

# Tim Prater

Liberal Democrat Member for Folkestone West Division



## A year at County Hall. Serving Kent. Serving You.

Kent County Council has 84 Members representing every part of the County. Tim has been serving the community of Folkestone West as a Member since 2009.

He was last elected in 2009 and, like all KCC Members, serves for a four year term of office. The next KCC elections take place on 2 May 2013.

### About Tim

Tim was elected to Kent County Council with a majority of 11 votes in 2009 at the age of 36 – one of the youngest Kent County Councillors.

A web designer by profession, Tim works and lives in Sandgate High Street, which is in Folkestone West division. Tim is also (since May 2011) a Sandgate Parish Councillor.

Given his day job, it's not a surprise to find he likes to keep in touch with his local residents online, as well as through regular update leaflets through doors.

Tim feels strongly about engaging with local residents and getting local people involved in decisions. Since 2009 he has given Members Grants away through 'You Decide' days where local people hear presentations from groups seeking money and they make the decision who gets the support. Tim is the only Shepway Kent County Councillor to give local people a say in this way.



### Tim Prater and some of the 2011/12 'You Decide' Grant Winners

You can find out more about him at [www.prater.org.uk](http://www.prater.org.uk) or follow him on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/timprater](http://www.twitter.com/timprater) and Facebook at [www.facebook.com/timprater](http://www.facebook.com/timprater)

### Work at County Hall

Attending meetings isn't all councillors do, in fact most of their time is spent out and about meeting people in their community, doing their best to help solve problems and finding out what matters most to them. However, when decisions are taken by the council, their job is to be there and put across the views of their constituents.

Tim has attended 8 out of 8 meetings of the Full Council.

Find out more about the meetings Tim has attended.

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/your\\_council.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/your_council.aspx)

### Contacting Your Councillor

Elected Members are here to help residents, organisations and businesses with enquiries about KCC services. They are probably a good starting point for other enquiries too.

#### To contact Tim:

#### By Post

98a Sandgate High Street  
Folkestone  
CT20 3BY

#### By Telephone

01303 210300

#### By email

[tim@prater.org.uk](mailto:tim@prater.org.uk)



Members of the Liberal Democrat group have a big role to play. Our job is to hold the Conservative administration to account, support it when we think it is right and challenge its policies when we believe they can be improved.

**Trudy Dean**  
Liberal Democrat Group Leader



## Member's Community Grant

KCC has found a great way to help fund local community groups and organisations without fuss or too much bureaucracy. Every year, each KCC Member may allocate £10,000 to worthwhile causes within their community.

Here's how Tim spent his last year:

Pent Valley School – to enable all the current Year 7 to experience outdoor activities including campcraft, teambuilding, communication skills, outdoor awareness, educational visits. Some of the students will have financial difficulty to pay for this trip so we hope to be able to subsidise some students but also reduce the cos for the others so it is more affordable - £1000

Folkestone Film Factory – To provide a free open air film festival for the people of Shepway for a fourth year - £1000

FHODS – To purchase and erect signage for the Tower Theatre and to erect and commission some lamp posts to improve the lighting in and out of the Tower Theatre and improve safety - £1000

Cycle Shepway – to purchase 25 dual use signage along the seafront from Folkestone through to Sandgate to Hythe - £1000

Catch 22 – to purchase equipment and resources and training to enable a group of young people to run their own social enterprise selling home-made chocolate in Folkestone West/Sandgate area. This will help young people with experience of running their own company and provide valuable life and employment skills - £1000

Folkestone, Dover & Hythe Samaritans – To increase volunteers by 50 as part of the 50 years celebration, funding will be used for advertising, training costs and extra expenses/running costs incurred from longer opening times. To create an area for volunteers to gather and relax between shifts which can be difficult and challenging. This will be at the rear of the centre in memory of one of the long time volunteers - £2000

Shepway Autism Support Group – to launch a new library facility to enable families with Autism to access the library during the day time. Funding will be used to hold a family activity session at Kidz planet and Folkestone Sports Centre to support families and to share resources and raise the profile of the group - £1000

Disabled Friends and Family Association – to contribute towards buying a vehicle which will be used to transport disabled people for days out, helping to improve their quality of life, giving them new experiences and allowing them to get mobile - £1000

If you want to suggest a local group which could benefit from the Member's Community Grant then you'll find your local Councillor's contact details on the front page.

## Member's Highway Fund

KCC recognises that local Members are well placed to decide which small transport and highways schemes would be most useful to their communities. That's why each Member is allocated £25,000 to spend on local schemes. It's called the Members Highway Fund and here's how it was spent last year...

Sandgate Valley – Area wide pedestrian dropped kerb scheme. Addressing a lack of drop kerbs across the whole area and allowing access to the local shops. Schools and services from Cheriton and Folkestone West Station - £21,600  
Contribution towards a replacement bus shelter in Enbrook Valley - £3,400

## Allowances

Each Member of KCC receives a basic allowance (salary) to compensate them for the time spent on their duties and to meet many of the day-to-day expenses of being a Councillor.

Some Members also receive a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) when they take on extra duties such as serving as a member of the Cabinet, Leader of the Opposition or Chairman of a committee.

County Councillors can only claim the usual expenses that most businesses would pay for.

These are for actual costs for example reimbursement for fuel and travel which they have incurred whilst carrying out their duties as County Councillor.

[View Members allowances and expenses](#)



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## **My achievements this year, and ambitions for next year**

As Finance spokesman for the Liberal Democrat Group, I sit on the Governance & Audit and Personnel Committees, Treasury Advisory Group and a few more! Our role as the official opposition is to question and challenge the decisions of the Council, to scrutinize and ensure decisions are made in the right way and benefit Kent residents.

I am the only Kent County Councillor in Shepway to engage with local people on deciding where local grant money should go through 'You Decide' days. We've been holding these days in Folkestone West since 2009 and residents have made decisions on which schemes they want to see receive thousands in funding.

Unlike most County Councillors, I have never done so since my election in 2009 and do not plan to do so. I feel that the allowances paid are sufficient to enable me to represent local people – and that includes attending meetings.