



ANNUAL REPORT

2009/10



FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 1 APRIL 2009 – 31 MARCH 2010
SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING THE TOWN AND ITS RESIDENTS.

The Annual Council meeting mid-May marks the end of my second term in office.

The Town Council, against a backdrop of recession and limited resources, has continued to support many local organisations through the Town and Ward grant schemes. In all, some 36 grants have been paid totalling £47,740.

The Town's litter bins and signage has seen further improvements and we have extended our commitment to highway tree planting with KCC, together with the floral bedding displays, planters and benches in partnership with the District Council.

The Town Council has also financially supported the establishment of a twinning link between Folkestone and Etaples – Sur – Mer.

I have also supported a number of charities including Sea & Army Cadets, Guides, Scouts, Age Concern and Lions Club promoting Folkestone at every opportunity.

Of special note was the granting of the Freedom of the Town to 2nd Battalion of the Royal Gurkha Rifles. That hot sunny day in June last year was indeed a memorable event promoting Folkestone around the world as news crews in helicopters over the coastline beamed the event live to many places around the world.

As my second term draws to a close it has been an honour to serve my Town as Town Mayor, meeting very talented people – both young and old – who achieve much to support communities in the town and beyond. At every function the civic party has received a warm welcome.

As before, I am extremely grateful for the small team of officers who have supported me throughout 2009/10 in these difficult times of continuing constraints in public services.



Picture courtesy of Vic Seymour

Councillor Janet Andrews
Town Mayor of Folkestone 2009-2010

FINANCIAL/MONEY MATTERS

2009/10

Income and Expenditure Account For the Period ended 31 March 2010

	2009/10	2008/09
INCOME	£	£
Precept on District Council	496,510	490,500
Bank and Investment Interest	783	16,934
Allotments	3,996	2,683
Other	798	201
	502,087	510,318
EXPENDITURE		
Employees/Administration	228,685	220,005
Democratic Costs	1,370	1,097
Civic and Ceremonial	19,324	23,410
Premises	17,911	23,150
Services	143,197	156,536
Fees	4,659	8,069
	415,146	432,267
GENERAL FUND		
Balance as at 1 April	73,260	53,260
Add: Total Income	502,087	510,318
Deduct: Total Expenditure	415,146	432,267
	160,201	131,311
Transfer (to)/from Reserves and Provisions:		
New Services Reserve	-£12,098	
Tree Planting Reserve	-£3,516	
Southern Way Reserve	-£1,000	
Ward Grants Reserve	-£11,108	
Town Grants Reserve	£1,210	
Contingency Provision	-£2,885	
FTC Elections Reserve	-£6,500	
Armed Forces' Day Reserve	-£2,774	
Windsurfing	-£6,000	
Flowerbeds	-£3,000	
Anti-Litter Campaign	-£2,000	
Litter Bins	-£2,700	
Cycle Stands	-£3,275	
Walter Tull Plaques	-£589	
Youth Festival of Remembrance	-£2,000	
KCC Early Retirement Costs	-£28,000	
Normandy Veterans	-£400	
	-86,635	-58,051
General Reserve Balance at 31 March	73,566	73,260

PRECEPT 2009/10 THE 2009/10 TOWN COUNCIL TAX								
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Household Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£ per annum	21.78	25.41	29.04	32.67	39.93	47.19	54.45	65.34
Pence per week	41.8	48.7	55.7	62.7	76.6	90.5	104.4	125.3

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2010

Fixed Assets	2009 /	10	2008 /	9
	£	£	£	£
Freehold Land and Buildings	0		0	
Vehicles and Equipment	43,600		44,220	
Community Assets	93,232	136,832	93,232	137,452
		136,832		137,452
 Current Assets				
Sundry Debtors	492		0	
HM Revenue & Customs - VAT	2,536		3,511	
Prepayments	2,500		0	
Current Bank Account	6,548		46,184	
Gratuities Bank Account	12,551		9,285	
Petty Cash	500		500	
Short Term Investments	500,000	525,127	450,000	509,480
		510,088		455,149
 Current Liabilities				
Sundry Creditors	0		0	
Accruals	15,039	15,039	54,331	54,331
		646,920		592,601
Net Current Assets				
		646,920		592,601
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities				

