

A Message from your County Councillor - June 2018

An especially dry month which suited our local Village Fetes if not our farming community. We attended both Throwley and Selling Fetes during June. The volunteers who put on these Fetes put in an incredible amount of time and effort. It is good when the weather helps them to achieve the results that effort deserves.

There has been the usual assortment of interesting meetings this past month. At the rural policing meeting we had an update of Police activity in Swale's rural areas, livestock worrying, hare coursing and theft of vehicles etc from rural farms and houses being amongst the issues covered. It was good to hear that the rural team in the division is to be doubled in terms of personnel.

Kent Council Leaders majored on housing demand and the necessary infrastructure required if we are to go anywhere towards meeting that demand. I also spoke on behalf of South East England Council's (SEEC), of which I am an executive member, at a London Seminar on the next steps for the Thames Estuary. This allowed me to stress the major infrastructure needs within Swale especially when the Lower Thames Crossing is constructed. These needs include the planned improvements to M2 Junction 5 at Stockbury, the widening of the M2 from Medway Services to Brenley Corner and the total redesign of Brenley Corner itself. Not forgetting that if housing numbers continue to grow we need not only better transport links but enhanced health and education provision as well as improved public utilities, water, waste water, electricity etc.

The following week I represented Swale Borough Council at the SEEC AGM. The new Chairman is Roy Perry the Leader of Hampshire County Council. I personally was re-elected to the Executive.

Highlights of the Month included a residents' meeting at Teynham organised by Borough Councillor Lloyd Bowen where local Borough and Parish Councillors, the PCSO and representatives of Kent Fire and Rescue Authority as well as myself took questions from residents, mainly from Teynham but including some from Lynsted and also from Norton.

I attended the start of works on the widening of the Lower Road on Sheppey, something the local residents and Swale Borough and Parish Councils have long campaigned for. There was also the "Swale Stars" staff awards evening where the Chief Executive and I present awards to members of staff, department teams and individuals from partner organisations whose work was judged to be particularly outstanding this year. A good chance to say a very well deserved Thank you.

Parish Council's attended in June were Selling, Oare, Dunkirk, Lynsted and Teynham. I also chaired the first meeting of Swale's Joint Transport Board, since I resumed the Chairmanship, which rotates between Borough and County members.

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