



## D-day for the east Kent super council

### From front page

He said equalisation would be good for people in Canterbury and Shepway who are used to paying a higher rate but not for those in Deal and Dover.

Dover district councillor Bob Frost has concerns about the size of the new administration and worries whether local people's concerns will still be heard.

He said: "Personally I think that people work better and live happier when we are part of communities with services being provided to groups of people who relate to each other culturally and geographically and if so the question is what is the best size of grouping?"

"Already I have complaints for example from residents of Deal that the new Sports Centre is being built in Dover. One wonders how happy local voters would be if they find they are funding the money-pit which is Dreamland in Margate or some mad arty project in the Folkestone Creative Quarter especially if the decisions are being made by a load of councillors located in Canterbury.

Those behind the bid say there could be savings of £6.8m in the first two years and £6.4m each year thereafter compared with individual current budgets.

Under the proposal there could be an estimated 8% cut in the 1,850-strong workforce across the four authorities.

The four councils meet separately today to decide whether to move towards the public consultation phase, which would run from Friday until May 19.



**'I think one can safely say this is a move that comes from desperation on behalf of the Conservatives because they will have no money by 2020'**

Cllr Mike Eddy

# Delight after petition helps to win a change of heart Campaigners celebrate reprieve for the fun-fair

by Eleanor Perkins  
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The town's annual fun-fair will return to Walmer Green this summer thanks to a petition which collected more than 1,000 signatures in 24 hours.

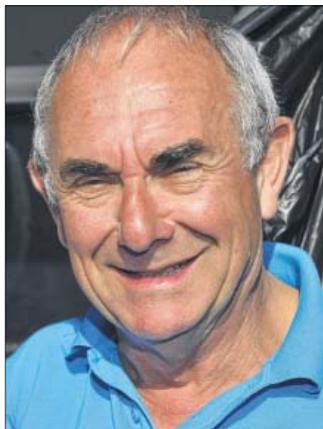
Forrest Amusements, owner of the attraction, was set to break a 70-year tradition after a change in the terms and conditions of the council's hire agreement.

But a wave of support from the community, including the 1,194-signature document by carnival organiser John Trickey, prompted a change of heart from Dover District Council.

A council spokesman said it had agreed to delete the clause 33 which was proving an obstacle on this occasion, adding: "We have enjoyed a long relationship with Forrest Amusements, and continue to work with them."

Family-run Forrest's Amusements had said it wasn't prepared to sign the latest "conditions of hire, terms and conditions" document, which asked it to waive its rights under the rules of the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain of which it is a member. It claimed doing so would put it at risk of being reprimanded by the guild.

The council spokesman added:



Delighted carnival organiser John Trickey campaigned for the funfair to come back; our front page story

"We have made it clear that we do not want to act in a way which will be seen as supporting practices which may be ruled as in breach of competition law by the Competition and Markets Authority.

"However we also do not wish to see the event cancelled.

"We have said that we are prepared to agree to the deletion of clause 33 for this particular letting on this occasion, strictly without prejudice to any view we may take in the future. We will consider the situation for future years in due course."

Chief executive of Deal Community Carnival Association



who signed our petition, and to the chairman of Walmer Parish Council, Pat Heath, the Mayor of Deal Cllr David Cronk and Deal and Dover MP Charlie Elphicke, who gave their support."

Maria Forrest from Forrest Amusements has also welcomed the news, thanking the community for making them feel "wanted."

She said: "It was such a big issue for us. Deal is our favourite place and the thought that we wouldn't be returning was heart-breaking.

"I can only praise the council for turning it around. We do have a good relationship with them and we'd like to continue.

"I would like to thank all the people of Deal and surrounding areas for their support.

"It's so nice to think that they cared that much and that we're wanted. It's a tremendous result and it really has made us feel valued."

The fair will be returning to Victoria Park on Thursday, May 11, to Sunday, May 14, and then to Walmer Green on Saturday, July 22, until Saturday, July 29. Deal carnival will be on Thursday, July 27.



The community garden at Sandown Castle

## Gardens are firmly anchored to area's maritime heritage

A maritime relic is now an ornamental feature at a community garden in Deal.

Members of Sandown Castle Community Garden Group were delighted to receive the donation of an anchor from Deal Maritime Museum.

The group are preparing for the South & South East in Bloom competition which takes place in July and the anchor was ideal to strengthen the theme of the area's naval heritage, alongside the ruins of the Tudor sea defence castle. Volunteer gardener John Ford said: "The anchor is a



The anchor at Sandown Castle Community Garden

welcome addition to enhance the garden, and we would all like to thank the museum for their kind donation which will be enjoyed by many."

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### IN BRIEF

#### Help for man seen on cliffs

A member of the public helped a man to safety after an incident on Kingsdown cliffs. Police were called to a report of a distressed man on the cliffs at The Leas in Kingsdown, near Deal, just after 10am last Monday. Press officer Steve Knight said: "The man was spoken to by a member of the public and taken to a safe location. "Officers attended and referred the man into the care of medical professionals." ■ If you would like confidential support on an emotional issue, call Samaritans on 116 123 at any time

#### Join the quiz

The Deal & District Lioness Club will hold a charity quiz on Saturday. It takes place at the Royal British Legion Club, Market Street, Deal at 7.30pm. Entry is £6 per person which includes a buffet supper. To book please contact Cynthia Aitkenhead on 01304 389270.

Moving house?

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