

Councillor Lee Castle

Little Stour & Adisham Ward - Canterbury City Council - 07875402888

March 2026 lee.castle@councillor.canterbury.gov.uk



March proved to be a challenging and distressing month due to the meningitis outbreak affecting our communities across Canterbury. I would like to begin by expressing my condolences to the families who tragically lost loved ones, and to extend my thoughts to those who remain in hospital or are continuing their recovery. The impact of this outbreak has been felt widely across the district. However, I am pleased to report that, thanks to the swift rollout of a vaccination programme and an effective public awareness campaign, the situation has now stabilised, and life has returned to normal across the city and surrounding areas.

It was therefore particularly timely to help reassure residents and visitors that the city remains open and welcoming. I was honoured to attend the conclusion of the pilgrimage marking the installation of the new first female Archbishop, an important and uplifting event for the city which brought people together at a much-needed moment.

During March, I attended Full Council, where significant progress was made on the Local Plan, which has now advanced to Regulation 19, the next formal stage of public consultation. This is a key milestone, and I would encourage residents to engage with the consultation as it is now open.

I also attended an open day at the Sidney Cooper Gallery, which provided an excellent opportunity to meet prospective users and operators. It was encouraging to see such strong interest ahead of the Expression of Interest (EOI) process, highlighting the value placed on cultural and community spaces within our district.

In my Cabinet role, I can report that the former “Net Store” site at the Crab and Winkle has been returned to the market. Additionally, progress continues on the proposed glamping site at Reculver, and works to finalise the stabilisation of the Herne Bay bandstand have now gone out to tender. I have followed up on multiple instances of fly-tipping in Adisham and other locations across the ward. Parking issues, particularly vehicles stopping on double yellow lines, have also been raised by residents and are being actively addressed. Dog fouling continues to be a concern, and I am working alongside local parish councils and the City Council enforcement team to explore measures to reduce incidents and improve outcomes.

The consultation process for the development proposals for the reopening of Manston Airport has now begun, and I would encourage residents to take part and make their views known.

I would also like to remind residents that the park and ride service remains available at a reduced rate of £1 (or 80p for resident permit holders) until the end of the Easter holidays, offering an affordable and convenient transport option.

Locally, I have been liaising closely with the planning department in preparation for future reserved matters applications relating to the large development at **Littlebourne**. This is a long-term project that will evolve over many months and years, and I will continue to work with the parish council to ensure local concerns are addressed.

Following earlier concerns, I am pleased to note that river levels have now receded to more typical levels. I have also been assisting residents in **Patixbourne and Bokesbourne** who experienced issues with bin access, raising these matters with Canenco. Residents are reminded to report missed collections via the council’s online portal.

Finally, I have continued to support residents across the ward, including in **Adisham, Wickhambreaux, and Ickham**, dealing with casework relating to housing, parking, trees, anti-social behaviour, planning matters, and a range of other local issues.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.