

VERSION 2

# Herne Bay and Whitstable Coastal Management Plan

## Summer 2020

### Introduction

The warm weather, the number of people who have been furloughed, and the schools and colleges being closed has effectively started the summer holidays early. This, coupled with the continuing relaxation of the lockdown restrictions, has meant our coastline is more attractive than ever to visitors - at a time when local people are using the facilities on their doorstep more than ever before too.

This has resulted in widely-publicised problems with littering and anti-social

behaviour which has affected the quality of life of residents living nearby. A picture which is mirrored in most seaside resorts around the country.

Our Herne Bay and Whitstable Coastal Management Plan for this summer brings together the enormous amount of work we were already doing to tackle these issues while dealing with the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic.

Our plan also outlines how we plan to tackle new problems that have manifested

themselves this year - poor behaviour by a minority of jet skiers, use of nitrous oxide canisters by young people which are then discarded on the beach and underage drinking.

This document is not set in stone. This will be a unique summer so we will need to adapt as it develops.

**We are meeting regularly and working with a wide range of organisations whose aim is the same as ours, to ensure our coastline remains a safe and really enjoyable place to live in and visit.**

## Beach and water safety

**Information and responses are coordinated and shared via weekly Kent Coastal (Water) Safety meetings with partners including Thanet District Council, Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), Kent Police and the Kent Fire and Rescue Service. This includes timings of patrols, shared information on common and potential problems and suggest answers.**

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**Swimming** - our lifeguards are on duty at Herne Bay Central beach and Tankerton Bay from 4 July from 10am to 5pm weekends only - and then from 23 July to 31 August seven days a week

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### **Jetskis and other craft**

- **Neptune Ramp** Normal service is ramp staffing based on peak usage times at weekends
  - **NEW: Extra staffing** at the Neptune Ramp during the week (depending on weather) in response to increased demand.
  - **NEW: Byelaws** controlling speed and transit (launching) lanes are with the Secretary of State for approval. This has been delayed due to Covid-19 but we are ready to implement within three weeks of approval. [Existing byelaws](#)
  - **NEW: Hampton Ramp** is temporarily closed so staff can focus on Neptune. We are consulting the public soon on reopening. We are consulting now until 30 August. To give your feedback visit [news.canterbury.gov.uk/consultations](https://news.canterbury.gov.uk/consultations) or [click here](#).
  - **NEW:** We are consulting the public on a **jet ski fee-paying membership scheme** for 2021 to help control who can launch from our ramps We are consulting now until 30 August. To give your feedback visit [news.canterbury.gov.uk/consultations](https://news.canterbury.gov.uk/consultations) or [click here](#).
  - **NEW: Extra coastal patrols** by the coastguard.
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### **REPORTING:**

**For emergencies at sea, call 999 and ask for the Coastguard who will alert the correct service. For non-urgent matters, email [foreshore.services@canterbury.gov.uk](mailto:foreshore.services@canterbury.gov.uk) or speak to one of our ramp attendants**

# Antisocial behaviour

**Response is coordinated via a weekly Coastal Community Safety briefing with Kent Police, our waste and street cleansing contractor Serco, our public toilet contractor Monitor and the council's Enforcement, Parking, Foreshore and Licensing teams - who link in with Kent County Council's Trading Standards team.**

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This group analyses the intelligence gathered by all agencies on the key times and locations to inform enforcement activity and joint operations.

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**NEW:** All agencies are mapping locations of discarded **Nitrous Oxide (NOS) gas canisters** so the police, our Enforcement Officers and youth workers can be deployed to find the perpetrators and tackle the problem head on.

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**NEW:** We are consulting on new **Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs)** until 31 August and have included this as an offence so the police and our Enforcement Officers have powers to fine perpetrators. We are consulting now until 30 August. To give your feedback visit [news.canterbury.gov.uk/consultations](https://news.canterbury.gov.uk/consultations) or [click here](#).

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**NEW:** The Licensing and Enforcement teams are working with Trading Standards and retailers to tackle **underage drinking** by reinforcing the Challenge 25 approach, tackling those allowing 'proxy sales' where adults buy alcohol for young people and encouraging retailers to ask shoppers to lower face masks if buying alcohol so they can't hide their age.

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**Joint special operations** are underway with the police to tackle dangerous driving, general antisocial behaviour hotspots, groups gathering drinking and leaving litter. This includes disrupting activity at shelters.

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**NEW:** The police are using new **dispersal powers** to manage anti-social behaviour - Herne Bay (10, 20, 21 June) Whitstable (27/28 June) more to come as required.

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A series of community safety days are being planned to raise awareness and promote positive behaviour

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**NEW:** We will run a campaign aimed specifically at young people highlighting the **dangers of alcohol, drugs and tombstoning**

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**NEW:** A **barrier-and-bollard system** has been installed at Whitstable Harbour's West Quay to restrict vehicle access in response to recent dangerous driving incidents.

## Antisocial behaviour

Our **Enforcement Officers** patrol seven days a week between 6.45am and 9pm. Locations and shifts vary depending on the issues being reported at the time.

The **Kent Police** Community Safety Unit patrol hot-spot areas throughout the summer paying particular attention to seafronts, town centres and parks and gardens where footfall is high. There will also be a focus on premises selling alcohol, to be consumed both on and off the premises, as well as responding to any increases in incidents in a particular area.

