NO. 4,812 FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2026 £1.20

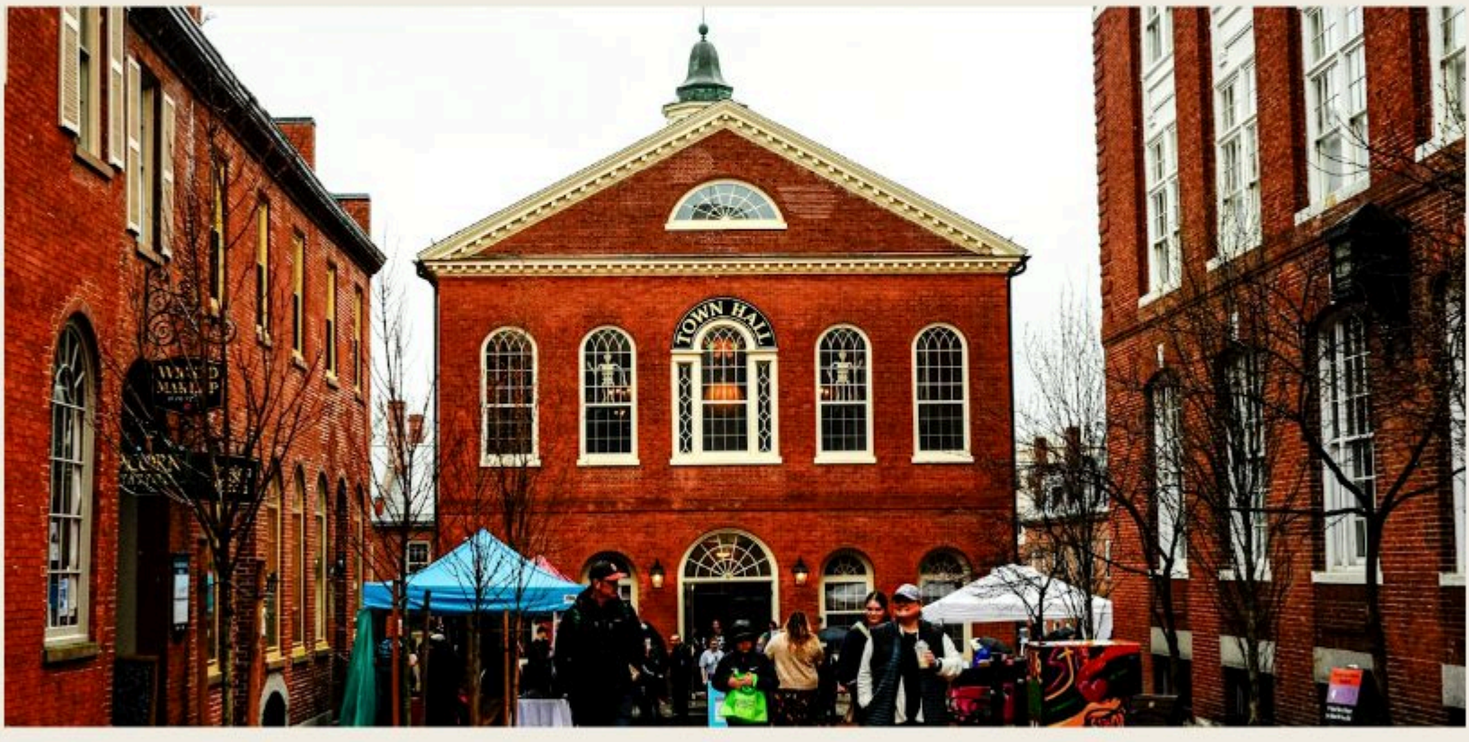
The Fenmarch Post

READER-OWNED

NEWS SPORT NOTICES WHAT'S ON

Corn exchange saved

£4m plan wins the council vote after two years of campaigning

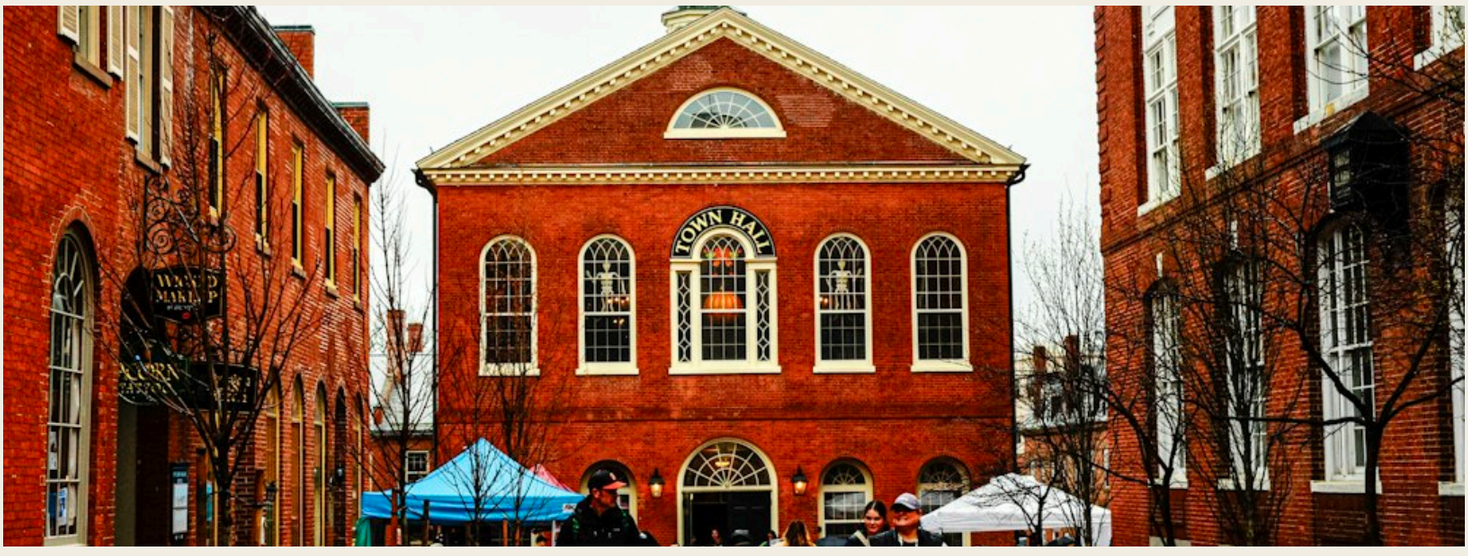


Bypass decision put off to January

Under-12s into the county cup final

Fen Road reopens after flood check

Council backs £4m plan to save the old corn exchange



Fenmarch's corn exchange will reopen in spring 2028 after district councillors voted 9 to 2 on Thursday night to fund a £4.1 million repair plan.

The Grade II-listed hall on Market Place has stood empty since part of its ceiling fell in during a storm in 2024. A campaign led by the Corn Exchange Trust gathered 3,400 signatures and raised £180,000 from residents towards the work.

Most of the money comes from a national heritage grant awarded in the summer. The council will add £600,000 from its buildings fund, which officers say would otherwise have been spent on keeping the empty hall safe.

What happens next

Builders will start on the roof in March. The plan also includes a café on the ground floor, a weekly indoor market on Wednesdays and a hall that clubs can hire for £15 an hour.

This building was where my grandfather sold his barley.

Now my children will be able to use it again. – Mary Doughty, Corn Exchange Trust

Two councillors voted against, saying the money should go to road repairs first. The council says the repair will not come out of council tax.

The Trust will hold an open evening at the Methodist hall on 26 November for anyone who wants to help run the building.

Bypass vote delayed again after 400 letters

A decision on the Fenmarch bypass has been delayed for a third time after more than 400 residents wrote to the county council in the final week of the consultation.

Officers said they needed time to read every letter properly. The planning committee will now meet on 14 January.

The 3.2-mile road would leave the main road north of the Orchard Way roundabout and rejoin it beyond Sutton Drove.

Two sides of the town

Supporters say the road would take lorries out of the town centre, where Bridge Street carries 900 heavy vehicles a day.

We are not against a road. We are against this road, in this place. – Helen Marr, Fen Fields Action Group

Opponents say it would cut through farmland and close the old drove road that walkers use every weekend.

You can read both sides in our Opinion section this week, and send us your own view through the letters page.

Under-12s reach county cup final



Two late goals from Maisie Hart sent Fenmarch Town's under-12s through to the county cup final with a 3–2 win on Sunday.

