

Councillor Mike Sole's monthly report

Kent County Councillor— Canterbury South

Canterbury City Councillor—Nailbourne Ward



June 2022 (an update on what I have been doing in April)

This month I have really enjoyed attending Annual Parish Meetings in **Bishopsbourne, Womenswold, Ickham & Well, Wickhambreaux** and **Littlebourne**. I have had some great conversations with residents about all manner of issues, often over some refreshments and with an enjoyable guest speaker.

I've attended a number of **Kent County Council** meetings this month:

Growth & Economic Development – I spoke on issues including ensuring that all KCC staff are able signpost those struggling with the cost of living, to appropriate support. I also challenged the council's economic strategy on being too broad brush and not more industry specific. I joined the committee on a day trip to Sevenoaks to learn about their economic challenges and successes.

Environment & Transport Committee – I questioned the council's pothole maintenance budget and asked for extra funding to move forward highway's projects like a new crossing on the A28 in **Thanington**, and challenged the council's own verge cutting strategy during "No Mow May". I also spoke against the cuts to subsidised bus services that will result in some routes being cutback or cancelled. I also questioned why KCC has spent £14.5m (much of it government grant funded) on a solar farm in Somerset rather than spending more on local projects.

KCC Annual General Meeting – I proposed a motion that might help address the backlog of works on the public rights of way network by setting up a cross party working group to explore options. Unfortunately, this did not receive support from the administration but was backed by other opposition groups. I also spoke in favour of another motion to change the free school transport rules so that if a child received a grammar place, but the nearest school were a non-selective school, they would still qualify for free transport. Unfortunately, this also failed to receive enough support to pass.

I attended the **Canterbury City Council** AGM, which was lively and more controversial than usual, as you may have read in the press, when Anne Dekker was elected Lord Mayor of Canterbury.

Having followed up parking issues in St Vincent's Close, **Littlebourne**, I am pleased that a compromise has been found and the double yellow lines will to be slightly shortened which may ease parking issues whilst still ensuring that access and safety are maintained.

I have been pleased to support grants for play equipment in **Wickhambreaux** and furniture at **Thanington** Resource Centre.

I attended the River Stour Internal Drainage Board meeting.

As usual I have assisted residents with various issues including bins collections, overflowing public waste bins, council tax, blue badges, drains, hedges, planning issues and speeding.



(KCC) : mike.sole@kent.gov.uk



(CCC) : mike.sole@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk

07739 486804

