

Robert Brookbank

Conservative Member for Swanley Division



A year at County Hall. Serving Kent. Serving You.

Kent County Council has 84 Members representing every part of the County. Robert has been serving the community of Swanley and Hextable as a Member since 2009.

He was last elected in 2009 and, like all KCC Members, serves for a four year term of office. The next KCC elections take place on 2 May 2013.

About Robert

Robert is one of 84 members of Kent County Council representing all parts of the County. He has been serving Swanley and Hextable in this capacity since 2009.

Each member serves for a four year term and the next elections will take place on 2 May 2013.

Robert has been part of the Swanley community since 1984 when he and his wife set up business in Swanley as Estate and Letting Agents. Robert had previously had a successful career in Local Government in the London County Council later the Greater London Council where he worked in the Personnel and Management Services areas until the authority was abolished. Having sold the business in 2000 Robert did two things he firstly, not being someone to kick his heels, attended Orpington college to obtain a qualification in Counselling and work with Adults with learning difficulties for a Sevenoaks based charity. Secondly, he entered Local Politics becoming a District Council

Member for the Swanley Christ church and Swanley Village seat, the first Conservative for 29 years to be returned and now is a Town Council member for another Swanley Ward as well.

Always having a passion for Voluntary/Community work he has been from: -

1982-1992 A member of the Bromley Family Practitioner Committee.

1985-2000 Vice Chairman Swanley Chamber of Commerce

1985-2008 Trustee Swanley and District Chamber of Commerce

2001-2003 Vice Chairman of Trustees Darent Valley Rural Age Concern

2004-To Date Chairman of Trustees In addition to his special interests in Care for the Elderly and Health Matters, he has been a staunch supporter of many other charitable and residents organisations in the area.



Robert in the wildlife area of Swanley Park.

Work at County Hall

Attending meetings isn't all councillors do, in fact most of their time is spent out and about meeting people in their community, doing their best to help solve problems and finding out what matters most to them. However, when decisions are taken by the council, their job is to be there and put across the views of their constituents.

Robert has attended 8 out of 8 meetings of the Full Council.

Find out more about the meetings Robert has attended.

http://www.kent.gov.uk/your_council.aspx

Contacting Your Councillor

Elected Members are here to help residents, organisations and businesses with enquiries about KCC services. They are probably a good starting point for other enquiries too.

To contact Robert:

By Post

36 Goldsel Road
Swanley
BR8 8EZ

By Telephone

01322 669440

By email

robert.brookbank@kent.gov.uk

Member's Community Grant

KCC has found a great way to help fund local community groups and organisations without fuss or too much bureaucracy. Every year, each KCC Member may allocate £10,000 to worthwhile causes within their community.

Here's how Robert spent his last year:

Swanley Wildlife and Nature Group received £600

Hextable Heritage Centre. New gallery floor received £1801

Make Do and Mend project. Bringing together Senior Citizens and Young People project received £300

Queens Jubilee celebration, Hextable Residents Association received £1000

Citizens Advice Bureau. Money/Debt advice service received £1000

St Peters Church. Youth Event received £500

White Oak Action Group Christmas Event in Swanley Centre for younger children received £1400

Hextable Village Green Electrical cabling to provide Xmas Lighting received £2500

Contribution to Swanley Heritage Film. Youth Project organised by West Kent Extra received £899

If you want to suggest a local group which could benefit from the Member's Community Grant then you'll find your local Councillor's contact details on the front page.

Allowances

Each Member of KCC receives a basic allowance (salary) to compensate them for the time spent on their duties and to meet many of the day-to-day expenses of being a Councillor.

Some Members also receive a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) when they take on extra duties such as serving as a member of the Cabinet, Leader of the Opposition or Chairman of a committee.

County Councillors can only claim the usual expenses that most businesses would pay for.

These are for actual costs for example reimbursement for fuel and travel which they have incurred whilst carrying out their duties as County Councillor.

[View Members allowances and expenses](#)

Member's Highway Fund

KCC recognises that local Members are well placed to decide which small transport and highways schemes would be most useful to their communities. That's why each Member is allocated £25,000 to spend on local schemes. It's called the Members Highway Fund and here's how it was spent last year...

New ornamental pedestrian railings Lower Road/Top Dartford Road received £13,700

School Keep Clear markings contribution to promote and implement district wide TRO to make markings enforceable received £5000

New Bus Shelter for London Rd Swanley near the Bull Hotel received £4,100

High Street, Swanley Provide larger shelter and remove some of guard railings to improve capacity and assist with pedestrian flows received £20,500

Contribution towards purchase of two snow blowers, one for Hextable and one for Swanley received £1,100

To improve bus stops with new signage flags and timetables received £4000

Various requests for salt bins. 2 for Hextable and 3 for Swanley received £3000

Swanley Lane. New signage to reduce speeding received £10,750

Main road/Top Dartford Rd Hextable. New Village signs and road markings received £12,750

My achievements this year, and ambitions for next year

Much of my time over the past year has been spent working locally with the residents of Swanley and Hextable and I must thank particularly the Residents Associations and Parish Councils in the area for their help and support.

My main duties at County Hall have involved membership of the Adult Social Services Committee now renamed the Social Services and Public Health Committee, and the Regulation Committee. The latter amongst other things deals with appeals for Home to School Transport for children with special needs and I have sat on many of these panels. I am also on the special committee dealing with "looked after" vulnerable children. Details of all of my committee attendances are available on the website.

As to my ambition for 2012/13 that is very simple, I would like very much to continue to represent the area at County Hall.



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