The team were 2–1 down with ten minutes left against a side that plays two divisions above them.

Hart, 11, equalised from a corner and then scored the winner from the edge of the box in added time.

The road to the final

It is the first time a Fenmarch Town youth team has reached a county final since 2009.

They never stopped running. That is all I asked of them, and they gave me more. — Darren Ollie, under-12s coach

The final will be played at the county ground on 6 December. The club is running a coach for families, £5 a seat.

Coach Darren Ollie says the squad will train twice a week until then.

Fen Road reopens after overnight flood check

Fen Road reopened in both directions on Friday morning after engineers spent the night testing the flood gates near the pumping station.

The road was closed at 10pm on Thursday when the river rose faster than forecast after a day of heavy rain.

Flood engineers say the gates worked as planned and the river peaked at 2.1 metres at 3am, half a metre below the level that floods the road.

What drivers need to know

There is still mud on the road near the pumping station, and drivers are asked to slow down.

The gates did exactly what they were built to do. That is the first time they have been tested this hard. — Owen Pell, flood engineer

The number 12 bus is back on its normal route from the 08:50 service.

The council says it will check the gates again if more heavy rain is forecast this weekend.

Notices

BIRTH

Iris May Holt

To Hannah and Sam Holt of Mill Lane, a daughter, born 3 November, 3.2 kg. A sister for Alfie.

DEATH

Margaret Ellen Thorpe

Died peacefully at home on 4 November, aged 91. Funeral at All Saints' Church on 20 November at 11:00.

PLANNING · F/26/0412

14 Mill Lane: two-storey rear extension

Comments to the district council by 4 December.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Bridge Street closed 23–24 November

Water main repairs between Market Place and the river. Diversion via Station Road.

Letters

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Parking on Station Road is getting dangerous

Sir, every school morning cars park on both kerbs outside the library and children walk in the road. Before someone is hurt, can the council paint the lines it promised in the spring?

FROM IAN CORBY, STATION ROAD

Keep the library open on Saturdays

Sir, Saturday afternoon is the only time working parents can take children to the library.

FROM JUNE ASHWORTH, ORCHARD WAY

What's on

SAT 14 NOV · 09:00 – 13:00

Fenmarch Farmers' Market

Market Place. Free.

SAT 14 NOV · 19:30

Quiz Night at the Swan

The Swan, Bridge Street. £2 a head.

SUN 15 NOV · 09:30

Fen Five 5k Run

The Rec. £8.

THU 19 NOV · 19:00

Draining the Fens: 400 Years

Fenmarch Library. Free.