	Notes	2009 /	10	2008 /	9
		£	£	£	£
Represented by:					
Fixed Asset Restatement Account	7		136,832		137,452
Gratuities Fund	6		12,551		9,285
Capital Receipts Reserve	1(iii)		12,000		12,000
Earmarked Reserves:-	1(vii)				
New Services Reserve			119,302		127,203
Property Reserve			154,845		154,845
Twinning Reserve			0		2,150
Folkestone Museum Reserve			15,000		15,000
Ward Grants Reserve			34,086		22,978
Town Grants Reserve			29		1,239
FTC Elections Reserve			15,000		8,500
Armed Forces' Day Reserve			5,391		2,617
Provisions:-	1(vii)				
Signs & Notice Boards			8,667		8,957
Contingency			20,000		17,115
Windsurfing Event			6,000		0
Anti-Litter Campaign			2,000		0
Litter Bins			1,251		0
Youth Festival of Remembrance			2,000		0
KCC Early Retirement Costs			28,000		0
Normandy Veterans' Event			400		0
General Reserve			73,566		73,260
			646,920		592,601

FUTURE EVENTS AND NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY

August 2010

Sat 15 – V J Day, Garden of Remembrance

September

Wed 15- Battle of Britain Wreath Laying, Leas memorial

Sun 19 - Battle of Britain Sunday Service, Holy Trinity Church

October 2010

Sun 18 - Trafalgar Day

November 2010

Sun 7 - Dedication of Garden of Remembrance,

Sun 14 - Remembrance Sunday, the War Memorial, the Leas

Weds 11 - Machine Gun Corp Memorial

January 2011

Weds 27 - Holocaust Day



THE TOWN COUNCIL'S MISSION

THE TOWN COUNCIL'S MISSION

The theme for this review and our mission for the future is:

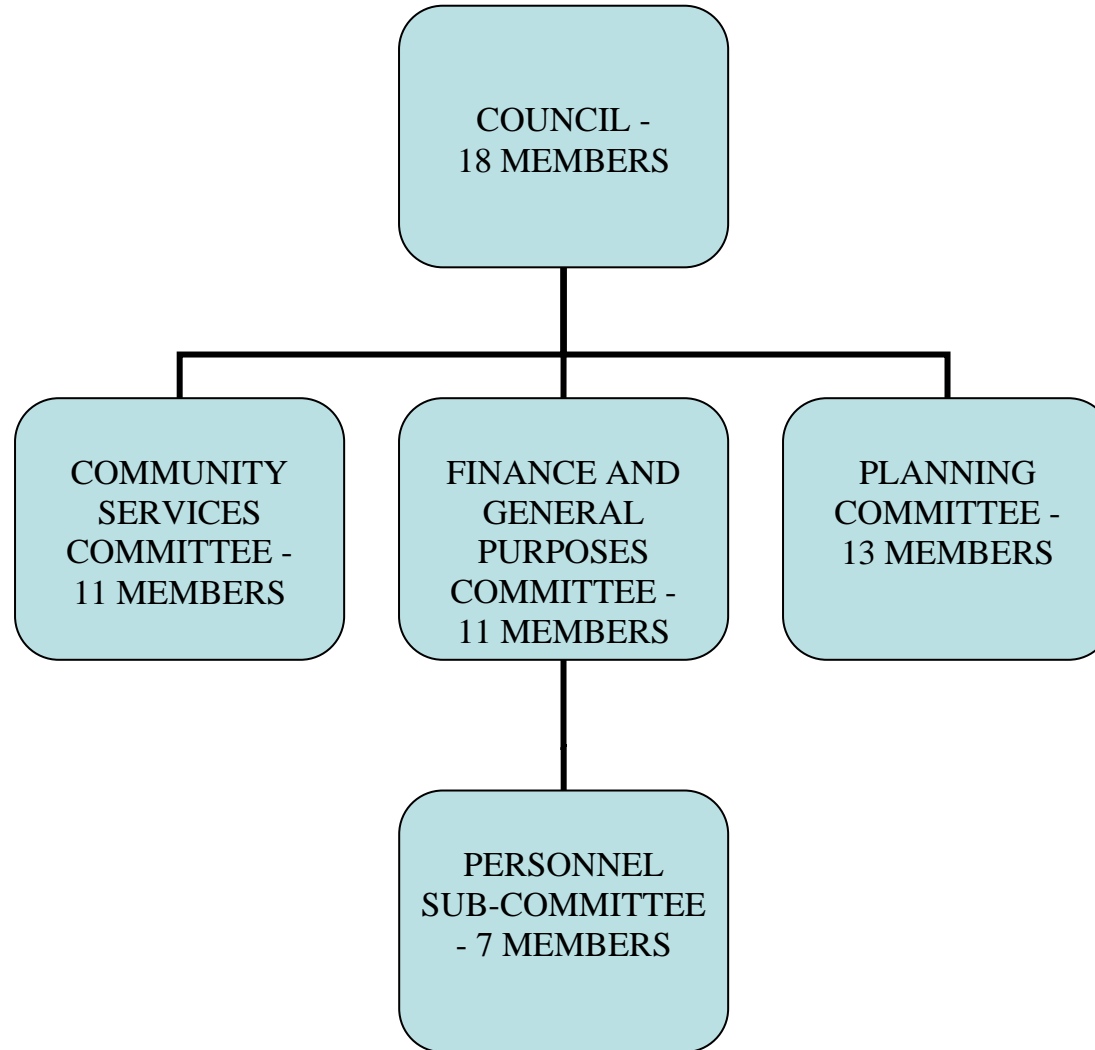
“To revitalise our town of Folkestone, restore civic pride and regenerate a community spirit.”

