

Councillor Mike Sole's monthly report

Kent County Councillor— Canterbury South

Canterbury City Councillor—Nailbourne Ward



February 2023

The Canterbury City Council annual parking review is out to consultation until 10 February. Views are sought on proposals such as new double yellow lines, loading bays and pavement/verge parking bans. Changes are proposed locally in **Barham**, **Petham** and **Littlebourne**, so please make your views known.

There is also a city council electric vehicle infrastructure survey that runs until 13 March. Any feedback given will help plan for new charging locations and by demonstrating need it will help with grant funding, so please take the time to get involved. www.canterbury.gov.uk/consultations-and-petitions

KCC consultations can be found at letstalk.kent.gov.uk and these include the proposal to close 35 children's centres across Kent, including six in the Canterbury district as it cannot afford to maintain them.

At the Canterbury City Council meeting of full council, I questioned the leader of the council about the **Wincheap** gyratory scheme and asked that the council meet with KCC and the developers to review it. Although this was not agreed to, later in the month I raised it again at the Joint Transportation Board meeting. There was significant opposition voiced about the zoning plan for Canterbury and the Wincheap gyratory scheme. I was very pleased that the committee agreed to ask for a review of the Wincheap scheme, although we are yet to hear what form that review might take.

The Canterbury draft local plan consultation has now closed. I met with **Bridge** Parish councillors and Canterbury City Council officers to raise questions on aspects of the plan in January. There has been huge opposition across the district to many aspects of the draft plan. The community response from **Adisham** has been tremendous in putting the case against the 3,200 home development at Cooting Farm and the expansion of Aylesham into **Womenswold** parish. I attended Womenswold parish council where the plans were discussed with a number of residents. We will now have to wait for the council to review comments made and see what the next version of the plan looks like.

With highways issues, I've been out, as usual, looking for potholes and other issues and then pressing KCC to act. These include improvements to the road surface in Valley Road, **Barham**, replacement of reflective bollards near the Coldharbour Lane junction, new 30mph road markings, and bus stop accessibility improvements.

I am very concerned with a number of budget cuts proposed by KCC. Locally this includes a huge two-thirds reduction in the grants that I am able to access for community and highway improvement projects. I shall be challenging this at the KCC budget meeting.

I was delighted to see the **Ropersole** lay-by on the A2 finally cleared of rubbish. I met with the contractors who were doing a superb job. The city council tell me that regular litter picks will now take place, new bins are on the way and other measures will be taken to deter and catch those who leave rubbish there.

Please get in touch if there are any issues that can help with.



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