



Deal Town Council
Annual Report
April 2025 to March 2026



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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 2025/2026 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 noticeboards outside Deal Library, in and around the Town Hall itself and on social media. We also regularly update the community noticeboard 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 Councils, putting forward the wishes and needs of the local community with an overall responsibility for its wellbeing. We have an electorate of 15,851 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 find out more about the council by having a look round our [website](http://www.deal.gov.uk) and on [social media](#). You can look through our news stories to keep up-to-date with what we're working on at the moment.

What we do

- Provide all statutory duties of a Town Council
- Hold 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
- Manage 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
- Deliver Deal Warm Welcome
- Organise year-round events for the community, such as Heritage Open Days, Braderie, 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 £40,000 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 at 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 visitor information available at the Saturday Market, Union Road Car Park from 9.30am - 12.30pm.



The Mayor, Cllr Eddy

Message from the Chairperson of the Council and Worshipful Mayor of Deal Cllr Mike Eddy

The word I have most used about my first Mayoral year has been 'bizarre', though the only big difference to the role of Mayor this year has been to welcome the King to Deal.

And the King's visit was achieved through the Town Council producing a programme that highlighted so many of the good things that the people of Deal do as volunteers – from The Pantry to The Pirates, Captain's Garden and foodbank, it was no surprise we were chosen for such a special visit.

There really are too many voluntary bodies to thank each one and all of those groups need volunteers to keep them going and providing for all the diverse needs and interests of our community. It has been a pleasure to have met so many of you, sharing your work and your commitment to making this the very best town it can be. For everyone.

I have found myself addressing crowds from balconies and from bandstands and, as a person to whom speaking to large groups of people does not come naturally, it has felt so positive.

We're often told we live in turbulent times and of course we are not immune to difficulties here in Deal. But I have felt such a sense of welcome and community, it is a quality and characteristic of this town that brings people back again and again.

Here at the council we continue to bring new strategies to life that benefit not just residents, but the environment too. And, we continue to work closely with neighbouring authorities as well as local groups and organisations.

Towards the end of the 2025,2026 municipal year, we had the opportunity to take part in the first ever bid to become a Town Of Culture in 2028. It is a national competition announced by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in January with the top prize of £3million awarded to the town judged to have the best bid.

Once again the spirit of the town rose to the fore as we formed the Deal Cultural Partnership, bringing a strong vision and bid to represent our town. Be our journey in the Town of Culture contest long or short, I remain immensely proud of our town and those who call Deal home.



The Mayor at Pride

Update from the Town Clerk

I am delighted to say that it has been another productive and busy year here at Deal Town Council, with a host of projects being delivered to ensure we provide the very best service we can to our residents.

We've hosted dozens of events and 21 couples chose the historic Town Hall as the venue for their wedding.

Almost £19,000 was awarded in annual grant funding and we continue to push for better access for all with our Highways Improvement Plan.

We launched Look After What You Love, our anti-litter campaign, and shared messages across the town encouraging people to 'Bin It!' rather than drop litter.

These chalk stencils appeared around Deal and next to bins, providing a gentle reminder.

Once again, we were out and about this summer, joining fetes, school celebrations and taking part in Pride, spreading the word about what the council does and how people can get involved.

A Health and Well-being strategy was introduced, providing further support to our residents, signposting to different agencies and working with local partners to provide extra care.

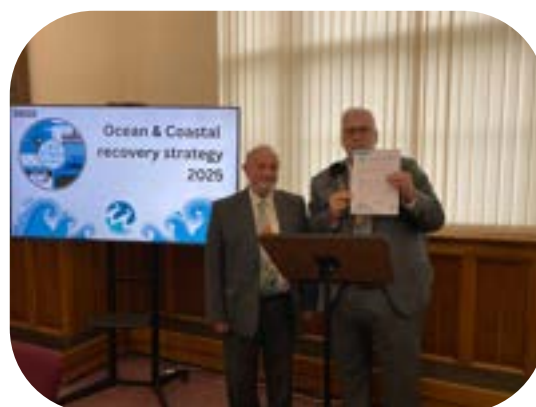
Hedgehog Friendly Deal saw us give away free gravel boards that were fitted at the bottom of people's fence panels, creating a bigger network for hedgehogs to roam. A scheme that will re-open in the Autumn of 2026.

