

Liberal Democrats FOCUS

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

Summer 2026

News from Tim
Prater and the
Lib Dem Team

Learn more online at
fhld.uk and prater.uk

DELIVERING GOOD THINGS FOR OUR AREA

With his experience
across Councils, Tim is helping get
MORE for **ALL** local residents.

- New investment in new facilities
- Award winning services

The new children's play area has
opened in the **Folkestone Lower
Leas Park**.

The £750,000 refurbishment
project was completed at the
start of the school summer
holidays. It has already been a
BIG hit with its young visitors!

**Folkestone & Hythe District
Council** has been recognised as
one of the UK's top council
housing landlords. It won the
highest possible consumer
standards judgement from a
Government Inspection.

It is the first council in Kent to
achieve the distinction and one of
just 13% of councils nationwide
to hold the top grade.

A £2.4m grant which will enable
the reopening of swimming
facilities at **Folkestone Sports
Centre** has been agreed.

The Sports Trust are investing
millions more. Work is well
underway, including totally
remodelling the changing
facilities - not before time! **The
plan is now for pool, hall & gym
to be open by Christmas.**

Other huge investments in fully
refurbishing **Hythe Pool** AND
bringing new leisure facilities to
Hythe's **Martello Lakes** have
been agreed.

Options are being drawn up to be
considered and agreed over the
coming months.

Good signs. Sometimes
it's not the big things, but
a little care for our area
makes a real difference.

Missing and damaged
street name plates make
our area feel a little less
loved than it could.

Tim Prater undertook a
sweep of signs across the
area early this year. The
district council has now
replaced many of them.

**Does a street sign near
you need replacing as
missing or damaged?**

Report at folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/streets/street-nameplates or
email Tim with photo!

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Over recent years, Tim Prater
has given ward and division
grants to a huge range of local
organisations including
**Charivari, Folkestone Armed
Forces Day, Folkestone
Festivals, Folkestone Rugby
Club, Harvey Grammar School,
Hythe Youth Club, Folkestone
Pride** and more!

In addition, he has helped
**Folkestone MIND, Sunflower
House** and **Living Words** get
grants of almost £10,000 each
over the last three years through
a Nominet backed scheme.

**Over 1,000 people learnt more
about and engaged with the
sports, fitness and dance
activities that are available in
and around Hythe.**

Thirty groups took part, with
many providing coaching
sessions and public participation
events in and outside the festival
marquee.

Tim said:

*"Well done to all the organisers of
the Festival - it was a smash. I
know many people are already
looking forward to next year!"*



**Learn
More**

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



Nice Shirt Shot!

Tim Prater and **Gary Fuller** are delighted with the new outdoor table tennis table in Fremantle Park, Golden Valley it seems!

Funded via the **Sandgate Society** and Gary's Folkestone & Hythe District Council ward grant last year, the table is designed to offer a new facility to a different age group: just bring your own bats and balls!

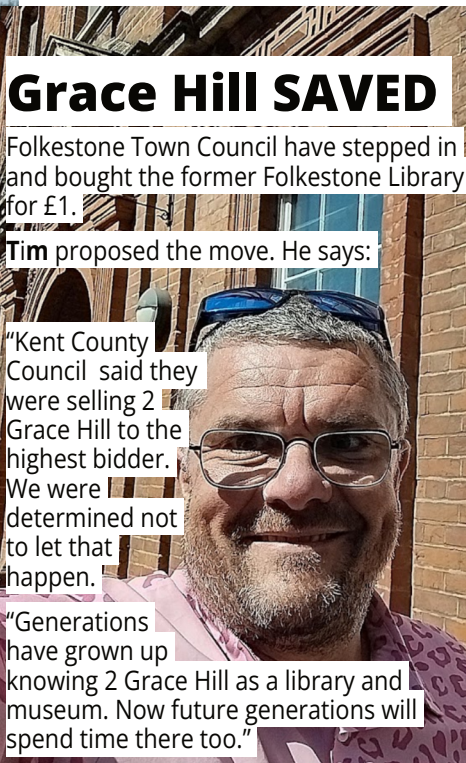
Grace Hill SAVED

Folkestone Town Council have stepped in and bought the former Folkestone Library for £1.

