



The Gurkha Welfare Trust

PO Box 2170
22 Queen Street
Salisbury
SP2 2EX

:- 9 FEB 2026

Lydd Town Council
13 High Street
Lydd
ROMNEY MARSH
Kent
TN29 9AF

04 February 2026

Your supporter number: 338529

'Dhanyabad', Thank you for supporting our mission to keep Gurkha veterans and their families safe.

Dear Ms Alexander and All at Lydd Town Council,

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to you and everyone at Lydd Town Council. Thank you for your continuous support through all these years. We can confirm that the donation of £2500 raised at the Gurkha Band Concert has been received on 4th February 2026.



We are deeply grateful for the time, effort, and generosity involved in organising this donation, especially during such a busy and demanding time of year.

The Gurkha Welfare Trust is committed to providing vital support across healthcare, education, financial assistance, and emergency aid. Your kindness will make a meaningful difference, helping us to continue delivering essential care and support to Gurkha veterans, widows, and vulnerable communities in Nepal.

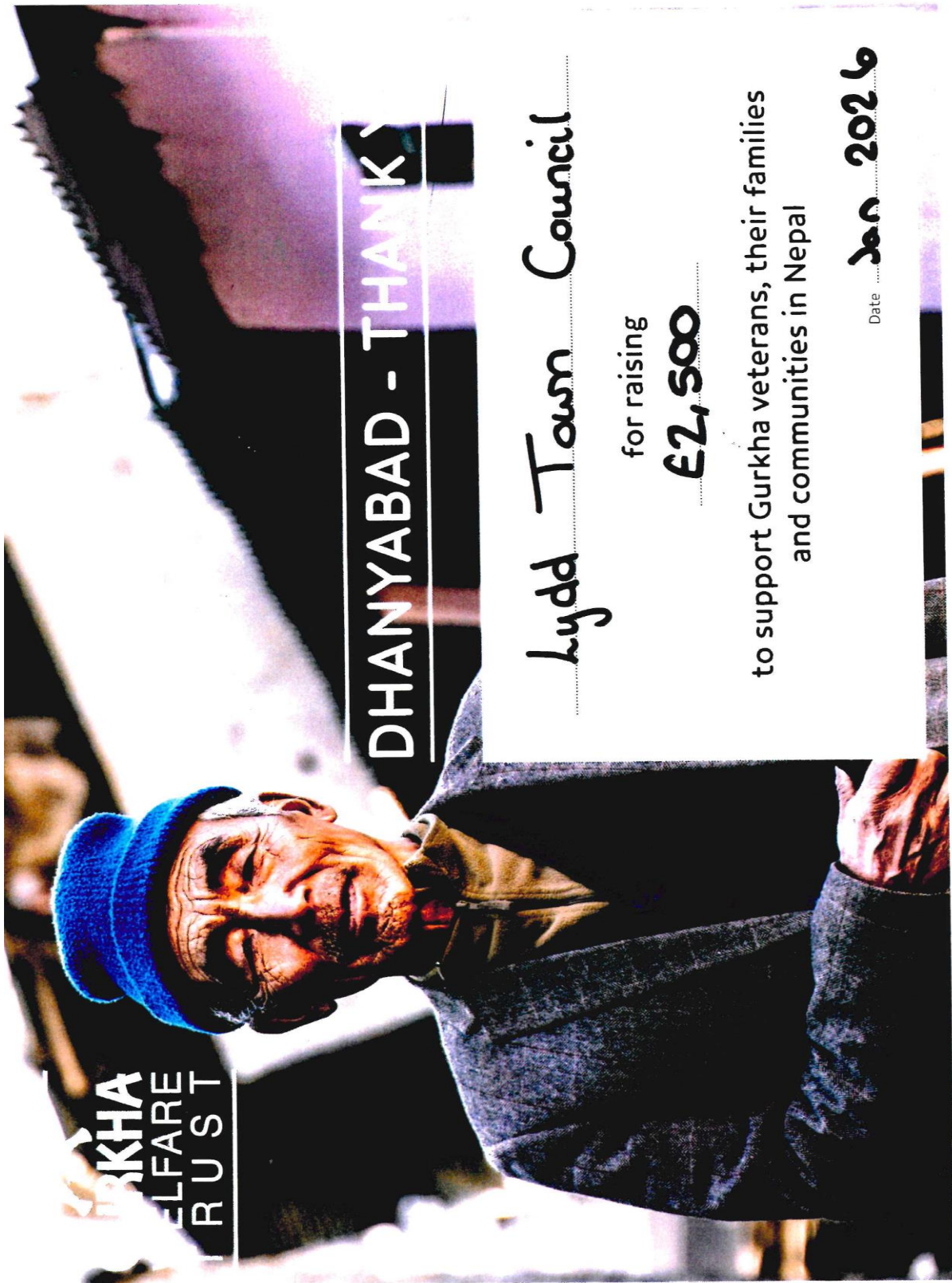
Support such as yours ensures that the "Bravest of the Brave", along with their families and communities, are able to live with dignity, security, and hope for the future. We are truly thankful for your compassion and continued generosity.

