

Kent Water Resilience Partnership

The Leader of Kent County Council has announced the establishment of the Kent Water Resilience Partnership, to be chaired by the Leader, in response to the recent and repeated failures of South East Water to provide a reliable water supply to residents and businesses. This new strategic partnership will bring together water companies, local authorities, regulators and other key stakeholders to improve long-term planning, infrastructure investment and overall resilience of water supply across Kent, ensuring clearer oversight and accountability.

As the County Councillor, representation will be used to ensure that the concerns of parish councils and their residents are fed into the work of the Partnership, including the need for better communication during outages, adequate provision for vulnerable residents and improved emergency response arrangements. Further details on the Partnership's remit and timetable will be reported to parish councils as they become available.

Sturry Link Road (A28) – Site Visit

A visit was undertaken to the Sturry Link Road scheme, which will provide a new link between the A28 and A291 to the south-west of Sturry, relieving congestion at the existing level crossing and improving access into Canterbury. The scheme includes a new viaduct over the Great Stour, new junctions, a shared footway/cycleway and a southbound bus lane, with the intention of supporting more efficient and sustainable movement in the area.

During the visit, project officers provided an overview of the construction methodology and the measures being taken to protect and enhance local habitats, including the river corridor, floodplain and surrounding

landscape. This includes drainage and attenuation features, designated environmental mitigation land and landscaping intended to support biodiversity alongside the new infrastructure.

Shelford Landfill – Public Meeting

Attendance was recorded at the recent public meeting concerning Shelford Landfill, at which local residents and stakeholders raised issues relating to site operations, environmental impacts and traffic. The discussion highlighted the importance of effective regulation, monitoring and communication between the site operator, the Environment Agency, Kent County Council in its waste and minerals planning role, and the affected communities.

The points raised by residents and parish representatives at the meeting will inform ongoing engagement with the relevant authorities, with a view to securing clear actions, improved transparency and appropriate follow-up reporting to local councils. Parish councils are encouraged to continue to record and report specific concerns so that these can be escalated through the appropriate channels.

Countywide Fly-Tipping Conference

Kent County Council will host a countywide fly-tipping conference, the first of its kind in Kent, on 10 July. The conference will bring together councils, enforcement agencies, landowners and the waste industry to strengthen joint working, improve intelligence-sharing and develop coordinated actions to tackle fly-tipping and wider waste crime across the county.

This initiative complements KCC's current campaign highlighting the rise in fly-tipping and encouraging residents to use only licensed waste carriers, retain waste transfer documentation and report incidents, in order to prevent illegal dumping and reduce its impact on local communities and the countryside. Outcomes and any new tools or

guidance arising from the conference will be reported back to parish councils, including opportunities for local involvement in prevention and enforcement activity.