

**Chairman's report for Hersden Parish Council's Annual parish meeting
on Tuesday 12th May 2026**

I write this report for the third consecutive year as councillor and chair of Hersden Parish council, originally when I joined there was no way I would have thought I'd be the chairman especially for more than one year. Over the years I've learnt a lot and had the opportunity to work with so many people enabling me to learn so many new things, which has made the role so much easier. We have had challenges arise but with a great clerk and team of councillors we've done very well.

As a council we are supported very well by; Canterbury City Councillors, our Kent County Councillor, Kent police and the local community, my only upset is that our KCC community warden service is almost non-existent and not of any real use to residents anymore, fortunately the Community Centre and local organisations are picking up the slack, in turn giving all parishioners the best they deserve.

As always, the Annual Parish Meeting is for the residents and not for the council to conduct business, so I will now report on all of the activities and achievements from the past twelve months.

Waste Bins

We purchased and installed three waste and dog poo bins throughout the parish, which are being well used! We have since purchased an additional four bins and these are due to be installed.

Overgrowth

With the assistance of the Community Service, we cleared the overgrowth at the back of maple gardens, in hope that the residents would maintain this as it's within a shared boundary. It was maintained for a short while and is now in need of a review.

Nuisance Neighbours

After many complaints with regards to a property in the village causing antisocial behaviour issues and continuing to cause problems for neighbouring properties, we have worked very closely with the housing officer and the police to come up with a resolution.

Bike Marking Event

Hosted at the community hall with Kent Police we hosted a number of bike marking sessions, enabling people to register their push bikes in the national database using forensic technology.

BMX Track

We made safe some ground surfacing and identified some minor works; we are awaiting estimates to install a new fence around the top of the bank.

Bowls Club

We continually support the bowls club, whether it's giving advice, grant funding to enable upkeep of the green or councillors personally supporting with events and maintenance.

Generators

Sadly, the parish council was targeted by thieves, where they broke into the grounds and storage facilities of the Community Centre, causing thousands of pounds worth of damage and stole the village backup generators. They were insured and we have since had the insurance money to replace them. New CCTV and alarm systems are now in place and as soon as more secure storage is in place we will replace the machines.

Hersden Under 5's

Recently the Under 5's were fortunate enough to be given a new building, we supported them with some funding towards moving costs and I assisted with the relocation of the intercom system we purchased for them last year.

Remembrance Service

Some of our councillors attended the Sturry Church remembrance service to lay a wreath and remember those who fought for our Country.

Christmas Events

As always, we made sure everyone got a Christmas card, lovingly designed by the local school.

This year the Parish council worked with the Community Centre to put on a well-attended Christmas Eve Carol Service, which was greatly appreciated and will hopefully continue for many more years.

Christmas trees were purchased and installed at two locations again, one to brighten the spirit of motorists passing through Hersden and the other for residents to be able to remember a loved one.

Grant Towards the Community

We work very close with the Community Centre and have rented space for our office, functions and meetings since we were formed, this has recently changed; rather than renting the facilities we offer the Community Centre some grant funding to cover the costs of hosting the Parish Council and for them to assist us working directly with our parishioners.

Road to Park Resurfaced

After years of fighting for someone to take responsibility for the road beside the Welfare Club leading towards the park, we have finally got Canterbury City Council to make it safe. At a cost of over £10,000 they resurfaced the entire strip.

Defibrillator Training

We held a community training day where residents and local businesses could learn how to use the public access defibrillators. This was well attended and feedback said how reassuring it was to know what to do in a cardiac emergency.

Community Hero Award

In recognition of residents and locals doing something great for the community we have implemented a scheme where we recognise our hero's. This is the first time we have put on this program and will open nominations up throughout the year.

Yellow Lines

The Joint Transport Board met and implemented yellow lines outside of our post office, despite 9 objections and 2 votes for this, after numerous complaints and some seriously strong worded emails the City Council have confirmed these will be removed from in front of the shop.

I would like to conclude this report with thanks and take this moment to thank all of our parishioners for putting your trust in us to serve for you.

Cllr Jack Brabham