

DYMCHURCH NEWS

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DYMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

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FOR INFORMATION ON THIS
NEWSLETTER CONTACT THE
EDITOR AT

Clerk@dymchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Cllr Chris McCreedy

2026 started with a very wet January, England recording 150% of the long-term average rainfall for the month. Fortunately, the Parish Council has now eliminated the issue with water standing in the village hall car park and more recently, Kent County Council prioritised drain cleansing at the corner of Orgarswick Ave, which flooded every time we had heavy rain. Residents on the Redoubt Estate have been working with the Council and Park Holidays to alleviate flooding and operation concerns at the park. With the latest set of proposals submitted to F&HDC it looks like all concerns should largely be resolved in the coming months which is very good news. This newsletter includes details of other work recently completed or currently in progress around the village.

The Parish Council set its precept at the start of the year and voted to freeze the amount it requested as part of residents Council Tax bills. While only a small part of the bill, hopefully it shows the Councils commitment to keep its costs in check.

It was good to see the village busy with runners and supporters for the 10k run along the seawall in early February. The event was well supported by both local and club runners, congratulations to all those who took part and made it such a successful event.

As we move into Spring, and hopefully better weather, we should see work start on the recreation ground. With exciting changes ahead hopefully, this will help revitalise the use of its green space and provide a much-needed community assets for both current and future generations. We will all watch with interest as the Friends Of Dymchurch Recreation Ground project progresses.

An Update on Sea Water Quality

The Council chair recently wrote to the MP responsible for water quality about the 2025 "POOR" classification for Dymchurch, despite the general improvement in water quality observed last summer.

The Minister confirmed that the Environment Agency did consider the evidence for a "step change" to our rating, but concluded there was not enough evidence to support it despite some remedial works having been completed.

Because of the Poor classification, the Minister confirmed that Dymchurch is a priority bathing water with an action plan in place.

This includes:

1. Conducting DNA analysis on the 2025 samples to build a picture of pollution sources
2. Continuing extensive inspections of sewerage systems and misconnection surveys
3. Liaison group working with Folkestone-Hythe District Council and Southern Water
4. Continuing work with Southern Water Services to produce more infrastructure improvements

The Parish Council continue to lobby for water quality improvements to be recognised and to ensure that sources of pollution are identified and fixed to allow the annual rating to improve in 2026.

Martello Patient Participation Group

Are you a patient at the Martello Health Centre? Do you have any ideas how the service could be improved?

Then please come to our **Open Evening** in the Peter Sloper Room, Dymchurch Village Hall on **Friday 27th March at 7pm.**



Councillor Chris McCreedy
Chair of Dymchurch Parish Council
clerk@dymchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk

Our ref: P02025/2701158
14 January 2026

Dear Cllr McCreedy,

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of the Dymchurch community about the recent bathing water classification.

Under the Bathing Water Regulations, the Environment Agency (EA) is required to produce and publish an annual classification which gives bathers information on the expected quality of a bathing water. If a bathing water is classified as 'Poor', the Regulations require advice against bathing to be issued allowing the public to make an informed decision on whether to bathe.

The Regulations include a provision for classifications to be based on less than four years of samples if it can be demonstrated that there have been changes to sources of pollution that make previous samples unrepresentative of current and projected future quality (a 'step-change'). The EA considers any potential step changes through a classification panel, which in 2025 did consider whether a step-change was appropriate for Dymchurch.

The panel was presented with evidence of the fixed misconnections, infrastructure improvements to the sewer network and at Dymchurch wastewater treatment works together with sampling results over several years. A reduction in bathing water quality during 2023/2024 was apparent, but 2025 showed a return to quality similar to that previously observed at this bathing water. Misconnections were fixed between 2022 and 2023, and no improvement was observed in the 2025 season. There were a number of sewer misconnections but two were towards the end of the 2025 season. The two main improvement measures after the 2024 season were the sewer lining in Lyndhurst Road and the improvement of the UV treatment at Dymchurch Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW). The sewer lining at Lyndhurst Road was not seen as significant enough and there is no obvious connection to the bathing water. The sampling of the WWTW did show a significant improvement in the discharge effluent quality, however modelling shows the discharge only has a background influence on the bathing water quality. To note, pre-2023, the bathing water quality was much better and our historic monitoring data of the 10k run shows the bathing quality in previous years were at different levels to 2025 and 2024. As such, there was not compelling evidence that previous year's compliance samples should be excluded from classification because of a change in pollution sources that no longer present a risk to bathing, or compliance.

