



# Councillor Mike Sole's monthly report

Kent County Councillor : Canterbury South  
Canterbury City Councillor : Nailbourne

*Working for you all  
all year round*

The big news from KCC is that of the 57 Reform councillors elected in May, only currently 49 remain with the rest either defecting, suspended or thrown out of the party. All of this has a significant impact on the running of KCC as committee places have to be reallocated every time that there is a change, and it is especially challenging when this results in meetings being cancelled and committee chairs needing to be replaced.

I attended a meeting of the Kent Fire & Rescue Service. The Fire Authority has a long record of supporting everyone in society and I challenged Reform's decision to stop the flying of the Pride flag during Pride month. It was agreed by the chair to defer the decision, but as the chair was one of those councillors subsequently removed by Reform, we will have to see how this progresses.

At the KCC Flood & Water Management Committee I challenged South East Water on their poor emergency planning earlier in the year when hundreds of residents in Whitstable were left without water for several days. At the same meeting Southern Water set out their plans to reduce the number of storm overflow discharges into the sea, but I pointed out that they had made an even bolder claim for action three years ago that was unlikely to be met. I also asked KCC for information on their future climate modelling to ensure that their drainage and flood prevention measures will be able to cope with more frequent and heavy storms.

Other meetings attended included Barham parish council, Joint Transportation Board, and Canterbury City Cabinet and Full Council.

The City Council Budget consultation is due to start in November. As the cabinet member for finance, I have been working on this with cabinet colleagues and officers for several months. Some of the highlights include: Capital funding for a multi-storey park & ride on the existing Wincheap site to provide an alternative to building on the recreation ground once the new slip road is built; all except the most expensive Band 1 car parking charges frozen and Band 1 only increasing by 10p an hour; garden waste collections extended to cover the whole year (except Christmas break); funding to clean A2 slip roads; reduction in costs of bulk waste collections to help reduce fly-tipping; more tree and hedge planting; increased funding for maintenance of planting included in the on-going projects at Dane John Gardens and other Levelling Up funded sites around Canterbury.



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