### REPORTING:

**If anyone is in immediate danger or property is at risk of damage, call the police on 999**

**For non-urgent reporting of anti-social behaviour go to [kent.police.uk](https://kent.police.uk) or call 101**

**To report graffiti, go to [canterbury.gov.uk/graffiti](https://canterbury.gov.uk/graffiti)**

## Litter

**Public bins** - There are 912 litter and dog bins in the coastal towns and along the seafront. These maps show where they are: [mapping.canterbury.gov.uk/webapps/Grounds\\_Maintenance/](https://mapping.canterbury.gov.uk/webapps/Grounds_Maintenance/)

In 2019 we installed 27 x 110 litre Glasdon Jubilee bins at Tankerton replacing the 22 x 65 litre Sherwood bins. We replaced all the Herne Bay High Street litter bins with new bins due to poor condition. We installed a few additional bins around and close to car parks and new bins at the Harbour.

**NEW: Large wheelie bins** have been brought earlier than normal because of recent problems. The locations are Keams Yard x2, Tankerton and Hampton x 2.

**NEW: Second installation of large wheelie bins took place at the end of July 2020** with 3 more added at Keams Yard, 1 at the top of slope at Tankerton, 2 at the Clock Tower Herne Bay.

**NEW:** We're exploring other options including **big belly bins**. Though there are challenges in some locations with the size of vehicle needed to collect the waste.

# Litter

**NEW: A bunker bin** has been installed as a pilot project in Mortimer/William Street to provide a container for residents to store rubbish sacks off the pavements and away from seagulls.

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**Serco litter picks.** Dedicated beach cleaners patrol and pick up the litter across the district's beaches focusing on the busier areas. The frequency is increased for days where demand is likely to be higher. These are supported by street cleaners who will undertake an early morning clean during busy periods with a vehicle and crew clearing the bins. They are then operational between 10am and 7pm.

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**NEW: community litter picks.** Litter picks had to be stopped during the height of the crisis. They have now been reinstated. We are contacting community groups who applied for the Great British Spring Clean in March which was postponed and also taking new applications. Picks are limited to a maximum of 6 in a group. Link to the application form is [here](#)

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We've been running a **Take Your Litter Home publicity campaign** on our bins for some time.

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**NEW:** We have launched an **anti-littering campaign showing the impact on wildlife**. And added clear messaging to the current campaign to say that leaving litter beside a bin is an offence. Other campaigns are being developed.

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**Licensed premises.** If there is evidence that litter is being generated by a particular business, our Enforcement team will first work with them to tackle the problem voluntarily. If this is unsuccessful, the council has the power to require landowners to clean up rubbish under the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

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Ultimately, repeated failure of a specific business could prompt **a formal review of its premises licence**. All businesses are being contacted to ask them to help to tackle the litter problem by labelling takeaway cups and ensuring any cups or packages left behind by their customers are cleaned up.

## REPORTING:

If you have any evidence of littering from a specific business, email us at [licensing.enforcement@canterbury.gov.uk](mailto:licensing.enforcement@canterbury.gov.uk)

## Public toilets

All **beach-front toilets** are open apart from Inner Bandstand in Herne Bay which is currently closed because of a maintenance problem.

Our toilets have been closing at 5pm. But they are **now open from 7.30am to 8pm** until the end of the summer season.

All of our public toilets are **cleaned by 9am with a second clean between noon and 2pm.**

A third clean for most, but not all toilets, will take place between 4pm and 5pm.

We are asking people to be patient and maintain social distancing while our contractor Monitor carries out its cleaning regime.

### REPORTING:

Go to [canterbury.gov.uk/toilets](https://canterbury.gov.uk/toilets)

## Supporting business

**NEW: Weekly on-the-ground review** of urban centres including a walk round on higher footfall days, normally at the end of the week, with the Transport, Enforcement and Local Economy teams. The purpose is to highlight problems that need tackling.

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**NEW: Hand sanitising stations** have been installed in main car parks:

**Herne Bay** - William Street and Neptune

**Whitstable** - Gorrell Tank x 2 and Middle Wall

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**NEW: Extra street cleaning** including jet washing in the following streets:

**Herne Bay** - Mortimer Street, High Street, William Street

**Whitstable** - Harbour Street, High Street, Oxford Street, Sea Street between Duke of Cumberland and Horsebridge / Zizzi

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**NEW Extra high street graffiti removal** - Local Economy team are helping secure waivers from businesses giving us permission to clean other people's buildings.

## Supporting business

**NEW: vinyls on empty units** featuring inspiring imagery of the place and events that would usually be taking place:

- **Beach Street development site** - featuring Herne Bay Festival, Buy in the Bay and signposting to Mortimer Street / High Street / Pier
- **Whitstable venue to be confirmed** - featuring Oyster Festival, Harbour Day, Shop by the Sea and signposting to Oxford Street / Harbour Street / Harbour / Whitstable Castle

**NEW: The rules on tables and chairs** outside business premises have changed. CCC is now responsible for processing temporary Pavement Licence Applications, which is a fastrack process allowing businesses to make more use of outside space. They cost just £100 and are processed within 14 days. Visit [canterbury.gov.uk/pavement-licensing](http://canterbury.gov.uk/pavement-licensing) for the policy and online application form.

We expect more businesses to make use of this opportunity to boost trade and we aim to help pubs and restaurants to reopen safely and successfully. However, If granting a particular licence leads to anti-social behaviour or its misuse, we will take action.

### REPORTING:

To report problems with tables and chairs, email us at [licensing.enforcement@canterbury.gov.uk](mailto:licensing.enforcement@canterbury.gov.uk)

## Tennis courts and play areas

St. Anne's tennis courts are open and War Memorial Park tennis courts are reopening w/c 6 July. West Beach Tennis Courts concession is to be retendered. In the meantime, these courts will be open for free access to users on a first come, first served basis.

**Courts will be open from 9am - 6.30pm** and signage will be in place regarding safety measures users need to take.

**Play areas are opening this week w/c 6 July** . Signage will be in place regarding safety measures users need to take.

