

District Councillor Report – May 2026

Otterpool Park - the recently signed collaboration agreement with Homes England was reported at the last full Council Meeting. This agreement lasts until December 2026. It was also said that one of the options to buy additional land had been executed by Homes England. However, detailed planning permission and planning for the Waste Water Treatment plant still need to be obtained.

Road of Remembrance - the Council has agreed to contribute £236,000 towards the work required to reopen the Road of Remembrance. The total cost is expected to be about £5 m.

Folkestone Sports Centre - A £2.4m grant which will enable the reopening of swimming facilities at Folkestone Sports Centre has been supported. Cabinet members have endorsed The Sports Trust's scheme to revitalise the Radnor Park Avenue site – agreeing to fund essential work including pool and changing room renovation, the addition of solar panels and repairs to the flat roof. Unfortunately, just recently I was very disappointed to hear about the vandalism that had taken place. It is certainly not what we want or expect, especially for an organisation trying to open a swimming pool that is so desperately needed in this district.

Hythe Swimming Pool – At the full Council Meeting on 1 April I asked about any planned (or unplanned) urgent works required for Hythe Pool prior to its closure for redevelopment or refurbishment. This was because there was a problem with water getting behind the pool lining and people had mentioned this to me. I was told that the pool lining leak had been resolved and that there will be routine maintenance but no major works planned.

Local government reorganisation — what a mess it is. There is so much work for our officers. I know it feels never-ending, and things are changing all the time. We are now waiting for the outcome on who we might partner with. From what we are hearing about Surrey, it could be anyone — it could be all over the place. We could even find ourselves paired with Swale, and what do we really have in common with Swale? But we will have to wait and see. There is still so much work to do. And when July comes, I believe the District Council will have about two weeks to organise the different work streams — the 11 groups that will be or have already been established to take forward some of that work

Road Closure - Temporary Road Closure - Lympne Hill, Lympne - 26th May 2
A road to avoid - Due to works planned to be undertaken by **Trooli Ltd**, it will be necessary to close part of Lympne Hill, Lympne, from 26th May 2026 with estimated completion by 29th May 2026.

I attended the Sellindge Sports & Social Club AGM in April – Membership is now due for 2026 and can be paid at the bar. The Club is looking for people who would be

interest in joining the Committee – and there are opportunities for taking on some responsibilities, for example to submit bids for funding streams. There is also a call for dogs to be kept on leads at all times and to avoid the football pitches – please also pick-up after your dog! There is an Open Day on Saturday 23 May so come along and see what Clubs and facilities are on offer, enjoy the music and the food.

Contact – jennyhollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk Mobile 07887918458

District Councillor report – May 2026

Community Funding

A package of funding has been agreed to help residents facing hardship, support the voluntary sector and to allow more people across the district to improve their physical health. Funding provided by central government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund has ended so this administration is providing grants to local organisations to enable them to continue support for vulnerable residents previously funded by central government.

As a significant step in addressing poor health outcomes in parts of the district, £75k has been allocated to increase activity levels and boost health and wellbeing.

Member's Ward Grant

The amount of the Ward Member grants is increasing to £5,000. Please contact me if you know of any community projects that need supporting.

Renters' Rights Act

Renting is changing and the council's private sector housing team has been working to get the message out to tenants, landlords and letting agents living and working in the private rented sector. The first phase of the Act, which came into force on 1 May, is tenancy reforms and details are published on the council website. The Act abolishes Section 21 'no fault' evictions. Landlords will no longer be able to service a notice without providing a valid reason for eviction.

Play areas

Work has now begun on installing new play area equipment in the Lower Leas Coastal Park in Folkestone. The project is due to complete before the start of the school summer holidays and the area will once again become the largest, free to use adventure playground in the south east.

Carton Recycling

Liquid cartons, including those made by Tetra Pak, can go in with other household recycling. All that is needed is for the carton to be rinsed and the cap left on.

Otterpool Park

On The 28th April F&HDC heard that KCC had granted permission for the Waste Water Treatment construction to take place at Otterpool Park. This is a very positive step along the way. The wastewater treatment plant is an essential part of the future of Otterpool. And is the key that unlocks the door.

Contact: Elaine.Martin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk