

District Councillors report 13 December 2022

'Your District Today' was delivered to all households in the Folkestone & Hythe District in early December. The magazine is issued every six months and provides an update on various council projects – regeneration, housing, community safety and more. It's also available online in the news archive section of the council website dated 28 November. The council website also has much more information on the council's work and you can also see the papers that go to council meetings and watch webcasts of our meetings including the Planning Committee.

Jenny has been taking the lead on co-ordinating work across the district to provide 'warm spaces' for people to use in the daytime and so save heating costs. The added benefit is that people who might otherwise be alone get to meet others. You can look for a warm space (and register a space) at <https://www.warmwelcome.uk/>

For those worried about meeting everyday costs there are a number of schemes both national and local which may be able to help. Details of these are at folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support There are also leaflets with this information for those without internet access and we'd be happy to send one to anyone who contacts us.

Another local initiative is a call for people to donate good quality coats (for adults and children) that can be given to those in need. Please take any such donations to the Folkestone Community Hub at Age UK South Kent Coast, 65 Shaftesbury Avenue, Folkestone, CT19 4NS.

We're pleased to report that for the ninth year running, your District Council has been given a Customer Service Excellence award. This national accreditation looks at how the council deals with residents from consultations to call handling and initiatives such as 'my account' (if you haven't signed up yet then do please take a look on the website). The external assessor said 'The council has shown a great deal of commitment to continually developing its offer to customers.' Our congratulations to the staff across the council for their hard work and commitment in their work on behalf of us all.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Susan Carey and Jenny Hollingsbee you Folkestone & Hythe District Councillors