

Councillor Mike Sole's monthly report

Kent County Councillor— Canterbury South

Canterbury City Councillor—Nailbourne Ward



September 2022 (an update on what I have been doing in August)

August is traditionally a quieter month with few county or city council meetings, and no parish council meetings, so it's been nice to have some more time to enjoy the summer, although some further rain would be welcome.

One KCC meeting that did take place was a special meeting of the Scrutiny Committee. I had seconded the call-in of the decision to cut £2.2m from supported bus routes and was delighted that a majority of members of the cross-party committee agreed that KCC need to look at this again. I spoke at the meeting raising the issues of additional costs for residents, social isolation and the environmental impact of withdrawing bus services.

I was also very pleased that the campaign, which included my petition signed by over 1,000 people, had been successful in persuading KCC to work with Stagecoach to at least provide a school service and one peak time service for the 11 service that KCC had previously announced they were ceasing. This will be a relief to residents in **Ickham** and **Wickhambreaux** who were worried about getting children to school if the only local bus service were axed.

I held a very successful councillor surgery in **Littlebourne** at The Ivy Barn with parish councillor Lee Castle. We were busy all morning and discussed many issues, including street lighting, speeding, crime and drought.

On Highway Improvements I had a meeting with KCC and representatives from both **Adisham** and Aylesham parish councillors to discuss shared concerns about safety on the B2046. This will hopefully result in additional signage. I have also chased up the 30mph limit at **Woolage Village**.

I met with members of Manor Close Residents Association in **Thanington**, and we discussed issues relating to cars ignoring the no entry in Cockering Road and other related issues which I have passed on to KCC for action.

This month I was able to support small grants from my Canterbury City Council Opportunities Fund to **Bridge** Playgroup for their garden area, **Barham** PTA for their outside learning area, and Barham Football Club for a lining machine.

I've been involved in quite a few local issues with Canenco this month, which may well be down to changes in staff around the villages. These included **Stodmarsh** missing scheduled recycling collections for six weeks, dog waste bins not being emptied, and delays in collecting reported fly-tipping. Hopefully these are now resolved. I also visited Canenco to view footage from their on-board cameras to check that they were not responsible to damage.

Despite little rain, I've been out with the KCC drainage engineer to look at an issue in **Grove** and also visited **Waltham** to look at the road drainage issues there with a resident.

Another busy and interesting meeting with the River Stour Internal Drainage Board including a presentation on how weevils are being used to control invasive river weeds.

Finally, KCC have started their consultation on the annual budget. This can be found at:

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/budget-consultation-2023-24>



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