a net zero carbon emitter in our own operations by 2025. We will use our power and influence to protect and improve the environment and encourage and support others to do the same, in addition to fulfilling our statutory environmental responsibilities and complying with all legal and other requirements. We are committed to transforming Deal into a cleaner, greener, healthier and more active town.

Finance and General Purposes

To ensure that the Town Council has and maintains an effective and efficient financial system with appropriate checks and controls. To develop and propose to the council the annual budget and monitor the council's Income and Expenditure statements.

Grant Sub-Committee

To review all applications received for a Special Project Grant, Community Contributions Grant and Annual Grant.

Planning

To make representations to the Local Planning Authority on planning applications for Deal

Transport & Infrastructure

To enable, wherever practicable, the environment, transport infrastructure and services of the town to meet the needs of its citizens.



Deal Pier

DEAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS SCHEDULE 2024 - 2025

All meetings are held at Deal Town Hall
High Street, Deal. CT14 6TR

2025												
Council Meeting	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
Planning	Mon 3rd 7:15pm	Mon 8th 7:15pm	Mon 5th 7:15pm	Mon 2nd 7:15pm	Tue 8th 7:15pm	Mon 4th 7:15pm	Mon 2nd 7:15pm	Mon 13th 7:15pm	Mon 3rd 7:15pm	Mon 3rd 7:15pm	Mon 7th 7:15pm	Tue 6th 7:15pm
Transport & Infrastructure		Wed 17th 7:15pm		Wed 18th 7:15pm		Wed 20th 7:15pm		Wed 15th 7:15pm		Wed 12th 7:15pm		Wed 14th 7:15pm
Environment	Wed 19th 7:15pm		Wed 28th 7:15pm		Wed 16th 7:15pm		Wed 18th 7:15pm		Wed 12th 7:15pm		Wed 16th 7:15pm	
Finance & General Purposes		Tue 23rd 7:15pm		Tue 17th 7:15pm		Tue 19th 7:15pm		Tue 21st 7:15pm		Tue 18th 7:15pm		Wed 21st 7:15pm
Full Council	Tue 25th 7:15pm	Tue 30th 7:15pm		Tue 24th 7:15pm	Tue 29th 7:15pm	Tue 26th 7:15pm		Tue 28th 7:15pm	Tue 25th 7:15pm	Tue 25th 7:15pm	Tue 22nd 7:15pm	
Other											*ATM Tue 29th 7:15pm	**AMC Tue 27th 7:15pm

*ATM = Annual Town Meeting - 29th April @7:15pm

**AMC = Annual meeting of the council including Chairman election - 27th May @ 7:15pm

Agendas are available from: Town Hall, High Street, Deal, Kent CT14 6TR
or you can download from the council website

Email: deal.town.council@deal.gov.uk

Tel: 01304 361999

Website: www.deal.gov.uk

NO MEETINGS

Our Deal Town Councillors



Cllr Ben Bano
cllrbenbano@deal.gov.uk
Mill Hill Ward



Cllr Susan Beer
cllrsuebeer@deal.gov.uk
North Deal Ward



Cllr Trevor Bond
cllrtrevorbond@deal.gov.uk
Middle Deal Ward



Cllr Samuel Brookfield
cllrsamuelbrookfield@deal.gov.uk
North Deal Ward



Cllr Les Craggs
cllrlescraggs@deal.gov.uk
Mill Hill Ward



Cllr Melissa Cronk
cllrmelissacronk@deal.gov.uk
Middle Deal Ward



Cllr David Cronk
cllrdavidcronk@deal.gov.uk
Middle Deal Ward



Cllr Simon Cullen
cllrsimoncullen@deal.gov.uk
Middle Deal Ward



Cllr Mike Eddy
cllrmichaelleddy@deal.gov.uk
Mill Hill Ward



Cllr Peter Findley
cllrpeterfindley@deal.gov.uk
Mill Hill Ward



Cllr Adrian Friend
cllradrianfriend@deal.gov.uk
North Deal Ward



Cllr Peter Jull
cllrpeterjull@deal.gov.uk
Middle Deal Ward



Cllr Daniel Parks
cllrdanparks@deal.gov.uk
North Deal Ward



Cllr Oliver Richardson
cllroliverrichardson@deal.gov.uk
North Deal Ward



Cllr Michael Walters
cllrmikewalters@deal.gov.uk
Mill Hill Ward