We aim to do this by:

- *Improving the appearance and quality of the environment in which we live*
- *Encouraging a greater participation in the governance of our town by all sectors of society*
- *Working in partnership with Shepway District Council, Kent County Council and other organisations to improve the public services in the town*
- *Working in partnership with the business and leisure communities to improve the experience of our visitors and thereby encourage the growth of tourism*
- *Supporting the work of community groups and voluntary organisations with grant aid and co-ordinating their activities to improve the social fabric of our community*
- *Working in partnership with Shepway District Council's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to reduce the level of crime and anti-social behaviour in the town and encouraging the socially excluded back into the fold*
- *Retaining and improving the Town Council's "Quality Council" status, achieved in December 2006*
- *The Council will seek to retain its eligibility as a 'Well Being Council' achieved in March 2010*

COMMITTEE STRUCTURES 2009/10

The Council's decision making process operates through a Committee structure:



In all, some 50 Council/Committee meetings were held during the year, together with a wide range of working group meetings.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2010/11

Committee meetings are open to the public, who are encouraged to attend and raise questions.

	Planning Committee	Community Services Committee (Tuesdays)	Finance and General Purposes Committee	Personnel Sub-Committee (6pm)(Wed)	Full Council
May 2010	13,27				Friday 14 (Annual Council Meeting) Civic Centre 20 May (Town Meeting)
June 2010	11, 24	1	17	9	
July 2010	8, 22				16
August 2010	5, 19	3	12		
September 2010	2, 16, 30			8	9
October 2010	14, 28	5	21		
November 2010	11, 25	23			18
December 2010	9, 23		16 (Budget)	2	
January 2011	6, 20	18			13 (Precept Meeting)
February 2011	3, 17		24		
March 2011	3, 17, 31	22		9	24
April 2011	14, 28		21		12 (Provisional Town Meeting)
May 2011	12, 26				Friday 13 (Annual Council Meeting) Civic Centre

Community Services Committee

Despite ongoing financial restraint and a limited budget the Community Services Committee has continued to build on the improved facilities and financial support as set out in the Town Council's Plan.

Throughout the year the Committee has continued with the refurbishment of litter bins around the town in partnership with the District Council. Similarly, the Town's raised flower beds have been planted to provide summer and winter decorative displays.

In addition the highways tree planting programme in partnership with Kent County Council is well underway.

The demand for allotments is still very high with a waiting list for the plots available at Park Farm and Tile Kiln Lane.

