

District Councillor Report – Sellindge Parish Council – Tuesday 15 June 2024

General Election 4 July 2024 - A final reminder that The North Downs East and North Downs West wards now form part of the Ashford parliamentary constituency following a boundary review. This means that Kent will get an additional MP. The Ashford constituency comprises 26 Wards and has an electorate of 73,546. Folkestone & Hythe District Council will administer the election and you will receive a different poll card and, where applicable, a different postal vote if you live in North Downs East or North Downs West. You must take photo ID if voting at a polling station – otherwise you will be unable to vote. Polling stations are open between 7am and 10pm on Thursday 4 July 2024. For further details see www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/elections

Key dates:

Registration to vote deadline: 18 June, midnight

Postal votes application deadline: 19 June, 5pm

Proxy votes application deadline: 26 June, 5pm

Results will be declared in the early hours of Friday 5 July. They will be published on the council's website and social media channels.

Stelling Minnis Salvage Yard - An unearthed piece of Folkestone's Victorian past has been returned to a sea view spot almost 137 years to the day since it was first laid. The 'Victoria Pleasure Pier Foundation Stone' is back in position at the end of the Lower Leas Coastal Park after it was spotted at a salvage yard in Stelling Minnis. Residents and visitors can now view this fascinating part of Folkestone's history on the green space close to where the original pier once stood at the end of the Lower Leas Coastal Park.

Planning – At a recent Planning Briefing for Members, we were advised that the Planning Department are dealing with over 80% of current planning applications within the eight week period, unless an extension has been agreed or it is a complex application. However, this does mean that applications must be submitted with all necessary information upon which the decision can be made. There are still some older applications that have yet to be assessed and Officers are working through these. I will update on this issue as it progresses.

Ward Grants – our Ward Budget is now open for small grants across the North Downs West Ward – for further information please see [Ward budget scheme | Folkestone & Hythe District Council \(folkestone-hythe.gov.uk\)](http://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/ward-budget-scheme)

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