

# Lib Dems - the effective opposition



Tim at his desk, dealing with local casework

The Lib Dems became the main opposition on Kent County Council in June 2009. This came after the Labour group was decimated to just two members.

The Lib Dem group increased in size including a sensational win in Folkestone West. **Tim Prater** won the seat from the Conservatives, beating Shepway Council Leader Robert Bliss.

Tim said:

"The Lib Dems are an effective opposition to the Conservatives. We have stood up against waste, such as Kent TV which cost over £1 million. It was a failed project and we pushed for it to be cancelled. Finally the Conservatives saw sense and cancelled it this year."

"We are an honest and principled group. It is ridiculous to object to proposals which we agree on. But for those we don't, we continue to seek amendments to make them fair. Labour spent its time as opposition involved in old fashioned, yah-boo, 'Punch and Judy' politics that did Kent no favours. We will give credit where it's due, but fight failings and waste where it's due as well."

# expenses hike - 'an insult to voters'

The Conservatives on Kent County Council voted through an 8% increase in Councillor allowances despite Lib Dem calls for payments to be frozen.

Conservative County Council leader Paul Carter dismissed a call from the Lib Dems for the decision to be put on hold to allow the public a say, saying it "would be a total waste of time and effort."

Tim Prater said:

"It's just wrong that at our FIRST Council meeting, the Conservatives voted for an £1,000 pay increase for Councillors.

"The Lib Dem group voted against the increase. Services are increasingly under threat and County Council staff have had zero increases in their pay."

## ... but Tim spends it on the community

Tim made a promise he would spend the increase in his basic allowance on the community. So when a new postal service was being set up in Sandgate, Tim thought this would be ideal.

Tim Prater said: "After the Tories forced through the allowance increase, I was determined to see the money benefit local residents. I was delighted to be able to help out with this new venture. I funded the £500 annual collection licence and other equipment for The Village Store on Sandgate High Street. Local residents and businesses can now not only buy stamps, but also post parcels and send items by recorded post.

"By paying for this new licence and equipment, Sandgate High Street sees post services return - excellent news for local people!"



Tim Prater with Patrick Butler at the Village Store, Sandgate.

Name .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

Email .....

Telephone .....

Mobile .....

## we need your help! contact us to support your local Lib Dems

Nearly 7 million people backed Nick Clegg's Liberal Democrats in May's election.

Now after 65 years of let downs with Labour and the Tories, things are starting to change with the Lib Dems in power.

If you want to help the Lib Dems change Britain, why not get involved today.



Some of your Folkestone and Sandgate Lib Dem Team

- I'd like to receive the Lib Dems' email newsletter
- I'd like to join the Lib Dem supporter list
- I will volunteer to deliver leaflets for the Lib Dems
- I'd be interested in standing for council
- I want to join the Lib Dems

I will make a donation to help local Lib Dem campaigns  
 £50  £25  £10  Other £\_\_\_\_\_

You can donate on-line: <http://tinyurl.com/2dbf5jh>

Please make cheques payable to Shepway Lib Dems. A donation of £10 or more entitles you to become a member of the Lib Dems. Please tick here if you do not wish to be enrolled.

**Return to: Shepway Lib Dems**  
**Freepost RSEZ-TGTS-CTGA**  
**98a Sandgate High Street CT20 3BY**

# Tim Prater

*your Lib Dem County Councillor reporting back to you*

Dear Resident,  
 Here is my first Annual Report to you as your Kent County Councillor. Its certainly been an exciting first year!

I've stripped out the boring bits about reading reports and attending meetings. I just want to tell you what I have been trying to do for our local area and all who live here.

**Please let me know what you think.** I always welcome your views.  
 Best wishes.



*paid for by donation, not your taxes*

**Working hard all year round for a better deal for Folkestone West**

# Tim's fact file



**married to:** Season  
**lives:** Sandgate High Street  
**works as:** web site developer

**enjoys:** reading, living by the sea, relaxing with friends and making a difference to others through work in the community

**member of:** Sandgate Twinning Association, Chair of Governors at St Martin's Primary School, Trustee Chichester Memorial Hall, Trustee Folkestone Gurkha Memorial Fund

**KCC committees I sit on:** Governance and Audit, Personnel, Renewable Energy Select Committee, Electoral and Boundary Review, Shepway Joint Transport Board, Treasury Advisory Group, Kent & Essex Sea Fisheries, Trading Activities Sub Group and Full Council. All in all, over 90 meetings attended!

# you decide - funding power to local people

Lib Dem County Councillor Tim Prater was the first in Shepway to run a "You Decide" day in 2009. The initiative **gave power to local residents** to distribute £15,000 of funds into community projects.

