Report from Cllr. Rick Blackwell – Walmer Town Council.

It has been another busy year for me on Walmer Town Council (WTC). We have 11 full council meetings per year, all of which I have attended. I have and continue to serve on the following committees. Amenities and Environment (Vice Chair), Planning Committee (Vice Chair), Climate Emergency Working Group (Chair), and new for this year I have joined the Walmer in Bloom committee.

The big project for WTC this year was the out door gym. I cannot claim any great credit for this but I have been a keen and steadfast supporter in Council, helping in that way to drive this project forward. I was much more of a prime mover in the installation of the Water refilling station in Marine Road, this is close to the Gym and so not only is it helping to promote a healthier lifestyle but is also a part of our work to reduce single use plastics. We have also had our Walmer against Plastic Pollution campaign, where we have been encouraging local businesses to transition away from single use plastics. We are looking forward to our annual Thermal Camera campaign where Walmer Residents can have their homes photographed using a thermal imaging camera to identify where they are losing heat from. We are also looking forward to our new Fruit Tree campaign, where Walmer Residents can apply for a subsidised fruit tree to be grown in their gardens. We have also been trying to see a reduction in the use of harmful herbicides and pesticides, we are encouraging our allotment tenants to reduce and work towards eliminating their use. We have also called upon Dover District Council to do the same, with limited success.

May 2027 will see the next round of local elections, we were expecting to see major change as the district and county councils became unitary authorities. Now things seem a lot less certain, however it will be business as usual in Walmer. I hope to stand again as your candidate and would welcome any offers of help and support for my campaign.