

Kent County Councillor
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Maidstone Rural West Residents' Update 2021/22

Dear Resident,

It has been my privilege to represent you at County Hall for the last 12 months. The learning curve has been high, however, meeting many residents and liaising regularly with Parish Councils has been extremely worthwhile. KCC is continuing to make Kent a great place to live, despite the financial challenges and rising demand for our services creating additional pressure.

The COVID pandemic has caused many people significant upheaval and sadly we have lost many relatives due to the virus and its variants. The government has given KCC additional monies to support the most vulnerable and also many of its residents. To this end KCC Members were given £6,000 to distribute as they saw fit to support people within their division. Below is a list of the projects I have supported. I am also allocated a Members grant of £10,000 per year and I have been very careful to allocate some of the funds to support a wider range of projects.

Although receiving a better-than-expected settlement for the forthcoming year, pressures coming from a combination of factors, including rising prices, the rising demand to support both our elderly residents and the most vulnerable young children has given KCC a shortfall of many million pounds. The resulting cost cutting measures agreed for the budget to discretionary services has caused concerns, many of these service cuts and the respective details are currently out for consultation. Please ensure your voice is heard and respond.

I sit on four cabinet committees, which give me a broad section of work to complete, these:-

1. Adult Social Care (vice-chair of this committee)
2. Public Health
3. Audit and Governance
4. Growth and Economic Development

I would like to pay tribute to the Leader of KCC, Mr Roger Gough, who leads by example and continues to fight for our residents at both a local, regional and national level.

Examples of support provided in Maidstone Rural West:

2021/22 has seen a variety of projects being supported by the COVID RECOVERY Grant alongside the Combined Members Grants on behalf of the residents of Maidstone Rural West including:

Communities		
Applicant	Project	Amount
Nettlestead Parish Council	Additional sport equipment for use KGV Field, Nettlestead	£700.00
Hunton Bowls Club	Contribution to replacement mower	£650.00
21Together	Supporting vulnerable children for a Dinosaur Fun Day	£750.00
Yalding Pre-School	Replacing IT Laptop	£500.00
Dandelion Time, East Farleigh	Therapeutic Support Time for vulnerable young people	£2000.00
Linton Cricket Club	Replacement Nets for Youth Development	£1500.00
Covid Grant		£6000
Highways		
Area	Project	Amount
East Farleigh Primary School	To install a footpath adjacent to the front of the school to allow for parents, buggies and elderly people access to the school	£4320
West Farleigh Parish Council	Improve/support replacement of equipment on the sports field	£1000
Members Grant	There will be a roll forward of £4680 into the next financial year.	£5320

As a Member of the County Council, I welcome contact with residents, support groups and local business. The Member Grant will always be available to assist vulnerable groups, be they of any age and if I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to be in contact with me.

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