

Chris Wells

Conservative Member for Margate & Cliftonville 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 Margate & Cliftonville as a Member since 2005. 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

Aside from a spell in the Royal Navy, Chris and Grace Wells have lived in Thanet since their marriage in 1977, and have brought up the majority of their 12 (twelve) children in the area, using local schools and play schools. The older children are now scattered, variously teaching English in Spain; policing in Sussex; as Head Chef of The Glasshouse, the main restaurant of The Grove in Watford; as a Captain in the Royal Signals, covering tours of Iraq and Afghanistan; practising as a vet in Cornwall; qualifying as a doctor this coming summer; and studying at the University of Sussex; so just 5 left at home and school!

Grace is a Macmillan Social Worker, specialising in Palliative Care, and when not involved in community organisations in his division, Chris is a fundraising trainer and consultant, whose work has taken him across the UK, and on lecture tours of the USA, Australia, New Zealand and

Canada. He has written 2 books on fundraising and fundraising communications, and numerous articles from trade magazines and journals, alongside conference and seminar presentations.

Chris was formally the KCC Cabinet Member for Education Standards and Children's Social Services when the service last earned the four star excellent rating; and has maintained his interest in the work following the Ofsted difficulties by participating in the Improvement Panel, challenging and supporting the drive towards renewal and improvement of the children's services. He is also sought after by parents appealing against school placement decisions, with a strong record of presenting excellent cases to Appeal Panels.

Chris has additionally been an actively involved Governor of Bradstow School, Broadstairs, a Wandsworth run, acclaimed school for the education of autistic youngsters, and is rightly held in the highest esteem for its introduction and use of gentle teach, and its respite care service for parents during the school holidays.

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 4 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

3 Foreland Heights

Broadstairs

Kent

CT10 3FU

By Telephone

01843 601117

By email

chris.wells@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:

Rikki and Julie: Examining Conflict – Platform Films - £600

Sunday Film Club – Project Fair Isle - £425

East Kent Mencap's Big Lunch – East Kent Mencap - £500

International Filmmaker Festival – Vivo International - £250

Conference – The Kent Federation of Amenity Societies - £513

Walk to School Scheme – Palm Bay Primary School – Kent & Medway Charity Team - £250

Theatre Royal Margate – Theatre Royal Margate - £150

Events in Thanet – Kent Coastal Week - £300

Oval Bandstand Summer Concerts – Cliftonville Residents Association - £1,000

Surveying the Margate Caves – Friends of Margate Caves - £450

Feasibility Study for Development of Tivoli Road site – East Kent Mencap - £250

Cliftonville Theatre Project – Sarah Thorne Theatre Club - £200

Cliftonville Winter Community Event – The Cliftonville Partnership - £125

Winter Festival – Millmead Children's Centre - £700

Up the Line Remembrance 2011 – Platform – 7 Events - £500

Support to Girl Guides (1st Cliftonville) – 1st Cliftonville (Holy Trinity) Guide Company - £250

Tom Thumb Theatre Restoration Project – Tom Thumb Theatre - £238

Renewal of Banks No 1 Bowling Green – Walpole Bay Bowling Club - £1,250

IT Equipment – Grotto Hill Street Scheme - £424

MOS Replacement Windows to The Mews – Margate Operatic Society - £500

International Filmmaker Festival – Vivo International - £1,125

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.

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, Margate – request to extend the existing 20mph speed limit from the lower part to the upper - £1,482.72

Trinity Square, Margate – request for road markings to improve safety at the junction, in particular 'Give Way' markings (shared with Michael Jarvis) - £1,666.00

Bath Road, Margate – request for speed surveys to be conducted (shared with Michael Jarvis) - £832.00

St Mary's Avenue, Margate – request for bollards to prevent parking on the grass verges - £832.69

Connaught Gardens, Margate – request for DYL to stop obstructive parking - £406.66

Thanet – request to make contribution to the Thanet Community Transport Association - £3,250.00

My achievements this year, and ambitions for next year

As County Councillor since 2005, Chris Wells has fought for projects to improve Margate and Cliftonville.

He has pushed for the regeneration investment in the Turner Contemporary and Northdown Community Project; fought for the independence of the Walpole Bay Bowls Club and Tivoli Day Centre; used the Margate Housing Initiative and Kent Community Organisation to improve residents' daily lives. His Highway funds have placed pedestrian crossings for Millmead Road and Dalby Square; bollards to protect green areas in St Mary's Avenue, Nash Road, and St John's; and to combat rising fuel costs for the much needed Thanet Community Transport. Guides and Sea Scouts have enjoyed trips and camps; and the East Kent Submariners proudly show their new banner.

Chris has used his 26 years of experience in voluntary sector management to support groups, and is ready and able to continue this valuable work for the next 4 years.

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](#)



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