



Chairmans Speech.
Monday 20th May 2024 at 6.00pm

I would like to thank all Councillors and staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

Sheerness Town Council has had a very successful year contributing £18,070.00 to 26 local organisations via the Community Grant Scheme including East Kent Mencap, Sheppey Horticultural Society, Sheppey Sea Cadets and Sheppey Little Theatre. We donated £5,000 to the Salvation Army to contribute to the Care for Christmas project to help local families during the festive period and £5,000 to the Sheppey War Memorial Trust to contribute towards the restoration of the pillars and £2337.00 to Sheppey Matters for a new transmitter.

Working closely with Swale Borough Council we were able to replace the play equipment at Beachfields park which was subject to vandalism in December 2022. Utilising the ring-fenced Sheerness Regeneration Fund we contributed £51,327.96 towards the replacement play equipment and CCTV.

We have held three successful community events including St Georges Day, Remembrance Sunday, and the annual Christmas event. As a council we have also supported Sheerness Town Team in producing the Sheerness Seaside Festival which was another opportunity for the community to come together.

We have continued with our annual projects which include the well-used buoyed swimming area along the Sheerness beach, the installation of the hanging baskets and bunting in the High Street during the summer months. Working with Total Landscapes we have extended the Marine Town Planter project to 10 planters planting over 1000 bulbs back in October and providing a monthly maintenance to keep them litter/weed free.

We have continued to install the much-loved Christmas lighting during the festive period in the High Street and Broadway. Sheerness Town Council have partnered with Gala Lights to provide the project for the next three years which we are proud to continue, many local authorities have cancelled Christmas lighting due to the current budget constraints.

Our Council has extended the bus shelter project and installed the much-needed bus shelter in Millenium Way, Sheerness which has been well used since the installation. This will complement the upcoming work for Sheerness Town Council which will be implementing our Highway Improvement Plan. This will be the first time in the council's existence that this document will exist and will be used to action much needed basic Highway improvements in our Town in partnership with other organisations.

We added to more defibrillators to our register, we purchased new equipment at the Isle of Sheppey Sailing Club and installed a defibrillator at the Co-op Club in St Georges for Co-op Cobras Football team.

Sheerness Town Council has pleased to partner with neighbouring town and parish councils particularly, Minster Parish Council, Queenborough Town Council, Swale Borough Council and KCC. As well as local organisations such as Mencap, Sheppey Matters, Sheerness Town Team.

Sheerness Town Council also welcomed the two conversations for Marine Town and Mile Town area Conservation updates and look forward to the third around the Historic Dockyard coming in hopefully the near future.

This year we have been pleased to welcome even more residents to the public meetings held by the council including the public meeting for the community held to demonstrate the community's objection to the closure of Blackburn Lodge Care home.

We hope to continue with another productive year.