

# Liberal Democrats FOCUS

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

Spring 2026

News from Tim  
Prater and the  
Lib Dem Team

Learn more online at  
[fhld.uk](http://fhld.uk) and [prater.uk](http://prater.uk)



# Have Our Roads EVER Been Worse?

Kent Highways had over  
16,500 highway problem  
reports in February 2026.  
That's TWICE as many as the  
same month last year.

County Councillor **Tim Prater** is  
not surprised. He says:

"This will shock no-one that  
drives, walks or cycles on our  
roads and pavements.

"Right now the bill to fix Kent's  
roads would be £750 million.

"But we're not spending  
enough to even stand still.

"The County should be  
spending more money on  
fixing our roads.

"Sadly, Kent Reform UK voted  
down my amendment in  
February to do just that."

Read more at [fhld.uk/roads](http://fhld.uk/roads)

## Huge Boost for Local Swimming

The new district budget put  
forward by **Tim Prater** allows  
for £2.4m to get Folkestone  
Sports Centre Pool re-opened  
in 2026.

£6m is also available for a  
massive refurbishment of  
Hythe Swimming Pool.

Tim said:

"With £2.4m Shepway Sports  
Trust say they can make the pool  
fit for purpose, cheaper to run,  
nicer to use, open by the autumn  
and good to go for the future.

"We need fair price swimming  
back in Folkestone - lets make it  
happen."

Hythe Councillor **John Stokes** is  
delighted. He said:



"Hythe Pool is hugely loved, but  
really needs work. Anyone who  
has been in the changing rooms  
or showers knows that!

"£6m isn't just a lick of paint.  
It's a full improvement  
programme that will secure  
the pool for another 20 years."

The Government is  
consulting on 13 new  
bathing sites nationally,  
including **Sandgate's  
Granville Parade**.

Tim Prater says:

"It's thanks to Sandgate  
Parish Council and local  
campaigners who made  
this happen.

"There is a sewage outfall  
valve at Granville Parade.  
Southern Water say it is  
rarely used. They say a lot  
of things. **We want proof.**

"Give people certainty  
with testing here, not  
just at Seabrook where it  
has been until now."



## In It To Win It!

**Tim Prater** has backed a Town  
of Culture 2028 bid for  
Folkestone.

The Government-led scheme will  
name the first ever UK "Town of  
Culture" with a £3m prize.

Tim says:

"Organisations across Folkestone  
have been delivering incredible  
experiences for years.



"From Charivari to Triennials,  
Music in May and every other  
month, Documentary, Literary,  
Theatre and Comedy Festivals,  
and a huge range of venues.

"There is so much here already.

"If every group and venue  
works together, a bid for Town  
of Culture 2028 will stand a  
great chance. And if we win,  
that would be One Big Party."



The speed limit  
along North Road,  
West Road, Hospital  
Hill and Pond Hill  
Road is 30mph.

These unlit roads run  
past housing, playing  
fields, a theatre, kids  
nursery & play park.

Speedwatch checks in these  
roads regularly find the  
highest speeds locally.

After action from **Tim Prater**,  
new 30 "repeater" signs and road  
roundels were installed along  
those roads earlier this year.



Learn  
More

...about the work of the Folkestone &  
Hythe Lib Dem team at [www.fhld.uk](http://www.fhld.uk)

## It's FINALLY happened!

A 20mph zone has been installed through **Sandgate** following years of campaigning by local residents.



**Gary Fuller & Tim Prater** helped fund the scheme through Councillor ward grants. They said:

"As local residents have said for years: 20 is plenty for Sandgate."

This drain in **Radnor Cliff** has been broken for years. Water just did not go down it. In the winter, water running across the road often turned to sheet ice: a major hazard.



Tim convinced Kent Highways they needed to get it sorted, and they finally did so in January.

No more water across the road: hopefully no more ice!



Now, an official safety audit has backed that view.

Local Councillors **Peter Gane** and **Tim Prater** have welcomed the audit and its findings. They say:

"We have always said this junction was unsafe. Finally we've forced them to an audit, which agreed."

"We hope this will be taken seriously, acted on quickly, and we will push to make that happen."

Read the audit findings at [fhld.uk/cheritoncrosing](http://fhld.uk/cheritoncrosing)

Peter Gane & Tim Prater at the crossing

## A Car Crash Waiting

Since **Cheriton Interchange** was changed to add a right turn onto **Cheriton High Street** coming from **Horn Street**, pedestrians have said the crossing is unsafe.

## Drop-in Councillor Advice Surgeries

**Tim Prater** and **Gary Fuller**, Lib Dem District Councillors for Sandgate and West Folkestone, hold drop-in advice surgeries on:

- the **1st Saturday of each month** from 11-12.30pm at Sandgate Farmers Market in the Chichester Hall, 70 Sandgate High Street, Sandgate, Folkestone CT20 3AR
- the **3rd Saturday of each month** from 9.30-10.30am in Sandgate Library, James Morris Court, Sandgate High Street, Sandgate, Folkestone CT20 3RR

**Peter Gane, Jon Renshaw** and **Roger West**, Lib Dem Town Councillors for **Cheriton West**, also hold drop-in advice surgeries each month.

They are on the **2nd Saturday of each month** from 11am-12pm in All Souls Church Hall, Somerset Road, Folkestone CT19 4HE

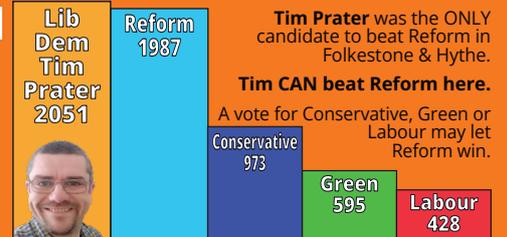
Kent Highways has **FINALLY** agreed to get Folkestone's **Road of Remembrance** open after years of delay.



After pressure from **Tim Prater**, KCC had advice that they were likely to be legally liable if they failed to act.

Work now starts in a few months.

## County Council Election Result 2025



## Grace Hill Outrage

Despite Reform-led Kent County Council opting to sell Folkestone **Grace Hill** library building, **Tim Prater** is not giving up on our heritage or the building. Tim says:

"Kent should have done the right thing by Folkestone and kept and fixed the building they wrecked."

"But if not they need to give the building to Folkestone. We've can make that happen with partners."

"To sell it to a developer at auction would be an outrage."

## A huge thank you to the district and county teams for the clear up after Storm Goretti.

Despite the worst storm incident seen in the district for 20 years, roads were cleared and reopened within 48 hours.



The beach replenishment works proved their value. No property along the front reporting significant damage, despite vehicles being swept right across the road and a lot of sea wall damage!

## 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](http://www.fhld.uk)

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