The Council's commitment to continue with improvements in the Town is reflected in the significant number of schemes which have received financial support from the Town Council, Living Nativity Event in the Town Centre, Christmas Trees decorated by school children from the primary schools, the Walter Tull Plaques on the Bandstand, Christchurch Tower and Mundella School, Folkestone Town Trail, along with additional planters for the Stade, new Tourism Signs and the National Windsurfing Regatta at the end of May with the Music Festival at the amphitheatre. We have also supported the inshore Rescue Boat, Kwik Cricket, the Football Training with Charlton Athletic and the Steam Cleaning of the Town Centre.

The Town Crier continues to improve with many and varied competitions to enter.

The K 6 telephone box on the Stade at Folkestone Harbour is being put to good use by Shane Record and will be offered to others over the coming year.

It is the intention of the Committee to continue to support and improve the Town Centre over the coming year and for the foreseeable future.

Committee Membership: Councillors Janet Andrews, Lynne Beaumont, Gary Fuller, Peter Gane, Dhan Gurung, Paul Marsh, Martin Salmon, Maggie Sheldrake, Richard Wallace and Richard Theobald.

Councillor Sue Wallace
Chairman



Finance and General Purposes Committee

The Finance and General Purposes Committee consists of 11 members of the Town Council, and meets roughly every eight weeks. The Committee is responsible for all financial, legal and administrative matters within the Council.

The Personnel Sub-Committee which comprises of 7 Councillors, chaired by Cllr George Bunting, oversees staffing matters and reports to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

The main Committee is responsible for both the preparation and regular monitoring of the budget, approved at the Full Council in January each year. In the last financial year we have maintained reserves at the recommended levels and delivered a small decrease in our element of the Council Tax demand for 2010/11, whilst increasing the proportion of the budget spent on providing grants and services.

The Committee is also responsible for the Town and Ward Grants programme from which funds totaling over £40,000 are available. In the past year funds from this source have gone to support various activities and organisations in the town; from children to senior citizens; from sport to culture and the arts.

The full list of all the Town and Ward Grants made in 2009/10 is published in this report and via the Councils website. Grant application forms and grant criteria guidance are also available online and from the Town Council Offices.

The Committee has also continued to give financial support to the Folkestone Town Centre Management and Discover Folkestone.

Committee Membership: Councillors George Bunting, Brian Copping, Gary Fuller, Paul Marsh, Tom McNeice, Tim Prater, Bev Rolfe, Martin Salmon, Richard Theobald, Richard Wallace, and Rodica Wheeler.

Councillor Paul Marsh
Chairman



Personnel Sub-Committee

During this year, the Sub-Committee met six times dealing with a variety of staffing issues, national pay awards 2009-10 and revised training programmes.

The Sub-Committee carried out a review of the Council's staffing structure with the recommendations referred to Full Council for determination.

A review of the Council's policies on Grievances; Disciplinary procedures; Dignity at Work, Bullying and Harassment and Officer / Member protocols has been undertaken and approved by the Council.

Amendments were approved to Contracts of Employment to reflect recent changes in European Law. The Sub-Committee has always recognised the importance of training for staff and elected members. Consequently the Sub-Committee considered a revised training programme for staff and endorsed the 'Power of Wellbeing' for all Councillors.

I am grateful for all the support on these matters over the year from both Councillors and staff.

Sub-Committee Members: Councillors Lynne Beaumont, George Bunting, Brian Copping, Bev Rolfe, Emily Sanger, Maggie Sheldrake and Sue Wallace.

Councillor George Bunting
Chairman



Planning Committee

The Planning Committee (Committee) has continued its fortnightly meetings throughout the year. Unfortunately, it is not the planning authority and its views go to the District Council for final decision. Some applications finish up at the District's Development Control Committee where objectors and applicants each have three minutes to address that Committee. At the present the objector speaks first so that the applicant is then able to denigrate the objections and say what he likes without fear of contradiction. Since a Town Councillor attends only if the Committee has objected, the scales are heavily weighted against him/her. It might be more evenly balanced if instead of speaking, each side put their views in writing and these views were read out at the meeting.

One big disappointment was the approval given by Development Control to an architectural excrescence in a prominent position next to a listed building and in a conservation area, despite having been objected to twice by the Committee. Another related to extensions to a retirement home in the western part of the town despite having been objected to by the Committee three times and opposed by the Chairman of the Local Residents Association. In both cases some amendments had been made to the original applications but, as the saying goes, you cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

The Committee was successful in its objections to the Motor Control Centre Kiosk and Vent Pipes proposed for the Clifton Crescent/Leas area. The plans were contradictory but it appeared the intention was to site the kiosk so as to cause the maximum damage to the visual appearance of the area. However, due mainly to the persistence of a member of the Committee, the work has now been completed with no such damage.

