

SANDWICH TOWN COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT AND BUSINESS PLAN 2018/2020

Sandwich is a historic town on the River Stour within the Dover District, Kent, considered one of the best-preserved medieval towns in England. Once a major port, due to the silting up of the Wantsum Channel it now lies on the River Stour, two miles from the sea. Sandwich was one of the ancient Cinque Ports and still retains many original historical buildings, including several listed houses and gates in the old town walls, churches, almshouses, public houses and the 18th century White Mill. The Town is also home to the Delf Stream, being the first fresh water system in the country. With a population of almost 5,000, Sandwich is a regional centre for services including weekly markets, and a local educational hub consisting of a Grammar School, an Academy, Junior and Infant Schools.

The annual calendar of cultural and social events has grown substantially over the past decade alongside the evolving hospitality and tourism sector. Nearby Sandwich Bay is home to a nature reserve and two world-class golf courses - Royal St George's and Prince's. Sandwich also gave its name to the bread snack by way of John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich. The word 'sandwich' is now understood across the globe.

STC KEY FACTS

Sandwich Town Council, one of the oldest authorities in the UK, deals with community infrastructure, grants and community services, and comments on planning matters.

The everyday management of the Council is undertaken by the Town Clerk and a small team of officers and support staff. Its annual running costs are in the region of £260,000, drawn from a £160,000 precept (Council Tax), income from fixed assets, and subsidies from the interest earned on the Sandwich Toll Bridge Fund set up in 1973 when Sandwich lost its borough status.

This Fund operates separately from the Town Council, although the Trustee comprises the 16 elected Town Councillors. The Fund is a registered charity with the specific purpose of utilising investment surplus for the promotion of public and charitable works within the town.

The Council is currently undertaking a major project 'A New Vision for Sandwich', focusing on upgrading the 16th century Guildhall and Forecourt which aims to regenerate the town centre, supported by outside funding.

The Council has a number of assets including the Empire Cinema, allotments, Cow Leas meadow (used for events parking), the Drill Hall, the Quay public conveniences and the Fisher Gate. The Town Council is also responsible for the newly refurbished Museum and Archives which hold a collection of international significance, including a copy of the Magna Carta dating from 1300, housed within the Town Council's Guildhall. The heritage assets of Sandwich Town Council are professionally managed and volunteer-run.

Sandwich Town is adjacent to one of the UK's most successful business parks, Discovery Park, which is one of the town's major partners.

MISSION STATEMENT

Summary statement of STC's focus over next year:

1. Regeneration of Town;
2. Improvement in Council's impact;
3. Support for Community Groups and Schools;

- 4 Engagements with Children, Youth and the Elderly;
5. Protection of Town's Heritage and Safeguarding of its Traditions;
6. Preparation for 2020 Open Golf Competition.

Specific Objectives

Deliverables over the coming year aimed at achieving Mission Statement:

- 1.** Regenerate Town through 'A Vision for Sandwich'; Chair and direct the Project Board to deliver refurbished Guildhall Building & Forecourt including added Museum space, new Archives Library, Tourist Information Centre, adjacent public realm and surrounding roads and traffic/shared space improvements through seeking public funding streams e.g. HLF/CCF Bids;
 - 2.** Support and oversee the development of the indoor market at the quayside Drill Hall;
 - 3.** Ensure completion of the new Coach Park at the former KCC Depot and introduce interim measures for coach parking;
 - 4.** Increase promotion of tourism to the Town, working with Visit Kent to deliver a Destination Management Plan;
 - 5.** Maximise Sandwich Town Council's impact through modernising the Council's working practices: implement the appropriate recommendations of the Dakota Blue Report; renegotiate Sandwich Agreement with DDC (in part required to support Vision HLF bid); introduce a more efficient and transparent STC/Toll Bridge operating framework; create new and sharper Council and Committee structures, meeting schedules and procedures to increase public engagement and accessibility; review Council's Standing Orders and policies;
 - 6.** Enhance and Maintain Environmental/Recreational Sites: In partnership with DDC and other stakeholders ensure operational working of Gazen Salts and Monks Wall Nature Reserves and support the ongoing work on the Delf Stream, also developing its tourism potential.
7. Maintain updated Emergency Plan fit for purpose and easily understood.

Sandwich Town Council will also focus influence on:

- 1.** Police and DDC Enforcement: Sandwich Town Council will continue to push for an increased police presence within the town, press for improved emergency response time to the town and support the work of the PCSOs and KCC community wardens as far as is possible;
- 2.** Sandwich Town Council will seek to use its influence and resources to provide support and assistance to young people, families and the elderly where necessary and possible;
- 3.** DDC's Project to turn the Town Walls into new District Strategic Park (part of DDC's Open Parks Project), ensuring link and synergy with 'A New Vision for Sandwich';
- 4.** 2020 Open Golf: maximising realistic benefits for Town, ensuring 2011 lessons learned and early engagement with Royal & Ancient, Royal St George's, stakeholders;