

Councillor Report for Hersden Parish Council (09/06/2026)

Councillors Harry McKenzie and Keji Moses

Tenant Engagement Meeting

Harry attended the council tenant engagement meeting with the Neighbourhood Management Officer and representatives from the Resident Engagement Panel in the Hersden Community Centre to hear what was going on and provide extra support. While not many residents turned up, it was good to speak with officers about issues with local council housing that we are working on and issues with fly tipping on council properties.

Renters Rights Act Implementation

The government enacted the Renters Rights Act to provide security for tenants in private sector rented housing. Changes include banning no fault evictions, limiting rent increases to once per year and capping them at market rate, allowing tenants to request pets, and more. Canterbury City Council has received £104,741 to implement these new rules and doing so is a crucial part of our emerging housing strategy.

Double Yellows Outside the Shop

Double yellows were painted outside the shop on The Avenue after the last Annual Parking Review. This was an oversight that has now been fixed. We got the double yellows reduced in length so they protect access to the properties behind the shop but don't hinder customers who want to visit the shop.

Local Grants

- £300 grants from the Crisis and Resilience Fund have been made available for households in need of support with oil heating.
- RISE grants worth up to £10,000 for community groups who help with the environment, health or skills and development have been made available.

Community Governance Review

The first stage of consultation for a Community Governance Review considering parish boundaries and whether to create town council for urban areas has launched. We know you are discussing this tonight and ask that you please keep us informed, especially as Keji is on the working group for the Community Governance Review. Please respond to the consultation and ensure as many residents as possible do, as well.

Parish Engagement Event

We attended the Parish Engagement Event for updates on rural issues, like planning, governance arrangements and local government changes with parish councillors. Many of you were there with us and it was good to see you and speak to you there.

Bus Shelter Improvements

Funding was made available from KCC for CCC to replace, improve or introduce bus shelters across the district. Three bus shelters earmarked for improvement are outside Wildwood and on Staines Hill. We are pushing to fix and improve bus shelters on Island Road in Hersden, beside Pennington Close and outside the Sturry Train Station, as well.

If you know of any bus shelters or other assets like bins, street lights, benches, etc. that need fixing, please report them to us and we'll get them sorted.

Action on The Water Crisis

We have co-signed a letter with council colleagues asking questions of the government regarding the most recent failings of South East Water and asking the government to step in and deal with it. We have sent the letter and response from the government separately. We have also supported the Leader of the Council as he has written to the government requesting them to take South East Water into Special Measures. We are continuing to monitor this situation closely and will keep residents informed.

New Public Footpaths

Two new public footpaths have been created in Sturry and Westbere by KCC officers. We don't take credit for this as we're not on KCC, we are just sharing the positive news.