

Liberal Democrats FOCUS

Keeping in Touch with
Folkestone, Hythe, Sandgate
& Saltwood All Year Round.

Autumn 2025

News from Tim
Prater and the
Lib Dem Team

Learn more online at
fhd.uk and prater.uk

Kent Forgets our Road of Remembrance

It was January 2024 when a landslip above Folkestone's **Road of Remembrance** closed the road.

Almost TWO YEARS later Kent Highways have still not contracted the works to reopen it.

Lib Dem Kent County Councillor **Tim Prater** has slammed the Reform Council for sitting on its hands and not getting down to work to reopen the road. Tim says:

"This is more than just a key route between Folkestone town centre and the harbour.

"It's a huge piece of Folkestone's

WWI heritage. Millions walked that way to the harbour, not knowing if they would ever return.

"For the sake of our residents, our businesses and to show some respect, Kent County Council should commit to getting the road reopened."

"The plans are there to do the work. It could start in weeks. We don't need excuses. We want action."

District Pesticide Use Down 97%!

Folkestone & Hythe District Council is using massively less pesticide in its parks and public spaces.

In answer to a question from Tim Prater, they confirmed that since 2018, **usage has been cut from 75 litres to just 1.68 litres in 2024.**

They now use safer methods like hot steam and foam to kill weeds. Some

plants like Japanese Knotweed still need special treatment, but tiny amounts are used.

Tim says:

"The council no longer sprays cemeteries or flower beds.

"This helps protect nature, pets, and people. It's a big step toward a cleaner, greener community!"

Bin FIXED

Tim Prater asked the District Council to replace the broken recycling bins on Sandgate's **Granville Parade** and by **Castle Road Car Park**. They have!

New bins have been installed. As they are plastic, hopefully they will last better - we'll see!

Tim Prater Reporting Back

On election to County Hall Tim launched a monthly online diary of County Council work

Read the monthly reports at www.fhd.uk/tim-reporting-back

Learn more about Tim's work all year round locally at www.prater.uk

Cheriton ACTION

Lib Dem Town Councillors for Cheriton West, **Peter Gane, John Renshaw and Roger West** hold advice surgeries each month.

No need for an appointment.

Surgeries are held on the second Saturday of each month from 11am-12pm in All Souls Church Hall, Somerset Road CT19 4HE

Walking on Fire

Tim Prater got to take part in a September firewalk for South Kent MIND alongside about 40 walkers.

Congratulations to all who took part and THANK YOU to those that sponsored Tim. Together we raised thousands.

Learn more about South Kent MIND at southkentmind.org.uk

Learn More

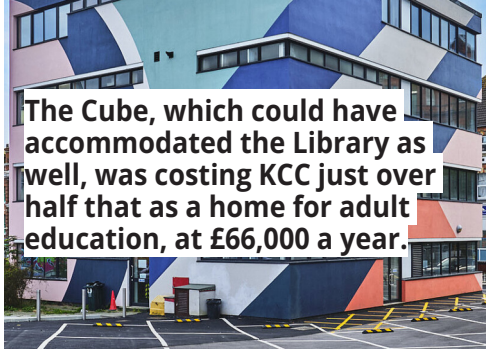
...about the work of the Folkestone & Hythe Lib Dem team at www.fhd.uk

Not Giving Up on Grace Hill

Kent County Council's announcement that Folkestone Library and Adult Education Centre are to move "temporarily" into 14 Sandgate Road is ill-considered and a brand of financial lunacy, says County Councillor **Tim Prater**.

"The new site is in the middle of the pedestrian precinct so a nightmare in the daytime for people who can't walk that far." says Tim.

"We're not told what the new building will cost, but it was being advertised at £120,000 a year, plus business rates.



The Cube, which could have accommodated the Library as well, was costing KCC just over half that as a home for adult education, at £66,000 a year.

"That doesn't seem like 'Local Government Efficiency' from the controlling Reform group, does it?"

"I can see the logic in bringing together Adult Education and a library for Folkestone on the same site. I'm delighted to get a library back in the centre of Folkestone.

"But I will not, and local residents will not and should not, give up on Grace Hill."

Action File

Unless drains are clear, they can't do their job. That's why Tim reports them for clearing. One "wet spot" was at the junction of **Ashley Avenue** and **Shaftesbury Avenue** where there is often a problem: you can see why (and its now fixed)!



You can report blocked street drains online too at:

www.kent.gov.uk/KHSFaults

Tim took action on this bin in the **Golden Valley** that looked like it had measles! After an hour's scrubbing and scraping it looked good again, but PLEASE - put vape stickers IN the bin, not on it!



From this:



...to this!

In The News

Tim tackles Kent Reform on Climate Change in the Folkestone Herald. The Daily Mail expect inflation busting tax increases from Reform run Kent County Council.



Reform UK 'set to hike Kent council tax by 5% next year' amid claims DOGE-style cost cutting has failed

494 comments



10:27, 06 Oct 2025, updated 10:28, 06 Oct 2025
By GREG HEFFER, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Kent County Council, led by Reform UK, is set to hike council tax by the maximum amount next year amid claims a cost-cutting drive has failed.

Lib Dem Prater slams council's climate U-turn
COUNCILLOR ACCUSES REFORM LEADERSHIP OF 'DISREPUTABLE' DISREGARD FOR FACTS AFTER MEMBERS BACK MOVE. PAGE 7
Prater criticises 'disreputable' council move on climate change
PROTESTS AT COUNTY HALL AS AUTHORITY REVERSES 'EMERGENCY' DECLARATION

Cheriton Lights

Saturday 29th November is Cheriton Christmas Lights switch-on day!

There will be activities, a Santa Grotto and a Christmas Market from 12-4pm.

Cheriton Baptist Church will be hosting festive entertainment from School Choirs and others.

The Cheriton Events Committee, which includes Cheriton West Town councillors **Peter Gane**, **Roger West** and **John Renshaw** work with Folkestone Town Council to fundraise for and extend the lights.

Learn more and get involved at facebook.com/cheritonmatters

Helping Kent Kids Stay Healthy

Kent County Council has backed a Lib Dem plan to boost child vaccination.

A motion to encourage uptake of vaccinations was passed unanimously in September.

Vaccines like MMR protect against measles, mumps and rubella. These diseases can be serious, but fewer children are getting their jabs.

The council wants families to check kids have had both doses.

A new vaccine called MMRV, which also protects against chickenpox, will be offered from January 2026.

Contact the Lib Dem team

Get in touch with Tim if you need help. One of the team will come back to you.



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Read More & Join Us: www.fhld.uk

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