

Councillor Mike Sole's monthly report

Kent County Councillor— Canterbury South

Canterbury City Councillor—Nailbourne Ward



July 2021

Parish tours – My walks around the parishes with parish councillors and clerks have continued in June and hopefully by the end of July I will have completed these. I have also attended some parish council meeting in person.

Committee places – I can now confirm that I will be serving on the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee, Kent Flood Risk Management Committee and the Commissioning Advisory Board. Having taken an interest in flooding matters I have also been put forward to fill the vacant Canterbury City Council position on the River Stour Internal Drainage Board – I shall know later this month if this is approved.

Little Stour and Nailbourne River Management Group – I had a very pleasant and informative meeting with some members of the committee and I look forward to working with them in order to address local flooding issues. Flooding can come from all sorts of places though and when Bishopsbourne experienced issues in June due to heavy rain and water flowing from fields, I was able to help get this resolved.

KALC – I was very pleased to be invited to speak to members of Canterbury KALC last month.

Tonford Lane Bridge – Campaigners for a new bridge across The Stour met with me to discuss their plans for a new accessible bridge that will open up the Hambrook Marshes and cycle/footpath to more people.

Covid Recovery Grant – I have sent details to all parishes about the grant fund of £6,000 that I can access for local projects. I have already had several enquiries about this, and some applications have been made, so please do let me know if you are aware of organisations that would benefit from this funding.

Footpaths – Many public footpaths have become very overgrown recently. KCC are behind on their programme for cutting these back. Any specific issues can be reported here: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way>

City Council issues:

Bins - There are still quite a few persistent issues with bin collections that I am following up. There have been teething issues with the new technology in the trucks and also the online reporting system is still far from perfect. It really should be much better after nearly six months on Canenco.

Offices – The City Council are now considering moving offices into vacant space in Whitefriars that they own. I will be pushing for the existing offices and car parks to be developed into social housing.



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