Kind regards,

Eleanor Harcourt
Community Fundraiser

Tel 01722 323 955 | Email info@gwt.org.uk | Website www.gwt.org.uk |     

Registered Charity Number 1103669 | Company Limited by Guarantee Number 5098581 | Registered in England at the above address



NOTICE OF ELECTION

Folkestone & Hythe District Council

Election of councillors for Lydd Town Council

1. An Election is to be held of **TWO** Councillors for Lydd Town Council.
2. Nomination papers for this election may be obtained from the Returning Officer at Folkestone & Hythe District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, on any weekday between 10am and 3pm (excluding bank holidays).
3. Completed nomination papers must be delivered to the Returning Officer, Customer Access Point, Main Reception, Folkestone & Hythe District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, on any weekday after the date of this notice, between 10am and 4pm (excluding bank holidays) but no later than 4pm on Friday, 06 February 2026.

PLEASE NOTE: The Civic Centre closes to the public at 3pm, however nomination papers can still be received until 4pm on any weekday between the dates and times stated above.

4. If any election is contested the poll will take place on Thursday, 5 March 2026.
5. Applications to register to vote must reach the Electoral Registration Officer by 12 midnight on Tuesday, 17 February 2026. Applications can be made at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.
6. Applications, amendments, or cancellations of postal votes and amendments or cancellations of proxy votes must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at Folkestone & Hythe District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY by 5pm on Wednesday, 18 February 2026. Applications can be made online: www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote. Amendments and cancellations can be made via email to elections@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk.
7. Registered electors voting at a polling station will need to provide an acceptable form of photo ID. More information about this can be found at www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/voter-id.
8. Applications for a Voter Authority Certificate or an Anonymous Elector's Document valid for this election must reach the Electoral Registration Officer by 5pm on Wednesday, 25 February 2026. Applications can be made at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate.
9. Applications to vote by proxy at this election must reach the Electoral Registration Officer by 5pm on Wednesday, 25 February 2026. Some applications can be made online: www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote.
10. Applications to vote by emergency proxy at this election must reach the Electoral Registration Officer by 5pm on Thursday, 5 March 2026.
11. For further information on any matter covered by this notice please telephone the Electoral Services Helpline on 01303 853497.

Dated 29 January 2026

S. Priest
Returning Officer

Printed and published by the Returning Officer, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY

Cabinet Member Update – January

David Wimble

Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Special Projects

January marks the conclusion of my first full month in post as Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Special Projects. It has been a demanding but highly productive start to a portfolio that is both broader and more outward-facing than my previous environmental role.

As outlined when the portfolio was agreed last year, this role is focused on delivery, partnership working and economic growth. Combined with my wider involvement in national Reform policy development, it has already involved a significant level of engagement across Whitehall, Westminster, local government and industry.

Earlier this month, Parliament hosted a dedicated “Nuclear Week” at the Palace of Westminster, spanning three days across both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Kent County Council was represented throughout. The programme included presentations and discussions with more than eight nuclear sector organisations, including Rolls-Royce.

