



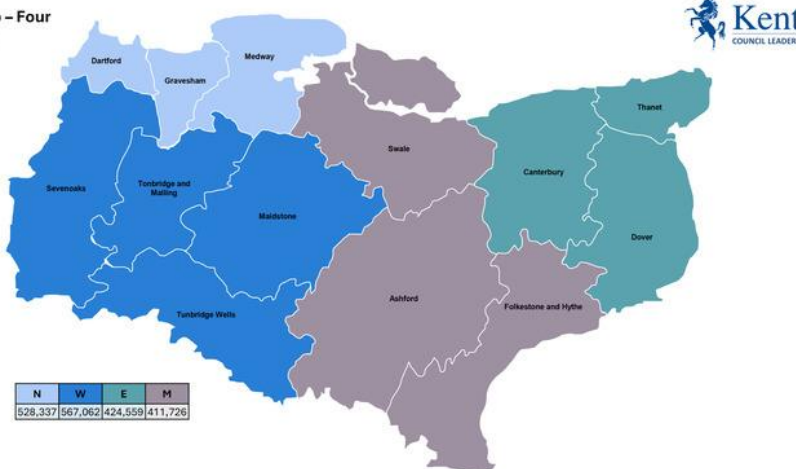
## MEETING REPORT FOR RINGWOULD WITH KINGSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL ON 10th DECEMBER 2025

### 1. CHRISTMAS PARKING

Free parking will be offered on Christmas lights event days between 3pm and 6pm in DDC owned car parks in the town of the event in Deal, Sandwich, and Dover. The vehicle will need to leave prior to charging recommencing in the car parks at 8am the following day, unless additional time is purchased.

### 2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

Option 4b – Four Unitaries



DDC has given its unanimous backing to a four-unitary council option for Kent and Medway, as part of the government's biggest shake up of local authorities in 50 years.

DDC's Full Council considered the [five business case options](#) on Wednesday 19 November for Local Government Reorganisation. They recommended Option 4b (a four-unitary model with no boundary changes) be approved as the preferred option for submission to the government, whilst recognising the benefits and challenges associated with Option 4d (a four-unitary model with boundary changes that see east Kent including Folkestone and Faversham). This was subsequently agreed by Cabinet.



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### 3. IMMERSIVE EXHIBITION

An immersive exhibition [At The End of History](#) explores stories of disabled people from Dover's past, and is available to visit at Dover Museum until 26 January 2026. The exhibition has been created as part of the 'Curating Visibility' project and features an innovatively designed Virtual Reality (VR) headset piece that includes accessibility for visually impaired users.

The gallery space, and pieces within, have all been carefully designed to incorporate accessibility features in a natural way – creating an experience that is enhanced for everyone.

#### [At The End of History exhibition](#)

### 4. NEW YEAR NEW HOBBY EVENT

A free event is coming to Dover Maison Dieu in the new year with the chance to meet over 30 local groups and try a whole range of skills and activities. The 'New Year, New Hobby' event on Saturday 17 Jan, will be inviting residents to come along to meet local groups, clubs and organisations, find out about volunteering opportunities, and have a go at a whole host of hobbies. There will be free percussion 'jam' sessions with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, and a range of performances and activities with local groups. The event is being facilitated by DDC and supported by the Arts Council England. [More on New Year, New Hobby](#)



**New Year, New Hobby**

17 January 2026 10am-4pm  
The Maison Dieu (Dover Town Hall),  
Biggin Street, Dover CT16 1DL

**FREE EVENT**  
More than 30 groups taking part!

**Have a go at:**

- Knitting
- Card making
- History and wildlife volunteering
- Writing
- Acting
- Crafts
- Singing
- Flower arranging
- Volunteering
- Local radio
- Jive, ballroom and line dancing

**FREE** Percussion sessions run by the London Philharmonic Orchestra

Performances from local groups, including:

- Sound Waves Community choir
- Temple Ewell Players
- Dover Operatic and Dramatic Society
- Fuddlers

QR code: 

[www.dover.gov.uk/newhobby](http://www.dover.gov.uk/newhobby)

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL



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### 5. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME CONSULTATION

Proposals to modernise and simplify the current Council Tax Support scheme are being considered by DDC – and your views are sought.

Council Tax Support (CTS) helps people who cannot afford to pay their Council Tax. It assists people who qualify for the scheme with a discount, mainly based on the income of the household.

Each council must devise its own Council Tax Support scheme for working-age people, (people who have not yet reached state pension age).

DDC has now received responses from KCC, Kent Police and Kent Fire and Rescue (the major preceptors) to its proposals to change the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and these responses can be found on our [Council Tax Support](#) pages.

DDC is therefore restarting its public consultation from today (8 Dec 2025) to 4 Jan 2026 so that if people, having read the responses from the major preceptors, now wish to respond (or respond again with different answers) they can do so. Previous responses will also count, so if you previously responded and your views are unchanged, you do not need to respond again.

The new scheme, for working-age people for 2026/2027, aims to maximise the support available to residents. It is estimated that the proposed changes would result in an additional £1m of Council Tax Support for people in Dover District.

The changes seek to bring the scheme in line with Universal Credit and would see eligible, working-age households able to claim up to 100% discount from their Council Tax payment. Under the existing scheme the maximum claim is up to 90%.

The consultation is open to all, however the council is writing directly to households in the district currently in receipt of CTS to inform them of the proposals and to encourage them to respond.

The deadline for comments is 4 January 2026. For more information, please see our latest [Press Release](#).



## **MEETING REPORT FOR RINGWOULD WITH KINGSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL ON 10th DECEMBER 2025**

### **LOCAL ISSUES**

#### **1. BEACH HUT REVIEW**

The planning application for the additional and replacement beach huts came before the Planning committee on 27<sup>th</sup> November. Both Sharon and I attended the hearing to argue the case on behalf of those residents who had objected to the proposals. The recommendation to grant permission was passed by the Committee with one abstention and none against

#### **2. CHURCH HAVEN RETIREMENT HOME**

On 12<sup>th</sup> September we were asked to request DDC to remove overgrowing vegetation from the grounds of the retirement home. Ollie requested assistance from Property Services and this has now been forwarded to Parks and Open Spaces to look at.

#### **3. ER19 FOOTPATH CLOSURE**

Heather Waller of KCC has fought the closure but has been overruled by the Secretary of State on Health and Safety grounds. The closure will be until April 26.