

Mike Whiting

Conservative Member for Swale Central Division



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

Kent County Council has 84 Members representing every part of the County. Mike has been serving the community of Swale Central 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 Mike

Mike and his wife Sue have lived in Sittingbourne since 2005. Previously, they lived for 20 years on the Isle of Sheppey, and their two children were educated at Sittingbourne High Schools. Mike was a press photographer for many years in Sittingbourne and, after a spell in London, returned to Kent, where he worked for a number of years as Managing Editor for the Kent Messenger Group. In 1987, Mike was elected to Swale Borough Council, one of its youngest members at the time, and was spokesman for the environment. During that time, the council introduced Borough Wardens to enforce Swale's bylaws and, love them or hate them, the area's first Wheelie Bins! During that first term of office as an elected member on Swale Council, Mike's wife Sue had their two children and Mike decided to stand down from frontline politics to help bring up his new, young family. However, he retained links with the

Conservative Party, and held various offices within the local party, including Constituency Chairman. Mike said, "My role as KCC member serving Swale Central is what gets me up every morning. The issues constituents face are important and varied and I help where I can to sort them out.

"Another important role for me as the local representative is to assist organisations where I can with KCC grant money. There's a full list of those projects I have been able to assist, but I was particularly pleased to have helped Iwade Youth Club, The vicarage Road Youth Project in Milton and other youth-based organisations."

Mike has used his highway funds to secure new signs in Kemsley, where HGV lorries were regularly using Grovehurst Avenue and having to make u-turns, and provide new bus shelters in Milton High Street, Iwade and Lower Halstow. He has recently agreed to fund outdoor gym equipment in Rectory Park and is hoping to amend bylaws to allow cycling in the 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.

Mike has attended 7 out of 8 meetings of the Full Council.

Find out more about the meetings Mike 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 Mike:

By Post

7 Rooks View
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME9 8GB

By Telephone

01795 842631

By email

mike.whiting@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 Mike spent his last year:

Grant to assist the Iwade Youth Group for 11 to 15 years olds in the village - £1000

Paying to connect the water supply to Iwade Allotments - £2000

Supporting CASA Support's The Art of Football project - £1300

Helping Diversity House's 'Women Empowering Women' project - £750

Supporting Sittingbourne and Milton Scouts Expedition to Ireland - £500

Litter Angels is a wonderful charity promoting recycling - £250

Grant to the Kent Association for Disabled People - £600

Funds for Swale's Mobile Gateway project, taking services to the public - £500

Facilitating the Salvation Army's community activities - £400

Sponsorship for the Rotary Club of Sittingbourne's 10k Charity Race - £500

New speakers for Hospital Radio Swale at their studios in Sheppey - £500

Together working for Wellbeing, money for alternative therapies programme - £500

Money to help fund Regis Manor holiday club - £200

Contribution towards the cost of Sittingbourne and Milton Explorer activity trip

Helping to buy play equipment at Milton Court Primary School - £250

Small contribution towards Kemsley Primary School's Outdoor Learning Area - £250

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...

Wormshill to Sittingbourne - taxi service replacement for post bus -£2,925.00

Provision of a new bus shelter - Ferry Road, Iwade - £12,198.66

St Margaret of Antioch Church, Lower Halstow - A contribution of £1000 towards the new memorial footpath - £1,000.00

Swale Central - Mike is to share the contribution of the bus 326/7 service - £8,001.99

Sheppey Way and Newman Drive, interactive signs - £5,000.00

Iwade - Contribution to the parish council for 4 new finger posts - £4,647.29

Iwade, Tunstall and Lower Halstow - to provide a pallet of 100 salt bags to the parish council - £1,305.00

Contribution towards the 'Green Travel Roadshow' - £250.00

My achievements this year, and ambitions for next year

My ambition in the past four years has been to help people solve problems, fight the system and improve the area where they live. It has, therefore, been a pleasure to chair the Local Engagement Forum, where the public can get an equal say to the politicians and can put us on the spot. One such time was when a group of young people came asking for a skateboard park in the town. That project is moving forward and has support from many quarters. The young people have taken control of the project and I am determined to help them as much as I can in their hard work.

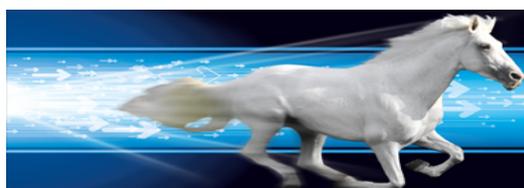
Allowances Each Member of KCC receives a basic allowance (salary) to compensate them for the time spent on their duties and to meet many of the day-to-day expenses of being a Councillor.

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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