

## Report from the Mayor of Sandwich and Speaker of the Cinque Ports for the year 2010/2011

I was elected as your Mayor in May 2010 and acceded to the office of Speaker during the same month. The year's work to date is presented below, but as a preface to the report, it is fitting to recall the February announcement of Pfizer Ltd, and our mindfulness of the possible implications for employees and our town.

First, and continuing in the work begun by the previous Mayor, Cllr Joe Trussler, the town will have been pleased to learn that the new public conveniences (owned and managed by the town council) on the Quay were highly successful in receiving three major awards. The first was awarded by *Action for Market Towns* (South East Market Town Awards for Partnership and Strategic Working category), and the remaining two were awards presented by the *Loo of the Year Awards UK* (Individual Team Trophy and the 2010 Attendant of the Year. The conveniences were also graded as Five Star. Sandwich Town Council congratulates all those involved.

Further improvements have been made to the allotments at St Bart's Road, and land for grazing has been allocated at Cow Leas Meadow. Concerning improvements on the Butts, lighting for the skate park has been installed and was officially opened in December. This work has been ongoing for a considerable period and was funded by DDC and STC. The proposals for flood defenses in the town have been accepted, together with the second phase of this proposed initiative – the enhancement of Sandwich Quay. We now await funding details and outcome from the Environment Agency, expected during the late summer of this year.

Continuing the efforts of previous years, the newly-established *Traffic Forum* has introduced the PACE scheme in an attempt to reduce the speed of the town's traffic.

Second, in October, the town celebrated Speaker's Day, attended by Admiral the Lord Boyce, Warden of the Cinque Ports, the Bishop of Dover, the Cinque Port Mayors and many civic dignitaries. For this occasion (responding to the initiative of the Revd Canon Mark Roberts) I was encouraged to set down new words to the Hymn of St Clement. This was composed with an emphasis on the Cinque Ports. Later this month, the Confederation of the Cinque Ports will decide if the new hymn should be officially adopted. I have dedicated this hymn to the people of Sandwich. Speaker's Day attracted press, media and television coverage.

Third, there have been several new initiatives and achievements. The council has been working hard towards solving the problems of the Delf Stream. Having, in principle, secured funding from County Cllr Leyland Ridings (and cooperation from the Environment Agency) pumping technology will be shortly installed and should produce a stronger current in the stream by the summer of this year. An application for the Delf Stream to be recognized as a Scheduled Ancient Monument will be submitted to English Heritage. I am grateful to our councillors and Mr. John Bean, a local farmer and landowner.

We are now providing funding for the management of two play areas (Bulwarks and Poulders) and also have been successful in gaining funding for a new roundabout at the Bulwarks. The restored War Memorial has been awarded a Grade II listing, and further restoration work has been undertaken by Cllr Butcher on one of the last surviving gas lamps in Kent, located in Fisher Street. There is now also improved lighting on the Guildhall Forecourt and around the town. Finally, the *Traffic Forum* intends to further reduce the speed of the town's traffic by introducing a sequence of informal ramped crossings and will also plan towards reducing the volume of traffic within the town. There will be public (town) consultation on these matters. At the time of writing, the town council is contributing to the Sandwich Tourism Initiative in order to attract more visitors and tourists to the town. Together with the market manager and the Chamber of Commerce, I am currently seeking means to enhance this initiative. The town council continues to fund the Sandwich Tourist Information Centre.

Getting to know you (mostly through impromptu meetings in the town) has been a privilege during this year; and equally, the service given to the town as Mayor and Speaker of the Cinque Ports I will remember throughout my remaining life.

Councillor Dr Terence-Clifford-Amos