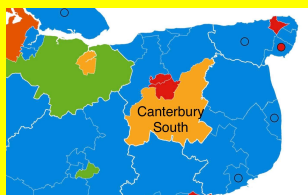


Mike Sole's January 2025



Kent County Councillor -Canterbury South

Canterbury City Councillor – Nailbourne



Last month I reported on Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation. Kent has asked to be on the fast-track for this change, and I had expected that we would have known by the end of January if this had been agreed by the government, along with cancelling the KCC elections due this year. An announcement is due very shortly. There is a very short timescale to plan for setting up new unitary authorities and scrapping KCC and Canterbury City Council (CCC). In my role as deputy leader of Canterbury City Council and Cabinet member for finance, I am focused on how our budget is shaped over the next two or three years so that we leave our assets and supported organisations in the best place possible when the city council ceases to exist.

Issues addressed in the month included, requesting new safety barriers at the top of the A2 slip road onto Bifrons Hill, chasing up bus stop road markings in Wincheap, dealing with drainage flooding issues in Out Elmstead Lane, pothole reporting and planning enforcement.

I attended the A257 traffic group with representatives of parish, district and county councillors representing areas along its route, to discuss safety issues.

I attended parish council meetings in Bekesbourne, Upper Hardres and Kingston.

At KCC I have been to the full council meeting and the Growth and Economic Development Cabinet Committee where I raised issues about libraries, community wardens and the costs of local government reorganisation.

It was a pleasure to be invited to the Lord Mayor's Awards where three community champions were given awards for their voluntary work across the district.

This month is when both the KCC and CCC budgets are agreed. Following on from the CCC budget consultation it is now proposed that the 10p and hour increase in car parking charges does not go ahead. Regular park and ride users will now also bring their costs down even more by purchasing season tickets.



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