

Kent County Councillor Report to Parish Councils

As the Kent County Councillor for the division, and Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment, Coastal Regeneration and Public Health, I am pleased to provide this update on recent activity and issues of interest to our local parish councils.

Highways remain a key concern for residents, and works are currently under way on the A299 Thanet Way, which is an important route for local communities, businesses and visitors. I am continuing to monitor progress and any associated disruption and will keep parish councils informed of significant developments affecting journeys and connectivity.

No 7-bus route – Stagecoach have confirmed the route through Broadoak will be re-established; however, we do not know if it will match the old route as yet. I have spoken to the Highways team to get a meeting arranged with Stagecoach to push to ensure Hoath is included.

The Sturry link road works have ran two public engagement sessions, these were both well attended by residents, and the build is currently running to schedule.

In relation to public health and community safety, I visited Change Grow Live, a drug and alcohol treatment service, where I met with staff and service users and received positive feedback from clients about the quality of support they are receiving. I also visited a similar non-residential service in Margate delivered by The Forward Trust, which provides valuable community-based support to residents affected by substance misuse. These services form an important part of the wider Kent adult drug and alcohol offer.

I recently represented Kent County Council in France in support of the UNESCO application for the Kent GeoParks. During the visit, I met with the assessors and set out the potential benefits that GeoPark status could bring to Kent, including increased tourism, stronger cross-Channel links with our neighbours, and health and wellbeing gains through greater engagement with our natural environment.

Supporting safe and positive local activities for families and young people remains a priority. I have agreed £1,200 from my Members' Grant to help fund the outdoor picnic and cinema event in Sturry Park and have arranged for an event medical team to attend free of charge. This will help ensure the event is delivered safely and in line with recognised good practice following The Purple Guide for events. I have also provided grant funding to support football coaching sessions in Herne, giving children and young people additional opportunities for healthy activity and community engagement.

On local infrastructure, I was pleased that the sewage leak on Sturry Hill was attended to within 45 minutes of my involvement and was upgraded to a priority 1 case. Southern Water subsequently provided a report outlining the cause of the leak and the steps taken to resolve the issue, which helps ensure accountability and learning for future incidents.

Kent County Council has also maintained a strong presence at the County Show in Detling, with a number of stalls giving residents the opportunity to engage directly with services such as Trading Standards and other council teams. This has provided a useful forum for residents to ask questions, understand more about the support available, and share their views on local concerns and priorities.

As always if there is anything I can assist with either from the Parish Council or residents please do get in touch.