



Sandwich Mayoral Report

The Right Worshipful Mayor of Sandwich Paul Graeme J.P.



As we approach Mayor Making on 24th May this year I reflect on our fourth year in Office as Mayor of Sandwich and this year I also have the privilege of being the Speaker of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports.

This year, as in previous years, it has been an honour and a great privilege to serve The Confederation and in particular the wonderful town of Sandwich.

The year started well with the opening of our newly refurbished Museum at The Guildhall. Funds were successfully sought from Heritage Lottery and the result of the refurbishment has meant that footfall has increased tenfold to see the wonderful exhibits, including the Magna Carta and Charter of the Forest, dated 1300 A.D. Sandwich is one of only three places in the world where the two documents are exhibited together.

Building on this success for the future Sandwich Town Council has appointed a Museum and Heritage Manager to secure and promote the future of the Museum and Archives. We think this is a brave and innovative appointment which will benefit Sandwich immensely.

All meetings and consultations taken place over the last few years have been fully and wholeheartedly supported by residents, organisations and groups across the Town.

I am always in awe of how much proactive positivity there is in our Town. For all of this I thank you!

Around the Town we have seen some significant improvements:

- Bell Lane is now clear of rubbish and can be fully accessed
- Austin's Lane, following resident and KCC agreement, will, like Bell Lane be treated in the same way and will have bollards installed at both ends
- Fisher Street light now is working after a long break.

Following Dover District Council's withdrawal of their helpdesk service within the Guildhall, Sandwich Town Council have actively sought to set up a jointly funded Helpdesk based at Age Concern on Thursdays between the hours of 9.00a.m. and noon. This will ensure that the most vulnerable residents in Sandwich will have access to this much needed service.

Following the installation of the Flood Defences, steps are being taken to re-open Monks Wall Nature Reserve this year. Councillors are also working closely with Gazen Salts Nature Reserve to take steps to ensure this also reopens soon and good progress is being made.

The historic Delf Stream, Sandwich's only source of water for many years, has been an ongoing problem which is now being addressed. Engineering explorations are taking place to improve the flow of this very important waterway and to add to our current tourism offer.

After much campaigning the Town will now have an extra PCSO, offering Sandwich two PCSO's and a Town Warden to address policing matters in the Town.

The exciting 'New Vision for Sandwich' Project has been developing over the last 3 years and is now at the point where bids have been submitted to facilitate this regeneration across the town. These projects across the town are the result of working closely in partnership with not only great input from residents but exceptional cooperation between Dover District Council, Kent County Council, Heritage England, Town Team, Discovery Park, Sandwich Community Events Association and Chamber of Commerce to ensure that the town gives a clear and consistent message and approach to positively encouraging growth in a way that promotes the town, enhances its heritage and protects its assets.

We are hopeful that all the changes proposed will be in place for the much anticipated return of the Open Golf Championship in 2020.

Allied to this initiative, is Sandwich Town Council's acquisition of the Drill Hall on the Quay, which will open and improve this area. In addition to the Drill Hall we now have the wonderful attraction of the American Gunboat P22. This charitable organisation will become a Museum to the Cold War and a great attraction in its own right. With the addition of the completed Boatyard, coming back into public ownership, the Quay will become a dynamic tourist haven. This becomes ever more important as Sandwich is a town with a growing calendar of cultural and social events and an evolving hospitality sector.

As we hang up our mayoral chains, The Mayoress and I would like to thank everyone in our fabulous Town for all that we have shared with you over the last four years.

A truly wonderful and enriching experience!!