

# Councillor Mike Sole's monthly report

Kent County Councillor— Canterbury South

Canterbury City Councillor—Nailbourne Ward



## March 2022 (an update on what I have been doing in February)

**Parish Councils** - This month I attended parish council meetings in **Waltham, Littlebourne, Barham, Chartham and Kingston**. As always, I am very happy to meet up with parish councillors and residents and anytime to discuss issues "on the ground." I met with KCC highways officers to discuss the progress of all 16 parish council Highways Improvement Programmes in the division and also the unparished area on **Wincheap** and also to see where I could most assist with highways grant funding.

In **Thanington** I met up on site with KCC to investigate the location and funding for a potential additional crossing point on Ashford Road.

**KCC Budget** – I spoke at the budget meeting and proposed (unsuccessfully) additional funding to deal with the huge backlog of works on the public rights of way network, and against the price rises in bus passes, cuts to bus routes and funding for homelessness services.

**Canterbury City Council Budget** – I delivered the budget response speech on behalf of the Liberal Democrat group and argued for greater community group grant funding.

At the **Canterbury City Council Regeneration Committee** I spoke against the two year suspension of the Sturry Park & Ride service.

At the **Canterbury City Council Policy Committee** I spoke against the new car parking charges across the district as I felt there was no overarching strategy that considered both the environmental concerns and the economic impact on residents and businesses.

I cycled around **Barham, Kingston, Bridge, Patricbourne, Bekesbourne, Adisham, Littlebourne, Wickhambreaux and Ickham** to identify and report over twenty highways issues that needed attention including missing and worn white lines, potholes and bus stop markings. I also walked around **Littlebourne** to investigate and report several blocked drainage gullies.

I was interviewed on **BBC Radio Kent** discussing potholes and the cuts in highway maintenance budgets.

Assisted a number of families struggling with hastily imposed changes to KCC Special Educational Needs school transport.

Bins continue to have been an issue in the month. Thankfully, after pressure, Canterbury City Council abandoned the ill thought-out requirement for residents to lift the recycling inserts from bins, but since then a number of inserts have disappeared in the waste trucks and as always, there were a number of other bin collection issues and problems with unemptied public waste and dog bins.



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