



DOVER & DEAL LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

REPORT FROM CLLR, RICK BLACKWELL, WALMER TOWN COUNCIL

Walmer Town Council is made up of 15 councillors, 5 Conservative, 3 Green, 6 Independents and one Lib Dem, (yours truly). It would be lovely to think that we could get more Lib Dems elected into local government in the future and I hope that my efforts will help to show that we are a party of positive policies and action.

As a councillor I sit on two committees and a working-group. These are: Amenities and Environment (A&E), Planning, and the Climate emergency working group, (CEWG). I am currently vice-chair of both A&E and CEWG.

The planning committee acts as a statutory consultee on any planning applications in the Parish. I look at the applications that are live, read all documents and often, will visit the site. I then make recommendations to the committee who will debate each application and vote upon it. We will then make our recommendations to Dover District Council (DDC).

A&E is responsible for the oversight of any properties owned or administered by the Council. Such as allotments, the office, Hawks Hill Common, The Drill Field and The Peace Garden. We also oversee the Highways Improvement Plan where we put forward suggestions to KCC for improvements to the Highways infrastructure in Walmer. This has included requesting new signs, double yellow lines and Accessible crossing points with tactile paving.

CEWG is a group that undertakes projects of an environmental nature, such as campaigning for reduced use of pesticides, Our Sea Water Testing Programme and our forthcoming annual Thermal Camera campaign, where we help residents to see where they are losing heat from their homes.

One of the achievements I am proudest of over the last year was my involvement in the new children's playground in Marke Wood. This was a joint project between WTC and DDC and I was one of the Councillors asked to represent WTC on this project. To this end I helped select the best design, approve the tender, and recommended to WTC that they commit to their portion of the funding. We now have a playground we can all be proud of.

October 2025