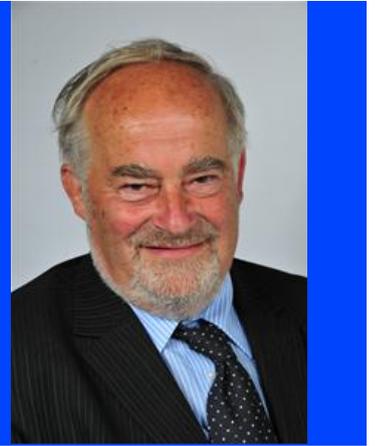


# Kit Smith

Conservative Member for Deal Division



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

Kent County Council has 84 Members representing every part of the County. Kit has been serving the community of Deal.

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 Kit

Kit Smith has been a councillor in local government for over 30 years having served as a Parish Councillor, a councillor on Dover District Council for 27 years and as a KCC Member representing Deal and Walmer for 3 years.

Educated in Cambridge and at Wye College he has developed two businesses around agriculture, farming, food production and marketing and has lived in East Kent for over 40 years. He is a family man who with his wife Pat, a music teacher, has brought up two boys who are now married with a total of four daughters between them. Within the community he has helped to build the local Neighbourhood Forum and was a pioneer of participatory budgeting using his community grants funding across DDC and KCC funding. He remains a Dover District Council Cabinet member with a portfolio of Learning and Skills which he finds links well with his work at KCC. Being a twin hatter as a councillor of both district and county has not



been a problem for Kit who has revelled in the wider scope of knowledge, experience and integration across local government.

He feels really privileged to be able to be a councillor at all levels, dealing with problems, questions and local actions as well as the more strategic issues at KCC. Kit loves talking to people who he almost always finds interesting. He is regarded as a good listener. This can be a severe annoyance to his wife if out walking together.

Kit believes in training and ongoing development and has been on several courses and conferences mostly around children, education and training and skills.

Despite the average 45 hours a week involvement in DDC and KCC work he enjoys almost all of it. Kit's interests include fly fishing, swimming, walking, sailing and the companionship and acute rivalry of an allotment.

### 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.

Kit has attended 5 out of 8 meetings of the Full Council.

Find out more about the meetings Kit has attended.

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/your\\_council.aspx](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 Kit:

##### By Post

37 Admiralty Mews

The Strand

Walmer

Deal

Kent

CT14 7AZ

##### By Telephone

01304 371557

##### By email

[kit.smith@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kit.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 Kit spent his last year:

Step Up – DES - £1,226

Telephone Advice Line – Dover, Deal & District CAB - £2,500

Refurbishment Project – Age Concern Deal Centre for the Retired - £2,500

Renovation of Kitchen – St Saviors Church - £274

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...

High Street, Deal – remainder of fund to be used towards resurfacing the High Street - £8,838.00

Install a finger post direction sign, St Richards Road, Deal - £250.00

Request for new yellow lines and amendment of existing TRO, 62 York Road, Walmer - £200.00

## My achievements this year, and ambitions for next year

Kit has thrown himself into his role of representing his constituency of Deal which is the furthest from Maidstone with a round trip of around 100 miles. He has been Chairman of the Education Scrutiny Committee and served on Education, Economic Development, Environment, Planning and Health Overview and Scrutiny committees. He has also served on several Informal Members Groups, schools monitoring groups and is a governor of a primary school and a Further Education College.

He is currently Chairman of a KCC Select Committee – The Student Journey due to report later in the year. He has served on two other select committees of KCC.

He would like to help with a prospective select committee on apprenticeships which might follow on directly with the Student Journey experience for Kent



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