During the week, I held direct conversations with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and Baroness Bloomfield regarding the potential for a new Nuclear Decommissioning Centre of Excellence at Dungeness. These initial discussions have been positive and are now leading to further meetings.

Work to explore the long-term future of nuclear energy at Dungeness is continuing, with a significant and unique development due to take place shortly. Following discussions at a recent “Meet the MPs” session at County Hall, I spoke with our local MP, Tony Vaughan, and it became clear that we share a common vision for the future of nuclear at Dungeness. As a result, we have jointly agreed to establish a **non-political Nuclear Task Force**, bringing together key stakeholders. The Leader of Folkestone & Hythe District Council, Cllr Jim Martin, has been invited to participate, and the task force will hold its first meeting this week at Westminster.

In parallel, I am now representing Kent County Council within four separate nuclear working groups, ensuring Kent’s interests are fully represented. On a personal note, this work feels like a full-circle moment, having started my own working career at Dungeness following an instrumentation apprenticeship with the former CEGB. I have also attended meetings of the Dungeness Stakeholders Group as part of this ongoing engagement.

Beyond energy, I spoke at the Sustainable Food and Farming Conference held at the Islington Meeting Rooms, focusing on opportunities to strengthen sustainable farming in Kent. During the event, I had a valuable discussion with Dame Angela Eagle on creating more efficient “farm-to-plate” delivery routes, linking Kent producers directly with consumers while improving food waste reuse. This directly led to further lobbying work with Kent MPs around a potential **£20 million funding bid** in partnership with the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership.

I have been encouraged by the level of constructive cross-party working at Westminster and would welcome seeing more of this collaborative approach reflected at district level.

My final Westminster visit of the month was for a Coastal Communities and Infrastructure meeting hosted by Polly Billington MP. Discussions focused on improving access to employment, where I highlighted the significant impact of poor rural transport provision,

particularly in communities such as Lydd-on-Sea and Dungeness. We also explored the reintroduction of regional job fairs and improved employment signposting.

At County Hall, I have continued work on the council's **emerging Energy Policy**, which will replace the outdated 2014 document. This policy has already been referenced during a recent planning application in Sevenoaks and contributed to councillors having clear policy grounds to refuse a proposed 100-acre solar development, specifically due to the absence of grid connection infrastructure. The policy is scheduled to be considered by Cabinet and Full Council by March.

Officers have also begun work on my proposals formerly known as *Brand Kent*, now developed under the working title **Growth in Kent**. This programme aims to drive inward investment following changes to Locate in Kent and Visit Kent. A dedicated leadership team of six full-time staff is now in place, with a clear direction covering employment, investment, tourism and place-making. I will provide a fuller update on this work in my next report.

I have continued to press for the expansion of **Reuse Centres** across the county, building on the successful opening of the New Romney Household Waste Recycling Centre facility last summer. Further sites are expected to come online during the spring.

This month also saw Cabinet take the **Kent County Council budget** to Full Council. For the first time in over a decade, the authority has been able to maintain frontline services while significantly improving efficiency. Kent County Council has delivered a **council tax increase of under 4%**, making it **the only council in the South East not to apply the full permitted increase**.

Over the past eight months, the council has repaid a **£50 million loan** and delivered **more than £32 million in savings**, with further efficiencies already identified. This has been achieved without compulsory redundancies, without closing libraries or household waste recycling centres, and while continuing to protect essential services for residents.

Finally, Kent County Council hosted a **sold-out procurement conference** at the Kent County Showground, attended by more than 500 delegates. Officers outlined how the removal of the former Climate Emergency statement has simplified procurement processes, making it easier for small and medium-sized Kent businesses to compete for contracts without excessive compliance barriers. Since these changes were introduced, **17 contracts have already been awarded to Kent-based companies**, supporting hundreds of local jobs.

This outcome reflects exactly what I stood for at the election: **putting Kent residents, Kent businesses and Kent jobs first**.



CIVIC AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS 2025-2026

The Worshipful The Town Mayor
Cllr Bob Jones

January 2026

No Scheduled Events

February 2026

13th

Confederation of Cinque Ports
Retirement of Ian Russell

TS