



## **Tony Hills KCC member for the Romney Marsh Division Annual Report April 2023**

### **What a year...**

This has been a tough year for so many people. Yes the pandemic is on the way out, but with the crisis in energy costs, inflation, cost of food not to mention the migrant boats these have tested our community. Locally the state of the roads is a disgrace. Government has given a bit more money to the County to help, but it is not enough. We will keep telling the government that we need more support. As I say every month, here is the link to report 'potholes' online.

<https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.KHSFaultsGIS.Web.Sites.Public/ReportAFault.asp>

x We must continue to report dangerous potholes, the more complaints we log the more chance of getting them fixed.

I intend to have discussions with the Dungeness power stations concerning the heavy demolition traffic required in knocking the plants down. The access roads from Brenzett corner will need more maintenance.

### **Ukraine**

The tragic war in Ukraine has created so much pain for their people. We must set ourselves for a long haul. Hopefully, the chaos to the energy markets will stabilize by the summer. As I have been saying, I'm very proud of how our communities have stepped up to the 'plate' to support those in need of help from Ukraine. War fatigue can set in, but we must stand strong and help Ukraine win this war. And continue to help those that need help and support the fight for freedom.

### **Dungeness Nuclear Opportunity Site Reuse.**

I have been having many meetings with potential developers in the last few weeks of SMNR (small modular nuclear reactors). KCC formed a working group with our district council and MP to accelerate the opportunity of progressing a new build on the Dungeness site. Now that the government has committed more funds to the national drive for green nuclear energy.

## Climate Change

Is the biggest single long term threat to the Romney Marsh is extreme weather. But I'm happy to say the EA have been working hard over the last year to improve our defences. Work is continuing at Lydd Ranges to defend the western side of the Romney Marsh and should be completed this year. This is all part of the FoCES plan (Folkestone to Cliff End Scheme) to defend the whole of the Romney Marsh. The last major section to complete is the 'Rother tidal wall east' this has now been started. The three year scheme is to protect the Guideford Levels from being flooded from the Rother or the sea. We can and will continue to defend the Marsh from the sea.

## Community Transport

As I said last year, KCC has been forced through budget cuts to reconsider its community support for poorly used bus services across Kent. We need to find better supported means of community travel. I'm part of a working party to look into how we can make good use of the BSIP ( Bus Service Improvement Plan) funding. The Romney Marsh Partnership is still committed to creating a high speed shuttle service, an electric bus shuttle service from New Romney to Appledore station to access Ashford and Rye...The Green Line Service would link the two lines The New Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Railway, and the Southern Region main line. With the excellent news that Lydd Airport are to start flying passenger services again, there has been interest from Lydd Airport to extend the service to include the airport.

## My Kent responsibilities

Positions I have served in over the last year.

***Deputy Cabinet member for Environment & Waste.***

***Chair of the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee.***

***Member of the Health Overview and Scrutiny committee.***

***Member for Kent of the Southern Region Flood & Coastal Committee.***

***Member for Kent of the Kent & Essex Inshore Fishing Conservation***

***Committee. Member of the Kent Environment Transport & Waste Cabinet***

***Committee. Member of the Kent Environment Strategy (cross party group)***

It has been another challenging year at Kent County Council, working now in a new hybrid system some meetings 'virtually' from home others in person at Maidstone.

**Kent County Councillors have two main functions.**

**To represent residents of Romney Marsh at 'County' and do their level best to help with local concerns.**

**To play their part in 'running' the 'County' for the benefit of all the residents of Kent.**

**Tony Hills**

**Kent County Councillor for Romney Marsh**