

Ward Councillor Report for Hersden Parish Council (08/09/2026)

Councillors Harry McKenzie and Keji Moses

CANENCO Depot Tour

Harry visited the CANENCO depot in Wincheap alongside other colleagues to tour the facility and hear from the Director of CANENCO about what our crews get up to. We also inspected new technology that has come in, including a new bin collection truck that sustainably runs on hydrotreated vegetable oil and displays a design that supports our armed forces community among a whole range of other net zero devices from gum removers to graffiti sprayers and remote controlled lawnmowers. We learned that our crews collect 10-12 items of fly tipping every day which is hard work.

Keep the Taps Running Motion

We voted for the Keep the Taps Running motion in Full Council. It was a comprehensive motion with a length of text but to sum it up, it calls for greater transparency from South East Water on the causes of the recent water shortages and how they will be prevented in future, and it calls on the Cabinet to commission a report on phasing or pausing development until water infrastructure can keep pace with the rate of building.

Charter of Trustees Vote

As Local Government Reorganisation is set to abolish Canterbury City Council, we voted for a proposal to implement a for a Charter of Trustees in Canterbury which will ensure that the Civic Team, Lord Mayor and Sheriff roles are protected after the change.

Local Government Reorganisation

It has been announced by the government that option 4b was chosen for Local Government Reorganisation which means a unitary authority covering the existing council areas of Canterbury, Thanet and Dover will be created as Canterbury City Council and Kent County Council are abolished. At present, the warding arrangements in the new unitary authority will follow existing KCC division boundaries and have three councillors per division (subject to a boundary review). Shadow elections to the new unitary authority will happen next year and then vesting day will happen in 2028. There will not be any more full Canterbury City Council or KCC elections. While we voted for option 4d last year, we are satisfied with option 4b because it achieves pretty much the same outcome: truly local representation and efficiency in service delivery.

Earlier Bin Collections

Bin collections will continue to be done earlier in the morning at 6am until the end of September and then they will be restored to 7am. This is because of extreme heat.

Funding for Community Waste Prevention

Community groups, charities, CICs, social enterprises, residents' associations, parish and town councils across Kent can apply for grants of £500 to £5,000 to deliver projects that help prevent household waste, promote reuse and repair, or encourage more sustainable behaviours. The first funding period closes 9 October 2026.

Network Rail Letter

After several incidents in July where the level crossing failed in Sturry which held up residents and emergency services for hours. We wrote to Network Rail, raising complaints for residents and seeking clarity on actions to prevent this happening again.

St George's Flag During the World Cup

During the World Cup, the government wrote to all local authorities asking us to fly the St George's Cross on as many council-owned properties as possible. Our council did so proudly throughout Canterbury and other parts of the district.

House Martins Support Letter

We were approached by Canterbury District Swifts and asked whether we would support their application for one of the council's biodiversity grants to implement artificial nest cups in Sturry for House Martins as there is a colony attempting to breed here. This is a declining bird species that has reduced by 80% in the South East over the last 30 years and we voted to declare a biodiversity crisis in 2023, so we honoured that commitment and have written to the grants panel to endorse this application.

Crisis and Resilience Fund

The Crisis and Resilience Fund is a new scheme funded by the UK government to help support residents on a low-income who are experiencing financial shock and/or activity that builds financial resilience. The following support is available to residents living in the Canterbury district: Oil Heating Grants, Home Essentials Scheme to help with carpets, white goods, children's beds and second-hand furniture, or support for people facing money worries, including benefits, housing support and debt advice.

Improved Street Lights in the City Centre

With support from the BID and Kent Police, Canterbury City Council has not implemented new and improved street lights in the city centre to make it safer.

Emergency Services Day

It was great to attend the Emergency Services Day in the Hersden Community Centre to learn more about what our police officers and paramedics do to keep us all safe and what challenges they are facing on a daily basis to do so.