The reforms to the Regulations do not add any new provision for reviewing previous classifications. The next classification for Dymchurch will be after the 2026 season has concluded and will be based on samples from 2023 to 2026.

Annual classifications are based on a rolling four-year period, to provide bathers with a long-term assessment of water quality. The basis of a long-term classification period is to quantify most conditions encountered at a bathing water, including rainfall and seasonal patterns. This has many uses including showing trends and informing decisions on long-term pollution reduction measures.

Dymchurch is currently in the highest tier of sampling frequency, 20 times per season which is well above the minimum statutory frequency required by the Regulations (five samples per season). Ad-hoc investigational samples are also taken at this site, but these are not used in the classification calculations.

Because of its Poor classification, Dymchurch is a priority bathing water with an action plan in place and current actions include:

- Conducting DNA analysis on samples taken in 2025 to build a picture of pollution sources
- Continuing extensive inspections of sewerage systems and misconnection surveys, with resolution of issues found
- Liaison group working with Folkestone-Hythe District Council and Southern Water Services
- Continuing work with Southern Water Services to produce more improvements at their assets

Thank you for contacting me about this important issue. I trust this response has answered your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

EMMA HARDY MP

Dog Fouling

Unfortunately in Dymchurch on the Seawall and at the Recreation Ground too many dog owners neglect to “pick up” after their dogs. It may be that they have forgotten to bring a poo bag or are in a hurry. Some people don’t see it as a big deal when they don’t “pick up” thinking the rain will just wash it away, or it will break down quickly.



PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG

Wrong! Leaving dog poo on the ground isn’t just irresponsible, it can lead to an on the spot fine or encourage the District Council to impose more restrictions on where dogs need to be kept on a lead or areas to exclude them from. It’s also potentially harmful to other pets, people, and our local environment.

Dog poo can contain harmful bacteria, viruses, and parasites such as salmonella, E. coli, & parvovirus. These can pose serious health risks to both humans and other animals and can linger on the ground for many months if left.

When dog poo is left on the ground, rain can wash it into storm drains, leading to contamination of local waterways. This can result in harmful algae blooms, which deplete oxygen in waterways and can be toxic to aquatic life and other pets.

Dog poo is not a good fertilizer. It is highly acidic and can harm plants, leading to unsightly brown patches in lawns and gardens.

Picking up after your dog sets a positive example for others and helps keep our public spaces clean tidy and more enjoyable for everyone.

F&HDC have bylaws that require dog owners to clean up after their pets. Failing to do so can result in an “on the spot” fine or court action.

This year the Parish Council have requested that the F&HDC enforcement team make more visits to the local area.

2026 Car Park Passes



Resident Car Park passes for the Village Hall are available to purchase from the Parish Council Offices on Monday & Tuesday Mornings 9.30am -12.30pm or online from the Parish Council Website.

A Resident Pass is £35 and an Employee Pass (if you work in the village but live elsewhere) is £40.

Speed Awareness

The Parish Council have been working with Kent County Council to improve safety on the roads around the village. Concerns have been raised by local residents about the speeds that motorists travel along Eastbridge Road. Kent County Council have provided some road safety materials for Eastbridge Road residents to use to promote the 30mph limit. You may see both posters and bin stickers on your travels.



This is one of a number of initiatives the Parish Council and Kent County

Council are working on to make the roads around Dymchurch safer. Motorists – make sure you are always looking out for vulnerable road users. Give yourself and others space and time to react to the local surroundings. #SaferTravel #30



Cllr V McCreedy on East Bridge Rd with a 30mph banner

Recreation Ground Access

In January a new pavement and drop kerb was installed at the entrance to the recreation ground to help improve access for disabled visitors.



Work will be completed with keep clear hatching by the main gate for access across the roadway. A pad was also laid for the pedestrian access gate for better wet weather access and vehicle damage to the soft verge was repaired and markers placed to reduce the likelihood of this happening again.

Dymchurch 10K

The annual Dymchurch 10k run along the seawall took place on Sunday 8th February with a bumper 242 participants taking part. The weather conditions were overcast and cool but dry.