The Committee continues to reject applications for building in the town's green lungs and it therefore objected to the application to build 127 dwellings and an 80 bedroom nursing home on the site of the former Westbrook House playing field. Apart from the destruction of the green lung and the over-intensity of the development, no thought had apparently been given to the problems that would be created in Marten Road and Broadfield Road.

Despite the recession, the Committee has received a number of applications for new buildings though construction seems to take some time but the majority are for fairly trivial alterations to existing buildings to which the Committee usually has no objection.

For the future it remains to be seen whether the arrival of the High Speed Rail Link will lead to an increased demand for new housing in the town or only an increase in the value of existing houses or both.

Members: Councillors Janet Andrews, Brian Copping, Gary Fuller, Peter Gane, Dhan Gurung, Tom McNeice, Tim Prater, Martin Salmon, Maggie Sheldrake, Richard Theobald, Sue Wallace, Richard Wallace and Rodica Wheeler

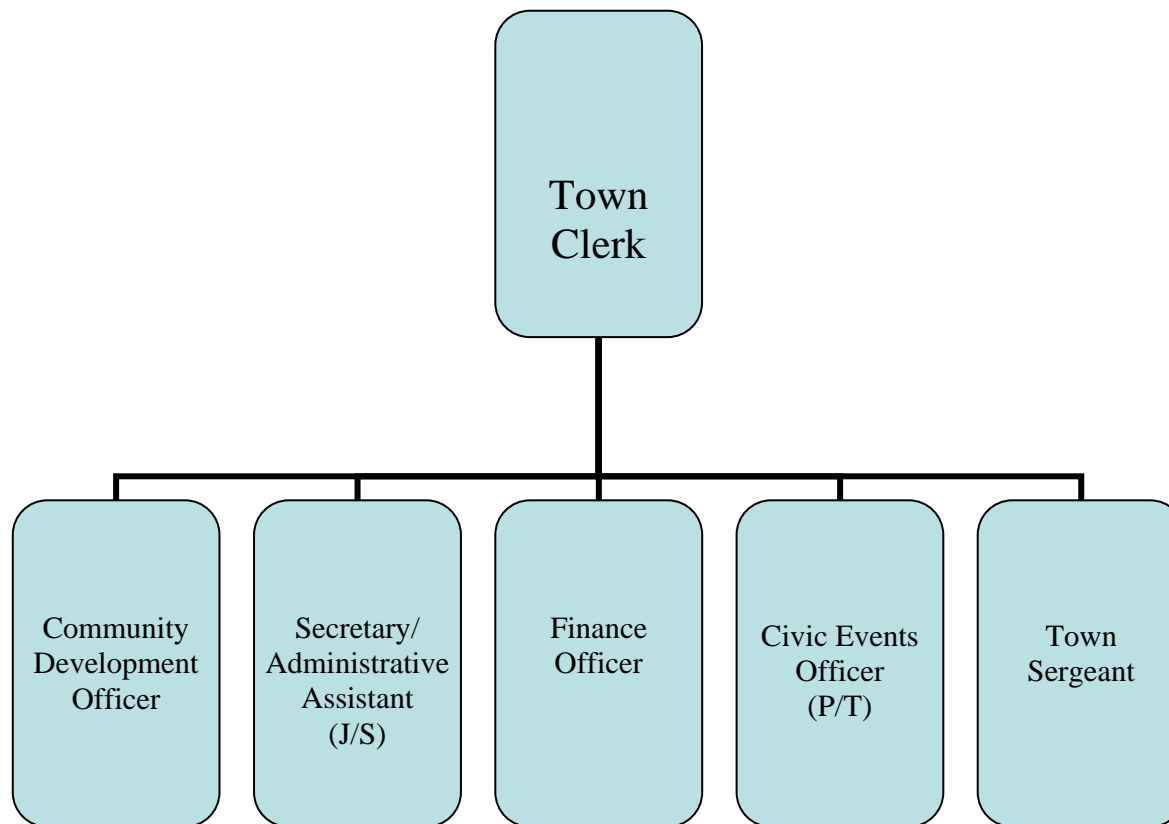
Councillor Richard Theobald
Chairman



STAFFING STRUCTURE

2009/10

During the year the Council appointed well qualified staff to match its approved establishment



