



The Tunbridge Wells Constituency NEWSLETTER



Adrian Looby / ALAMY

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.

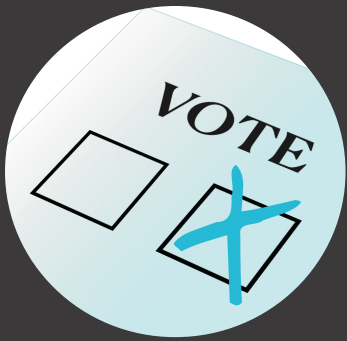


Reform UK protected your right to vote

Our neighbours in Crowborough, East Sussex, were set to have their county council elections postponed for a second year. The Conservative-led council requested the delay and the government initially approved it, leaving residents facing the prospect of years without a vote on vital local services. It mirrored what was attempted here in Kent just twelve months ago.

It was Reform UK that stepped in. By taking legal action and challenging the government in court, Reform forced ministers to abandon their plans to delay the elections.

As a result, the vote was restored to over four million people, including our neighbours in Sussex. That was not chance, and it was not quiet negotiation — it was firm action to defend democracy.



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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The message from Manchester, the collapse of the Conservative support

The recent Manchester by-election delivered a devastating verdict on the Conservative brand, reducing their vote share to just 1.9%. It was a dramatic collapse and a clear sign that voters are turning away from a party many feel has broken promises and put self-preservation first. Across the country, former Conservative voters are recognising that the political landscape has changed. The old loyalties no longer hold.

To voters in our towns and villages, we say: unite behind Reform UK to win the fight against a possible coalition of the Lib Dems and the Greens. Their policies on open borders and the legalisation of drugs would tear our communities apart.

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.

Image by Freepik (freepik.com)

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BRITAIN NEEDS REFORM