The men's race was won in a time of 32m33s by John Lenehan (104) which was one of the fastest times recorded for the course.

Frank Remigio (141) from Ashford Striders was 2nd and Lee Rogers (148) from 100 Marathon club came in 3rd place.

The Ladies race was won by Ola Zdzieblowska from White Cliffs Running and Athletics Club in a time of 41m33s, 2nd was Amy

Stimpson (L) with Nicole Dodds (R), from Dymchurch in 3rd place. The winners trophies were presented by Parish Council Cllr McCreedy.

The 2027 event will take place on Sunday 14 February, starting at 10.30am. More details will be available on the promoters website www.mccpromotions.com



 Funded by UK Government

Bus Stop Grant

The Parish Council have recently agreed to install a new bus stop by Youngs on Hythe Road replacing one that was removed after an earlier accident. The cost of the bus stop will be split 50/50 by the Parish Council and the KCC Bus Stop Shelter Grant scheme, which is funded by the Government.

The roundabout at the recreation ground has seized up, plans are in hand to replace the bearing assembly ensuring it will be back in action soon.

A big **thank you** to everyone who attended the Christmas Carol event back in December making it a special evening.

The Friends of Dymchurch Rec

With full planning permission having been approved in early 2026 the project to replace the Pavillion at the recreation ground has been gathering speed. Detailed drawings, and full cost estimates are being prepared and the old pavilion is scheduled to be demolished. While this work is underway access to the recreation ground will be maintained, but users are asked to take extra care with extra vehicle movements in and out of the site and to refrain from entering the cordoned off area around the old pavilion building.

Work on the new pavilion may not begin for a while yet while details for the next stage are finalised. If you'd like to help with fund raising, make a donation to the project, volunteer or find out more please pop into the FODR charity shop in the High Street, open 10am - 4pm (Sun 11 - 3).

Friends of Dymchurch Rec Presents

On Sale
14 Mar

**Strawberries
And "Croon"**

Thurs 9th July

2.30pm - 5pm

**In the Village
hall**

Featuring
Colby
Gaffney

Tickets
£10



Tickets On sale from FODR Charity Shop
51 High St - Cash or Card accepted

A strawberries and cream afternoon tea
featuring the hits of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin,
Bobby Darin and many more...

Sat 14th March "Meet the Trustees"

Dymchurch Village Hall 10am to 4pm

Come and meet the trustees and give them your feedback on the new pavilion project or find out more about what's going on. Tea, coffee & cake, pop-up shop, plus tickets for our July event.

Dymchurch Parish Council

Your local council working locally for you



Cllr Chris McCreedy
Chair



Cllr Liam Finch
Vice Chair



Cllr Cathy Young



Cllr Marc Wright



Cllr Ann Pegler



Cllr Dougie Young



Cllr Chrissie Cooper



Cllr Andy Weatherhead



Cllr Vanessa McCreedy

DYMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any queries regarding local issues, or any other matters you wish to raise, you can contact Dymchurch Parish Council as follows:

In writing to

The Clerk, Dymchurch Parish Council,
13 Orgarswick Avenue
Dymchurch TN29 0NX

By E mail-

clerk@dymchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk

By Phone- 01303 872 708

If you wish to contact an individual Councillor please contact the Clerk. Council meeting dates are published. Please check our website and notice boards. Council meetings are open to the public and all are very welcome to attend.

If you have any District or County Council issues that you wish to raise please contact the following with your concerns

KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR

PETER OSBORNE

Peter.Osborne@kent.gov.uk

FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

TONY COOPER

Tony.Cooper@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Surgery 3rd Saturday of the Month 10am –12noon DPC Office

TONY HILLS

Tony.Hills@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk



KCC COMMUNITY WARDEN

Carol Our Community Warden can be contacted on
07977 981990 or by email: Carol.Coveney@kent.gov.uk

For help and advice on home security and safety and how to access Council services. Supporting you in the local community



DYMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

OUR NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY
QUARTER SO WHY NOT KEEP UP TO DATE BY USING
OUR WEBSITE THIS CAN BE FOUND AT

www.dymchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk

Help make our website more interesting.
Are you a budding photographer and want to show off your artistic skills.
If you have any photographs of Dymchurch and the surrounding area that you could donate to us for use on the website please email them to clerk@dymchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk