

Folkestone

Folkestone will be staging a food festival on 2nd, 3rd and 4th August in Folkestone Town Centre to showcase the best of local restaurants and food experiences. The event will include food masterclasses, demos, pop up food traders and live music. It is part of the Folke About Town programme and is one of a series of test events that, if successful, will continue as a regular event in the town.

Operation Brock

Operation Brock is being reactivated from the 10th July for the summer period to cope with traffic going to Eurotunnel and the Dover Port. There will also be additional traffic caused by people attending the Paris Olympics this year.

Community Archeological Project

A community project aiming to learn more about the historic landscape of East Wear Bay is due to start. Canterbury Archaeological Trust will spend the next eight weeks researching the District Council-owned land and preserving Roman remains within the area. The first excavations of East Wear Bay took place in 1924. If you are interested in finding out more or getting involved, you can email get_involved@canterburytrust.ac.uk.

Otterpool Park

Paula Hirst, who is founder and director of Disruptive Urbanism, has been appointed as the new Independent Chair of the Otterpool Park LLP board. Disruptive Urbanism is a company set up 11 years ago aiming to bring fresh thinking to how urban development is planned, designed and constructed. Work continues by Savills to reassess the work plans and viability of the site. The team are working in the background to look for a strategic partner; this has been delayed by the pre-election period of sensitivity. The Council has already written to the new fledgling Labour Government to stress the strategic importance of Otterpool.

KCC Budget Consultation

Please be aware that KCC are currently holding their budget consultation for 2025 – 2026. The consultation ends on 7th August 2024. KCC wish to know your views on: their Council Tax proposals, their proposed spending cuts, and your suggestions on how to make further cuts or increase or increase income.

North Downs Forum

The draft of the updated Corporate Plan for 2025 – 2030 will be available for consultation and discussion at the next North Downs Forum meeting. Consultation on the Corporate Plan is open for 9 weeks from 27th July to the 27th September. The next North Downs Forum meeting will be held in Stelling Minnis Village Hall in September, date to be confirmed.

General Election

I offer my congratulations to the new MP for Ashford, Sojan West, and look forward to working with him for the benefit of the residents of North Downs West. I will contact him, when he has his new Parliamentary administration in place, to emphasis the rural issues within the North Downs area. You will need to contact Mr Joseph if you have any issues that require help from your MP. I also offer my congratulations to Tony Vaughan who is the new MP for the Folkestone and Hythe constituency.

Ward Members Grant

A reminder that I have a ward member grant available, applications for 2024/25 are now being accepted. Details and application form can be found at [Ward budget scheme | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/ward-budget-scheme) ([folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk))

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