

# Town and Cinque Port of Sandwich

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## PRESS RELEASE

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## **FISHERGATE TO RETURN TO COUNCIL PROPRIETORSHIP**

Sandwich Town Council has agreed to buy back the 46-year Lease on the Fishergate for £7,000. This was overwhelmingly agreed by Councillors at Sandwich Town Council's meeting on 24 June, and that the funds should come from the Town Council's Budget. A Deed of Surrender is currently being prepared with the Tenant, Sandwich Historical Boatyard Ltd.

The Council is now going to work with Historic England to ensure the future good condition of the property. Various options will be researched for possible future uses, including a bespoke holiday let – but whatever the outcome, the intention is that this Grade 1 Listed building will now remain firmly in the hands of the Town Council which will ensure its protection and harness its potential for the benefit of promoting the Town.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Sandwich Cllr Jeffrey Franklin said “The Council has sought legal advice on how best to end the current Lease and although the agreed expenditure is not ideal, this was significantly less than the Tenant's original request and the estimated cost of pursuing a legal forfeiture. The newly elected Council has worked diligently and quickly to achieve this positive outcome and I'm excited to see the next business plan develop. “

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