

Mike Sole

Kent County Councillor -Canterbury South

Canterbury City Councillor – Nailbourne

May 2023 Update



Well, it's been a pretty interesting and busy month!

Firstly, I was delighted to have been re-elected as the Canterbury City Councillor for Nailbourne, and especially pleased to have received 84% of the vote, which was very humbling and record for the district. I was also brilliant to see my good friend Lee Castle elected in **Little Stour & Adisham**. Across the district there are now 9 Liberal Democrat councillors, 18 Labour, 8 Conservative and 4 Greens.

There is now a Lib Dem/Labour coalition running Canterbury City Council, and that I have been appointed at the cabinet member for finance. Over the next few weeks, you should hear more about the new council's plans. My priority remains to do all that can be done to revise and remove the most controversial aspects of the Local Plan.

Potholes continue to be a big factor in my life. I found out that there has been a threefold increase in the number of claims made to KCC for pothole damage, yet only on 6% do KCC admit liability and pay out. I remain hopeful that Valley Road in Barham will soon be scheduled for work.

Work on the 40mph limit at **Stone Street Petham** will start in June, which is good news.

I enjoyed a fantastic bluebell ramble with Riding for the Disabled in Chartham, with Clare Balding.

In order to try to push things along with revising/pausing/stopping the **Wincheap** gyratory scheme, I had a meeting with Rosie Duffield MP and other councillors that represented the affected area.

At the annual meeting of Canterbury City Council, Cllr Jean Butcher was elected as Lord Mayor. I know that she is keen to get out into the villages, so if there are events that you would like her to attend, I'm sure she would be keen to be invited.

At KCC I attended the Growth & Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee where I was keen to talk about village hall grants, and also Kent Vision Live.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 then finally found me, and I had a much more subdued final week of the month and had to miss the KCC Annual Meeting.



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