

District Councillor Report

Folkestone Racecourse – Since this emergency measure was introduced for overspill parking from Eurotunnel, it appears that it has not yet been actioned. This is, of course, a good thing, and, although there is no cost to FHDC, it will be interesting to know the cost to general taxation!

HGV Parking in Otterpool Layby – I have recently been looking into the current situation and questioning what enforcement has been undertaken. I was told that inspections take place at weekends – I have asked that these also be implemented for weekday evenings when the parking seems to be more prevalent.

National Planning Reform - The government is introducing a **national scheme of delegation** for Planning & Licensing Committees to standardize how planning functions are allocated between officers and committees. Applications are categorized into two tiers:

- **Tier A:** Applications that must always be delegated to officers, such as minor developments and certain reserved matters approvals. These will not be considered by committees.
- **Tier B:** Applications that are delegated to officers by default but can be referred to a committee if the Chief Planning Officer and Committee Chair agree.

The reforms set a **maximum size for planning committees**, currently proposed at **13 members**, to balance political representation. The Planning & Licensing Committee at FHDC is currently 12 Members but going into a Unitary Council covering three current Councils, could prove extremely difficult since both Ashford and Swale have more than 13 Members on their Planning Committee. I am waiting for a District Councillor Briefing on the new regulations to learn more. Further information can be found at [Planning Committees and the National Scheme of Delegation of Planning Functions: Guidance for local planning authorities in England - GOV.UK](#)

Local Government Re-organisation – now that we know that the model decided for the Unitary for our area will be made up of FHDC, Dover and Swale, - now called 'Mid Kent', the Overview & Scrutiny Committee have received an update on the current situation – see Minutes [Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 28th July, 2026, 6.00 pm | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#) There are a lot of questions to be asked on how the Unitary will work, eg where the main Office will be, who will be the Chief Executive, how will a Cabinet and Leader be decided, where services will run from, how the democratic system will operate, etc.