'From Vill to Town and Borough' was the title of our 2025 Heritage Open Day which gave us an opportunity not only to talk about the history of Deal, but how the Town Hall has changed and evolved too.

We celebrated our 326th birthday, marking independence as a town in our own right and once again gave out free tote bags at the Saturday Market. A special event was also held at the Town Hall with invited guests joining the Mayor on Charter Day.

Charter Day also marked the signing of our Ocean and Coastal Recovery Strategy and Declaration. As a council we have pledged our commitment to improving and protecting our coastline.

Our special relationship with the sea was also reflected in our second Climate Action Day, once again hosted at the Town Hall.



Charter Day with the Deputy Mayor and Mayor

Local groups and organisations who work and campaign to improve our shores gathered to share their passion. New to this year was a popular screening room, showing films that highlighted our impact on marine life, and what we can do to help.

Deal Warm Welcome returned for a fourth year, giving hope, warmth and friendship to all. Six venues opened their doors once a week from November to April and offered food and drink and the opportunity for people to come together in the warm to have a chat and make friends.

New to this year, we also held five days of wellbeing with the Social Prescribing team. We broadened the traditional offering of the Warm Welcome with five days tailored to deliver specific needs within our community.

We hosted our very first Hobby Day at the Town Hall, showcasing once again what an eclectic, friendly and open town we are as local groups shared what they loved doing and encouraging people to try something new.

In December, Samphire worked with local schools and once again held the special winter lantern parade, turning the pier into a beacon of love, shining out across the sea.



Holocaust Memorial Day artwork from Warden House Primary

A service was held at the Memorial Stone at St George's Church on Tuesday 27 January, Holocaust Memorial Day.

We mark this date each year and it commemorates the six million Jewish men, women and children murdered during the Holocaust. It also remembers the millions more people murdered through the Nazi persecution of other groups and where persecution led in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

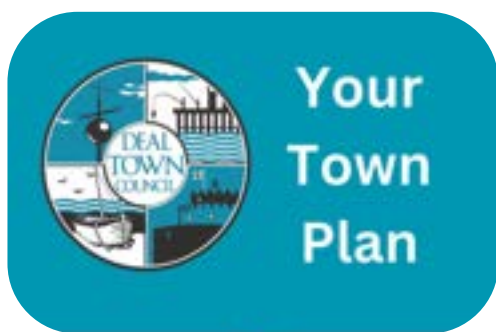
The seasons changed and we launched Seeds for Spring, giving away free native Kent wildflower seeds for people to sow and grow to feed and fuel our pollinators.

In March we celebrated International Women's Day at the Town Hall and began our Town of Culture 2028 journey.

A full, varied and productive year with much to look forward to for 2026/27.



Deal Castle



The Town Plan was formally adopted by the Council in June 2023 and reviewed in 2025.

The evidence and background information for the Town Plan was carried out between January 2020 and December 2022. It involved independent consultations with Deal residents, businesses and stakeholders.

A questionnaire was posted to every household in Deal and forums were held to ensure as many voices as possible fed into the conversation, and a long list of actions and ideas was drawn up following the feedback.

In order to prioritise this work, we asked a group of volunteers from the household survey to rank them from most to least urgent.

This became the Action Plan within the Town Plan, a strategy which steers the activities of the council.

Alongside the Climate Action Strategy, the Declaration of Ecological Emergency, Deal Town Council of Sanctuary Strategy and the Health & Wellbeing strategy, the Town Plan helps shape the direction and ambitions of the Council.

The Action Plan identified priority areas to address, and since the Town Plan was adopted, this work has been regularly reviewed, being mindful of the proposed timelines suggested by the Council.

We are pleased to advise that there has been excellent progress in these priority areas. All have been addressed, some completed, and others are well underway and should be completed by the end of the year.

Officers are currently reviewing the long list to see if any further elements may be inserted into the Action Plan and will be exploring initiatives to enhance the priority areas currently identified.