NEWS IN BRIEF

As we look back on 2009/10

Undoubtedly one of the significant civic events organised by the Town Council was the granting of the Freedom of the Town to the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Gurkha Rifles. The event held on the Leas in June 2009 was staged in 90°F temperatures and was watched by tens of thousands around the world as it was broadcast live by Sky, BBC and Meridian television. In addition, the Mayor / Deputy Mayor represented the town at over 300 civic events throughout Kent during the year.

The Town Council also continued to take on services from the District Council funding more

- Tree Planting
- Ornamental flowerbeds and bedding at key locations in the Town
- New Town Maps / Tourist Information
- Repainting and replacing litter bins
- Painting the Harbour raised beds, bollards and benches

The growing and very successful financial grants to stage local key events including the Multicultural Festival, Kwik Cricket for youth with 14 schools participating, early work on the UK Windsurfing Championships to be held in May 2010. The Christmas activities including more funding for new lighting, Christmas decorations and the living nativity in partnership with the Folkestone Town Centre Management, provided improved festivities for the Town.

It has also been especially pleasing to see Councillor Dhan Gurung receive the KCC BME award for his work helping Black and Minority Ethnic groups in the Town.



GRANTS AWARDED 2009/10 – Totalling £47,740

PURPOSE	AWARD
Folkestone Town Centre Management - Multi-Cultural Festival	£8,000.00
Charivari Day 11/7/09	£6,000.00
ArtHist Events - Folkestone in the Middle Ages Project	£2,363.20
Cricket Kit and Fees for Georgina White	£150.00
Cheriton Baptist Church - 'Holiday at Home' Event	£200.00
8th Folkestone Guides (Holy Trinity) - Girl Guides Trip to Mexico	£250.00
Folkestone Camera Club - Judges' Expenses	£250.00
Official kit for Team England (Miss European)	£300.00
Reception for Annual Rotary Conference	£1,250.00
Zig Zag - The Big Gig	£1,000.00
Outboard Motor for the Sunny Sands Rescue Boat	£2,000.00
Folkestone Book Festival	£3,500.00
Prizes and Plaques at the Grand Oldtimer Rally	£500.00
St Peter's Primary School - Flowerbeds for children's use	£500.00
Nepali Community Football Tournament 30/8/09	£150.00
Salvation Army - Night Shelter	£2,950.00
Coach hire for '100 Years of Guiding' event	£600.00
'Reach For The Stars' Fun Day - 12th Folkestone Salvation Army Brownies	£247.00
Folkestone Gurkha Nepalese Community's 'Dashain' Festival	£150.00
Park Farm Allotments Association - Contribution re. Toilet Block	£200.00
Folkestone Salvation Army - Drop-in Group for Teenagers	£350.00
Councillor Cup 2009	£600.00
Publication costs of Cheriton History Book	£300.00
Official kit for Team England (Miss European)	£300.00
Coolinge Community Club - Pantomime, Sledging and Rock Climbing	£700.00
Friends of the Folkestone Collections - Strategy for publicising exhibitions	£300.00
Decuria Youth Club - Start up costs for Youth Club	£1,000.00
Folkestone United Reformed Church - Service and Repairs to Church Clock	£500.00
1st Cheriton Scout Group - Renovations to Group HQ	£500.00
Folkestone Amateur Boxing Club - Gym Improvements and New Equipment	£800.00
Friends of the Folkestone Collections - Exhibition of Art Works	£2,500.00
Folkestone-Etaples Friendship Link - Youth Attendance at Annual Ceremonies 13/6/10	£1,800.00
8th Folkestone Guides (Holy Trinity) - IT Project & South Africa Trips	£700.00
Folkestone & District Mind - External Decoration	£600.00
Folkestone Town Centre Management - Christmas Living Nativity	£2,230.00
Youth Festival of Remembrance	£4,000.00

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KNOW YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

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KNOW YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

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