

Twining: SPC signed the second part of the Charter with Sangatte in France; various events are planned – especially for boules/petanque matches.

Beach management: new notice boards have been put up on the promenade by Granville Parade; the beaches have been cleaned when requests were put forward to the district council; SPC applied for the Seaside Award – results to be announced on 22 May.

Communications: there have been regular emails to residents and businesses – informing about events, parish council meetings and business and general Sandgate news. Printed newsletters were distributed to all householders in the parish.

Library: this is continuing to be used regularly with weekly Read & Rhyme sessions, groups meetings for ‘knit and natter’, book club, creative writing etc and use of the library computers, the free wi-fi service and book lending. SPC is still providing free hot drinks.

Village Design Statement: the VDS work began over 12 months ago and it followed recommendations from the Parish Plan and previous members of SPC, which this parish council is still committed to implementing. It has engaged the whole community in thinking deeply about Sandgate – its past, present and future. The draft document was produced in April, after much hard work by the Steering Committee. Today sees the end of the statutory 6 week consultation on the draft. This is what will happen next: all responses are being collated; these will be summarised and published; any changes to the document would then be made. This will be followed by a two-week consultation period on the changes.

The document will then go to the SDC’s Scrutiny Panel on 10th June; then to Cabinet on 19th June. SPC will then receive notification that SDC will adopt the document as a Supplementary Planning Document.

The Chairman gave thanks to the VDS Steering Committee for all their hard work and to all the parish council committees, sub-committees and working groups for their work over the past year.

The Chairman invited everyone to stay for the Annual Parish Council meeting, which would follow at 7pm, and to stay on afterwards for drinks and light refreshments.

4. **Guest Speaker – Chris Kirkham, Discover Folkestone, Hythe & Romney Marsh (DFHRM)**

DFHRM is now working more with Visit Kent with increased marketing and tourism opportunities. The new website has been launched as well as a new leisure guide. Mr Kirkham extolled the virtues of Sandgate saying it is a very marketable village being by the sea and with many independent shops in the high street. Festivals this year include the Folkestone Festival, War & Peace Revival at Folkestone Race Course and the Hythe Venetian Fete.

The Chairman thanked Mr Kirkham Chris for his interesting talk.

5. **Public participation and questions**

Members of the public felt the presentation by Chris Kirkham had been very positive, although it was agreed to be a shame that the airshow would now not go ahead this year.

Some comments were made about the loss to Folkestone town centre of big names like BHS and Marks & Spencer but the Chairman responded stressing that residents should shop locally to aid the local economy.

A query was received about whether a discount scheme could be introduced; Cllr Findlay-Stone explained that there is a local village Business Forum and there is a group in Folkestone that represents the larger businesses; the enquirer’s suggestion would be passed on.

Another member of the public suggested that more combined news needs to be available, to include the whole of Shepway. The enquirer was informed that Shepway District Council produces a twice yearly magazine called Shepway Today.

All the comments would be passed on to Chris Kirkham.

A final query was made about whether public transport could be improved; Cllr Tim Prater advised that the Sandgate Community Trust was submitting a funding bid to have a local community minibus.

6. Any information items

A letter of thanks had been received from Margaret Turnill for the donation made by the Parish Council to the H G Wells Trust in memory of Reg Turnill.

7. Date of the next Annual Parish Meeting – this will be held on 13th May 2014.

The public were invited to partake in light refreshments after the conclusion of the Annual Parish Council meeting, which would follow the Annual Parish meeting.

The meeting closed at 7pm.

Chairman of Council

Date