For further information please look at our website www.deal.gov.uk

The Town Plan is a living document and is reviewed and updated periodically to reflect the needs of Deal



Cherry blossom at Hamilton Road

Deal Town Council Grant Streams 2025-26

A total of £26,851.91 was paid out

Annual Grants

B Vincer Art £405
Deal & Walmer Allotment Association £500
Deal Arts Management £1,000
Deal & Walmer Chamber of Trade £500
Deal Community Carnival Association £1,000
Cinque Ports Football Club £1,000
St Andrews Church £1,000
Samphire Project £500
Age UK South Kent Coast £1,000
Deal Hospital Garden Volunteers £949
Sandown School PTA £1,000
2235 Deal RAF Air Cadet £759.96
Deal Hockey Club £500
Deal Town Rangers £1,000
Deal, Walmer & Kingsdown Amateur Rowing Club £735
The Kent Mining Museum £1,000
Bags of Taste £1,000
Deal Museum £750
Addelam History Research Group £400
Sandown Primary School £914.19
WALDAS £498.76
The Deal Society £500

Community Contribution Grants

Deal Community Carnival £2,000
North Deal Community Company £1,940
Deal Arts Management £2,000
Deal & Walmer Chamber of Trade £2,000
Deal Pantry (Foodbank) £2,000

Income, Expenditure and Expenses

DEAL TOWN COUNCIL

INCOME and EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Income	2024/25	2025/26
Precept	£501,918	£590,218
Markets	£43,565	£45,349
Braderie	£2,143	£2,560
Allotments	£3,157	£3,829
Town Hall Income	£14,613	£13,767
Other	£20,192	£23,764
Total	£585,588	£679,487
Expenditure	2024/25	2024/25
Mayoral & Civic Expenses	£2,822	£2,108
Promoting Town	£10,159	£11,307
Visitor Information Centre	£315	£384
Markets	£17,042	£23,816
Braderie	£2,732	£3,407
Grants/Donations	£26,075	£35,045
Councillors allowances	£4,200	£4,200
Allotments	£14,501	£7,644
Salaries & Pensions	£411,399	£439,649
Town Hall & Other costs	£125,589	£99,413
Public Conveniences	£35,000	£40,000
Election Costs	NIL	NIL
Total	£649,834	£666,973

2025/26

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 M Eddy	£300

All the above figures are taxable

Town Council Committee Aims

Environment

In June 2019, Deal Town Council declared a Climate Emergency. In light of this we committed to become carbon neutral - Net Zero - in our operations by 2025 and that goal was achieved by April 2024. In February 2025, Full Council adopted a new Climate Action Strategy which builds on the decarbonization commitment and strengthens the environment adaptation & improvement plan. This Committee is committed to build on work already done within the council's estate and without. To continue to work through the six priorities and aims identified in the new Climate Action Strategy and to seek new and innovative ways to reduce the carbon footprint of the council, residents, businesses, organisations and neighbouring authorities.

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



Deal Pier at night

DEAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS SCHEDULE 2025 - 2026

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

2025												2026			
Council Meeting	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May			
Planning	Mon 9th 7:15pm	Tue 1st 7:15pm	Mon 4th 7:15pm	Mon 1st 7:15pm	Thu 2nd 7:15pm	Mon 10th 7:15pm	Mon 8th 7:15pm	Mon 5th 7:15pm	Mon 9th 7:15pm	Mon 9th 7:15pm	Wed 8th 7:15pm	Thu 7th 7:15pm			
Transport & Infrastructure		Tue 15th 7:15pm		Wed 17th 7:15pm		Wed 19th 7:15pm		Tue 13th 7:15pm		Wed 18th 7:15pm		Thu 14th 7:15pm			
Environment	Thu 19th 7:15pm		Wed 13th 7:15pm		Tue 14th 7:15pm		Wed 17th 7:15pm		Wed 18th 7:15pm		Tue 14th 7:15pm				
Finance & General Purposes		Tue 22nd 7:15pm		Tue 23rd 7:15pm		Tue 18th 7:15pm	Tue 16th 7:15pm	Wed 21st 7:15pm		Tue 24th 7:15pm		Tue 19th 7:15pm			
Full Council	Tue 24th 7:15pm	Tue 29th 7:15pm		Tue 30th 7:15pm	Tue 28th 7:15pm	Tue 25th 7:15pm		Tue 27th 7:15pm	Tue 24th 7:15pm	Tue 31st 7:15pm	Tue 21st 7:15pm				
Other											*ATM Tue 28th 7:15pm	**AMC Tue 26th 7:15pm			

*ATM = Annual Town Meeting - 28th April @7:15pm

**AMC = Annual meeting of the council including Chairman election - 26th 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