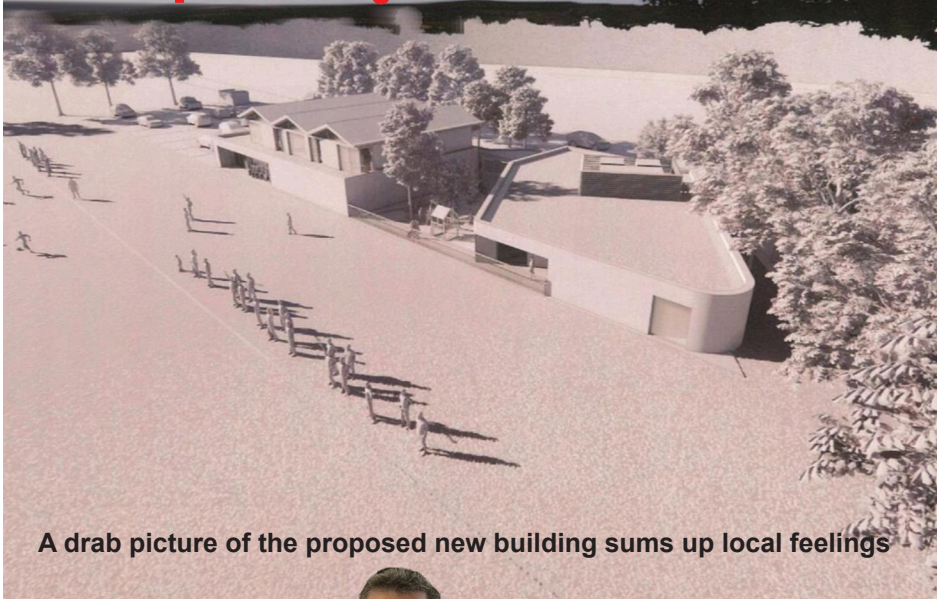


New Romney's Community Hall project gets go ahead despite wasting over half a million pounds!



A drab picture of the proposed new building sums up local feelings

Peter Bird

Community Editor



New Romney Town Council finally gave the nod for a new community hall. Yet, hidden beneath the celebratory facade lay a tale of fiscal folly and bureaucratic bungling, with David Wimble, a town council member, sounding the alarm.

The road to this moment had been fraught with missteps and financial mismanagement. Initiated in 2016 with grand promises of an exemplary architectural marvel by Guy Holloway, the project staggered through years of setbacks, crippled by delays and spiralling costs.

Wimble, always backed the original vision, but spared no punches in his criticism of the council's decisions. He bemoaned his exclusion from pivotal meetings, lambasting the council's choice to haemorrhage public funds on ventures divergent from the community's desires.

He said that the council should face scrutiny after allegations of lack of transparency and questionable conduct within its steering committee. Concerns arose when it was revealed that committee member Wimble had been appointed but had only been notified of one meeting. And was never allowed to voice his concerns about the change of direction, accusations of bullying were raised against Wimble for simply seeking

Council Palestine standoff: Disruption erupts at District Council Meeting

Protesters demanded an emergency debate over Gaza Crisis.

Last week's Folkestone and Hythe District Council meeting descended into chaos as a vocal protest erupted in the public gallery, challenging the council's reluctance to amend the agenda to address the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip.



Cllr Abena Akuffo-Kelly's called a halt to the meeting

The meeting began in a semblance of order, with a modest group of around 7 or 8 individuals peacefully demonstrating outside the council chamber. Their message was clear: they demanded an immediate ceasefire in the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Gaza Strip. Among them was our editor, Cllr David Wimble, who paused to engage with the demonstrators, expressing solidarity with their cause and underscoring the futility of war.

Inside the chamber, as the public gallery opened its doors to more participants, tensions simmered. Council Leader Jim Martin's announcement of his intent to draft a letter urging the Home Secretary to support a ceasefire and provide humanitarian aid to Gaza triggered a vehement objection from a member of

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