Tim proposed the move. He says:

"Kent County Council said they were selling 2 Grace Hill to the highest bidder. We were determined not to let that happen."

"Generations have grown up knowing 2 Grace Hill as a library and museum. Now future generations will spend time there too."



Better Play, Safer Roads

The Folkestone Lib Dem team have supported Town Council investment in communication boards & play panels for play areas in **Naseby Avenue**, **Roman Way**, **Pine Way** and **Firs Lane**.

In addition, subject to consultation with neighbours, the Town Council are also funding a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at **Naseby Avenue Play Park**.

Cheriton Councillor Peter Gane says:

"This Investment across Cheriton for our youngest residents is great news for families".

Tim Prater is continuing to push for crossing improvements on **Cheriton High Street / Cheriton Interchange**. A recent safety audit found areas were dangerous.

A follow-up visit has found a list of issues including collision damage, trees and bushes obscuring vision and poor design.

"Kent Highways need to act." says Tim.

MAKING SOUTHERN WATER BE BETTER

Local residents were delighted when Sandgate Granville Parade became a designated bathing water in May.

But this wasn't just another award for Sandgate: it had a real purpose.

Weekly summer Environment Agency water quality testing now takes place there. Results are available online.

Tim Prater explains:

"We wanted to be able to trust the water quality testing results. But the testing point was a mile from where people actually swim. We couldn't rely on results from there."

"To fix that, Sandgate's main beach needed to be designated. This year

Granville Parade was one of 13 new bathing waters nationally.

"And the VERY FIRST test, soon after heavy rainfall, proved the point."

"The result on Granville Parade was really bad."

"It backed the long standing advice NOT to swim immediately after heavy rainfall. The result at Seabrook, on the same day, showed no contamination at all."

"We will now use the results to push Southern Water to do better. They have previously used the defence that the testing results were always excellent. They were - but in Seabrook."

"Next to their outfall at Granville Parade, after heavy rain, we can now prove they are not."

Councillor Advice Surgeries

Tim Prater & Gary Fuller, Councillors for Sandgate and West Folkestone, hold drop-in advice surgeries:

1st Saturday of the month 11-12.30 at Sandgate Farmers Market, Chichester Hall, Sandgate CT20 3AR

3rd Saturday of the month 9.30-10.30 at Sandgate Library, Sandgate CT20 3RR

Peter Gane, Jon Renshaw & Roger West, Cheriton West, surgeries:

2nd Saturday of the month 11-12 at All Souls Church Hall, Somerset Rd CT19 4HE

County Council Election Result 2025

Lib
Dem
Tim
Prater
2051

Reform
1987

Tim Prater was the ONLY candidate to beat Reform in Folkestone & Hythe.

Tim CAN beat Reform here.

A vote for Conservative, Green or Labour may let Reform win.

Conservative
973

Green
595

Labour
428



FLAMING DISGRACE

Proposals to consult on adding a second full-time day fire engine at Folkestone Fire Station have been **BLOCKED** by Reform Councillors.

Average day response times across our district would have been **over a minute faster**. Night response times would have been unchanged.

Tim said:

"I'll always stand up for the best possible fire cover across Kent and especially for our district."

"To see Folkestone Reform Councillors vote against even consulting on a plan that improved our cover was extraordinary."

Tim is pictured at Ashford Fire Station at the opening of the new Fire Training Facility in July.



Contact the Lib Dem team

Get in touch with County Councillor **Tim Prater** if you need help.



Tim Prater



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Read More & Join Us:
www.fhld.uk

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Printed by Instantprint, Unit A Brookfields Park, Manvers Way, Manvers, Rotherham S63 5DR.

