

Councillor Report for Hersden Parish Council (12/05/2026)

Councillors Harry McKenzie and Keji Moses

This report relates to our work from April 2026

Meeting with the Premiere Shop Keeper

We met with the shop keeper at the Premiere Shop on The Avenue to inspect and discuss issues with the new double yellow lines. We agreed that a solution to the problems would be to reduce the double yellow lines so that they cover the access to the properties behind the shop but leave the shop front clear.

Having raised this with a Senior Officer in the Transportation Team, we have received confirmation that the double yellows will be shortened. We are now making inquiries about the timeframe that this can be expected to happen in.

Meeting with the Chislet Bowls Club

We met with Bob and other members of the Chislet Bowls Club on-site to discuss their wishes and plans to expand the club. We brought the Leader of the Council along to join this discussion. The outcome was that the club would need to robustly demonstrate clear community benefit in their plans in order for the council to justify releasing public land to them and they were invited to submit a new proposal. We agreed to support them with whatever they need and that offer still stands.

SOS Whitstable

Harry attended the SOS Whitstable protest to join with colleagues, community groups and residents from across the Canterbury District and beyond to oppose the obscene level of pollution into rivers and the sea locally and call on Southern Water to clean up their act. There has been over 10 hours' worth of sewage discharged from the Waste Water Treatment Plant in Westbere and the Combined Sewer Overflow on Fordwich Road in Sturry so far this year. So, he went to speak up for local residents and nature.

Training on Sewerage and Waste Water Management

The Leader of the Council and Head of Planning put together a training event for councillors to learn more about planning processes involved with sewerage and waste water management. We both attended this training and learned about the process planning officers take when reviewing applications and how provisions in the Draft Local Plan will make a difference in terms of infrastructure delivery. This knowledge, as intended, will be taken into our roles when working on planning-related matters.

Housing Committee

- As a member of the Cabinet Advisory Committee on Housing, Harry reviewed the new Social Housing Consumer Standards Service Improvement Strategy provided by officers at the last meeting which has now been referred to Cabinet for approval. It is a robust strategy that meets the scale of the challenge as last year the Regulator of Social Housing downgraded CCC to C3 meaning we had serious failings in our social housing stock. We are determined to change this.

Relevant government policies:

- **Right to Buy** – the government is shaking up Right to Buy so that tenants now need to live in their council home for 10 years, up from 3, before they can buy it, new-build council homes can't be sold for at least 35 years and the discount to purchase a council home through Right to Buy has been reduced.
- **Council Tax** – the government is introducing a new responsibility for councils to work with residents who fall behind on council tax payments to set realistic and sustainable repayment plans rather than take overly harsh enforcement action. Also, council tax payments will be spread over 12 months but with the option to keep it spread over 10 months if residents prefer it that way.