

Christopher Smith

Conservative Member for Tonbridge Division



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

Kent County Council has 84 Members representing every part of the County. Chris has been serving the community of Tonbridge 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 Chris

Chris moved to Tonbridge in 1967 from Orpington. In 1974 he married his wife Sonia and they have lived in Hildenborough ever since.

Chris took early retirement in 2003 from his job in the service industry based in London with one of the country's leading property companies.

Since he retired, he has been able to devote his time to one of his interests of local government. Currently he represents Tonbridge on Kent County Council and is also a Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councillor serving the community for the past 12 years. He has also served on Hildenborough Parish Council only standing down in 2011 after 20 years of service.

Amongst many interests, Chris has a particular interest in Social Services where he now chairs the Kent

County Council Cabinet Committee for Adult Social Care and Public Health.

Chris is also involved in Planning as Vice Chairman, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee as Vice Chairman and sits on the Environment and Waste Cabinet Committee.

Apart from his involvement in local government Chris has a big interest in a number of sports – mainly cricket where he is a qualified cricket umpire.

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.

Chris has attended 6 out of 8 meetings of the Full Council.

Find out more about the meetings Chris 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 Chris:

By Post

43 Knowsley Way
Hildenborough
Tonbridge
Kent
TN11 9LQ

By Telephone

01732 833742

By email

christopher.smith@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 Chris spent his last year:

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council – Y2 Crew - £250
Tonbridge Arts Festival – Tonbridge Arts Festival - £475
Tonbridge Memorial Gardens – Renovation of Tonbridge Memorial Garden - £5,000
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council – Tonbridge Sportsground Lighting - £3,000
Tonbridge Judo Club – International Development Programme - £750
Tonbridge Rotary Club – Young Inventors - £525
Tonbridge Citizens Advice Bureau – Door Entry and Computer Project - £1,903.00

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...

Make a financial contribution to TMBC for their street improvement programme - £2,269
Installation of sets of dropped kerbs to provide an improvement to pedestrian links and installation of a pedestrian guard rail - £15,000
Request to remove a section of segregated cycleway, Hannover House, High Street, Tonbridge - £500

My achievements this year, and ambitions for next year

Chris is of the opinion that the new governance arrangements for the County Council have enhanced the role played by back bench Members of the Council which allows them more say in decision making. Chris has been privileged to have been made Chairman of the Audit Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee and welcomes the challenge this has brought.

The County Council faces a big financial challenge over the coming years and Chris believes the new governance arrangements will allow the council to make some important decisions to meet this challenge.



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