Any local voluntary or community group can apply - as long as the project will benefit the Folkestone West area - and local residents decide which gets the support!

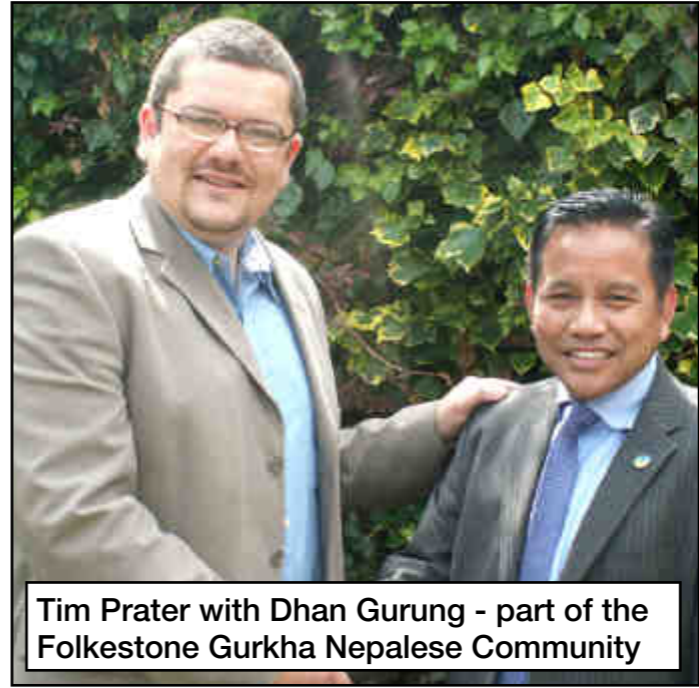
**Tim Prater** said:

"2009 was the first time these grants have been decided by local residents. It's not my money - it's OUR money. Local people should decide how its spent.

"The event was so successful we've decided to run it again. And this year the funding pot totals £18,000!"

**You can get more details and an application form by contacting Tim - details to the right.**

Last year's successful bids were from: National Autistic Society, Folkestone Gurkha Nepalese Community, Folkestone and Hythe Sea Cadets, Folkestone Invicta Youth Football, St Georges Youth work, Folkestone, Hythe Operatic & Dramatic Society, Church Street Project, 4th Cheriton Guides, Skillnet Group CIG, Sandgate Chichester Memorial Hall and Sandgate Heritage Trust.



**Tim Prater with Dhan Gurung - part of the Folkestone Gurkha Nepalese Community**

# how to contact Tim

If you have an issue you would like to raise with Tim or an idea you would like to share, then please get in touch. Post comments on Tim's web site, write on his Facebook wall or send messages via Twitter.

But don't just read what Tim's saying - let us have your feedback too!

**98a Sandgate High Street, CT20 3BY**

**www.TimPrater.org.uk**

**www.twitter.com/timprater**

**www.facebook.com/timprater**

**07956 276118 or 01303 210300**

**Tim@ShepwayLibDems.org.uk**



Tim and local **PCSO Mark Ball** also hold regular community surgeries. They can be found in Cheriton Library on the last Friday in the month between 4:30pm and 5:30pm. Tim is also available in Sandgate Library on the first Thursday in the month between 10am and 11am. Come along and say hello!

# working for you...



Tim Prater with Sandgate Parish Councillors Season Prater and Ann Rimmer at the speed safety works on **Sandgate Hill**. The improved road signage and a new flashing sign soon to be installed were part-funded by Tim's Members' Highways Fund.



Tim with Cheriton Councillor Peter Carroll in **Royal Military Avenue**. The parking issues here have been a long battle for Tim and Peter. The new system is still not right and they are continuing to fight for changes.



Tim fought car parking charges in **Castle Road**, Sandgate and continues to fight any new plans for parking charges.

**Tim Prater** has been working hard across Folkestone West on issues that affect you locally. He has reported potholes in over 50 roads and many more broken street lights and blocked gullies. Tim has also assisted the Police in getting a conviction for a persistent fly-tipper, has helped a council tenant and her son with disabilities get a new council house to suit their needs and is pushing for quicker resolutions to simple highways issues such as blocked gullies and broken street signs. Tim has also set up a fortnightly email newsletter giving residents updates on local issues. To receive these updates, please email [efocus@shepwaylibdems.org.uk](mailto:efocus@shepwaylibdems.org.uk). You can opt out at any time by contacting us.



Tim with Morehall Councillor Tom McNeice looking at the issues in **Morehall Avenue** and **Chart Road**. Tim has asked KCC to consult locally on introducing a one-way system to tackle issues in these roads.



Tim has reported potholes and damage in over 50 roads in the area. Many roads, like **North Road**, are finally getting much needed repairs.

# and fighting for change...