

Opposing overdevelopment in Paddock Wood and around Frant Road - Reform stands firm

Reform Tunbridge Wells accepts that new homes are needed, but we are seriously worried about the sheer scale and poor location of these big proposals. The housing plans threaten to overload our roads, schools and services while carving up precious countryside.

Paddock Wood is facing the heaviest pressure. Crest Nicholson is preparing an outline application for around 770 homes on land at Capel and Paddock Wood. Dandara South East wants to build about 520 homes on farmland east of the town. Together with the other proposed sites the total could run into thousands of new dwellings. Residents are right to be concerned. This level of concentrated growth in Paddock Wood risks gridlock on already busy roads, strain on surgeries and schools and potentially drainage problems. It will also impact on the close-knit feel of the town and surrounding villages.

Near Frant Road, two linked schemes for 184 homes and for around 178 homes are also being strongly opposed for the same reasons.

We believe in sustainable housing - built in the right places, backed by proper infrastructure, and designed to protect the environment and respect existing communities. We do not support large estates in sensitive spots that could bring flooding, congestion and permanent loss of open countryside. Reform Tunbridge Wells will keep a close watch on these applications as they move through the system. We will push for real investment in roads, drainage and services before any major building starts. Together we can help protect the character and quality of life in Paddock Wood and in the Frant Road areas.



Shoulder to Shoulder with Crowborough

The Home Office has been moving illegal immigrants into the former army camp in Crowborough since the 22nd of January. This means that 1 in 5 males between the age of 19-39 in Crowborough will be an illegal immigrant. Local residents have been making their voices heard by protesting on a weekly basis. They are not against helping people in genuine need but they are against having a major change forced onto their town and community without warning or discussion about the impact on schools, doctors, roads and safety for the community.

Here in Reform Tunbridge Wells, we've felt their frustration and we are determined to give our support. At our last branch meeting we were proud to have the Branch Chair of Reform, Weald of Sussex, Michael Barrett, come and speak to us. He thanked us for joining the protestors and gave us a clear picture of what people in Crowborough are experiencing. Protestors feel worried about what this means for everyday life in a small town like Crowborough where local services are already stretched. The talk was sobering to hear but strengthened our resolve to keep on supporting.

Here is Michael's message: *"I would like to thank the Tunbridge Wells branch for their support at the protests. We will keep fighting on, and we're stronger and louder with our Reform family. I hope to see you there soon!"*

This isn't about grand national politics for us - it's about protecting our communities. When a nearby town feels overrun and unheard, we all feel it. Reform Tunbridge Wells will keep backing Crowborough residents in their fight for fairness and common sense. We want decisions that respect local people.



Democracy denied next door! A warning to Tunbridge Wells voters

Fellow residents of Tunbridge Wells,

Our neighbours in Crowborough, East Sussex, have had their county council elections postponed for a second year. The Conservative-led East Sussex County Council requested the delay, citing reorganisation and devolution plans, and the government approved it. That leaves residents without a vote on vital local services – possibly for years. This is exactly what the Conservatives tried to do to us in Kent just one year ago!

In 2025, our own Conservative-led Kent County Council pushed to postpone the Kent elections under the same devolution pretext – hoping to avoid facing voters when Reform UK was rising. That attempt failed, the elections went ahead, and the people had their say. But the mindset remains unchanged. The same party that sought to silence Tunbridge Wells voters last year is content to see Crowborough voters silenced now. It shows a consistent preference for clinging to power over democratic accountability.



A Message from the Chair, Reform UK Tunbridge Wells Branch

As we gear up for the crucial local elections on May 7th, I am

thrilled to bring you this second edition of our Reform Tunbridge Wells newsletter. Previously we highlighted the failures of the status quo and our bold vision for a prosperous, secure Tunbridge Wells. Now, it's time to turn that vision into reality. The Conservatives and the Lib Dems have long taken our area for granted, promising much but delivering little. It's no wonder frustration is boiling over. Reform UK offers a fresh alternative - a commitment to putting British people first. Our core message and belief is:

Family • Community • Country

I would like to address a particular appeal to postal voters, especially those who supported the Conservatives and Labour in last year's council elections. I fully appreciate the longstanding loyalty many of you have shown. However, it is reasonable to ask whether that loyalty has been reciprocated with the outcomes you expected and deserved.

As a postal voter, you hold a powerful means of effecting change. By casting your vote for Reform UK, you will send a clear and unmistakable signal that the time for complacency is over. Let us make 7 May a milestone for practical, common-sense governance. By redirecting those votes from the established order, we can begin to build the future our community deserves.

If you'd like to get involved—whether by joining our branch, canvassing, sharing our message, or simply spreading the word—please reach out.

Rob Grindley

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This should serve as a stark warning to us all.

If the Conservatives were willing to delay our elections once, they will try again when it suits them. Reform Tunbridge Wells stands for the right to vote – no delays, no excuses.

While our neighbours have been denied their ballot, we will continue to speak out against this erosion of democracy and highlight the issues affecting them.

On 7 May, when you vote in our local elections, remember what the Conservatives attempted here just twelve months ago – and what they are allowing next door today. Choose the party that defends your democratic rights, not the one that postpones them when inconvenient.

Backing Our Local Farmers - Time to Put Them First



Across the Tunbridge Wells constituency, from the rolling fields around Goudhurst and Horsmonden to the quieter lanes of Lamberhurst and Brenchley, our farmers are our real heroes. They keep our countryside working and our plates full. These family-run holdings – strong in grazing livestock, specialist poultry (one

of the highest concentrations anywhere in the country), and pockets of mixed cropping – supply fresh eggs, lamb, beef, poultry and seasonal vegetables straight to our local shops, markets and restaurants. Farms like those in the Goudhurst area produce top-quality meats and fruit that families rely on year-round. Right now, as spring kicks in, our farmers are in the thick of it. Lambing sheds are busy with the new arrivals who need constant care through cold snaps and wet spells. Calving is underway, spring crops are going in the ground, and fertiliser is being spread while the weather allows. These are long, muddy days that begin before first light. This is the real make-or-break period for the year ahead. Yet the pressures never let up. Energy bills eat into already tight margins. Family farms face extra worry over succession, with tax changes still casting a shadow despite recent adjustments. Reform Tunbridge Wells stands shoulder to shoulder with our farmers. We want less of the red tape that adds extra workload, fairer taxes so the next generation can take over, and a louder voice for rural communities in planning decisions.

Our farmers aren't just growing food – they're guarding the landscape we love and keeping our villages alive.

Family • Community • Country



**BRITAIN NEEDS
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