

Councillor Mike Sole's

monthly report

Kent County Councillor : Canterbury South
Canterbury City Councillor : Nailbourne

Working for you all all year round

Well, it looks like we now have a bit more certainty from Government about Local Government Reorganisation but mixed in with a bit more uncertainty. We know we now have elections to Canterbury City Council (CCC) next year, and that we are very likely to have elections to a new unitary council in 2028, with CCC and KCC ceasing in 2029. But the geographical areas of the new unitary councils are being looked at again!

This month I've attended parish council meetings in **Bridge**, **Kingston** and **Barham**. As part of the Community Governance Review, CCC are consulting on whether there should be closer working relationships between **Kingston** and **Barham** parish councils with a grouping arrangement. Residents in affected parishes have been sent information and both parishes are arranging meetings to discuss the proposals with residents and hear their views.

I attended a KCC organised Water Resilience Partnership meeting where water companies set out the challenges that they face and the solutions that they have planned. With significant additional housing planned for Kent, there is real concern about how water will be supplied and waste removed without polluting our seas and rivers.

Other meetings attended included the Kent Fire & Rescue Service, Joint Transportation Board and Canterbury Council where I was able to amend a motion on the rights of the rivers to ensure that flood prevention work was recognised.

I have asked for an update on the replacement of the Grove Ferry Bridge. Whilst there is still no date for this and am assured that the project is progressing.

I was very pleased to hear at the Joint Transportation Board, that of 12 roads in the Canterbury District planned for resurfacing in 2026/27, 8 are in my KCC division, including roads in **Upper Hardres**, **Barham**, **Bekesbourne**, **Adisham**, **Waltham**, **Chartham**, **Petham**, **Patrixbourne** & **Ickham**. I am always lobbying for improvements to our rural roads, so this is good news.

Finally, I enjoyed taking part in the Canterbury Trail Half Marathon as part of the Lord Mayor of Canterbury's Team. Good training for next year when I will be running the London Marathon!

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