

# Jenny Whittle

Conservative Member for Maidstone Rural East Division



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

Kent County Council has 84 Members representing every part of the County. Jenny has been serving the community of Maidstone Rural East as a Member since 2009.

She 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 Jenny

Jenny Whittle was elected to the County Council in June 2009. After graduating with a Politics degree in 1997, Jenny joined the business sector for a year, working for a leading international auction house, which sought and sold some of the most valuable stamp collections in the world. Jenny then spent a year in the Conservative Research Department, followed by a six year period as a Parliamentary Researcher and Office Manager for a Conservative MP. She also studied part-time and graduated with a Master of Science degree in European Public Policy and Management at Birkbeck College in 2005. Jenny originally joined Kent County Council as an officer in 2005 and worked as the Staff Officer to the Children, Families and Education Cabinet Members before being promoted to the position of the Leader's Staff Officer. After seven months on maternity leave

following the birth of her first child, Katie, and a six month spell in Corporate Policy, Jenny decided to stand for election in June 2009 to fight against the Kent International Gateway application.

Jenny's interests include reading, studying current affairs and history and taking part in sporting pursuits. She was also a Member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations and is a qualified practitioner in this field, having passed her Diploma in 2008. Jenny was the Deputy Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education – Learning & Development from June 2009 until January 2011, when she was appointed Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services. Jenny has a particular passion to improve outcomes for looked after and vulnerable children, as her late mother grew up in care undergoing some 20 foster placements and a five year spell in a children's home in Sidcup.

Jenny is married to David and they live in Bearsted with their young daughter, Katie.

### 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.

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

Find out more about the meetings Jenny 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 Jenny:

##### By Post

c/o Members Desk  
Sessions House  
County Hall  
Maidstone  
Kent ME14 1XQ

##### By Telephone

01622 694093

##### By email

[jenny.whittle@kent.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.whittle@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 Jenny spent hers last year:

Cornflower meadow and footpath, Hollingbourne Meadows Trust received £600

Community hedge planting, Bearsted Woodland Trust received £1,000

Leisure Learning, Maidstone Community Support Centre received £250

Walk to School, Kingswood Primary School received £200

Kitchen and hall repairs to Grafty Green Village Hall received £1,750

Village festive lights, Headcorn Association of Traders received £2,000

Nature garden and raised beds for Lenham Primary School received £500

World Challenge educational expedition, Crossroads Young Carers Project received £800

Harrietsham Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan received £570

Replacement bench for Lenham Cemetery received £823

Refocus Intervention Project in Headcorn, Maidstone Association of Youth received £600

Lenham is for Transport (LIFT), Lenham Patients Transport Group received £400

Cold calling control zone in Headcorn, Maidstone and District Neighbourhood

Watch Association received £500

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...

Request for a new salt bin on Lodger Close received £350

Request for a new salt bin, The Garden of England Park, Harrietsham received £350

Request for a new salt bin, Mercer Drive, Harrietsham received £350

Request for a detailed design statement to enable the costing of a new footpath, Lenham Road, Kingswood received £592

Request for an interactive speed sign, Grafty Green Village received £3,500

Signage to improve safety, Coldblow Lane, Thurham received £500

Request for salt bin and 3 refills, West Street, Harretsham received £593.93

Request for salt bin and 3 refills, Fairbourne Lane, Harrietsham received £595.53

Request to install unsuitable for HGV signs, Caring Lane, Thurnham received £1,200

Funding of 8 seat minibus 4 days a week between Wormshill and Sittingbourne replacement to postbus received £4,420 (this is shared with three other Members, each contributing £4,420)

Ulcombe Hill enhanced village gateway features at three main entry points to village received £6,434

Fairbourne Lane, Harrietsham request for measures to enforce weight restriction received £9,989



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

As well as overseeing the transformation of Children's social services over the past 18 months in my Cabinet role, my priority has always been to respond quickly to the concerns of the residents living in the 15 parishes I represent in my electoral Division. Over the past year I have highlighted the concerns of Lenham and Hollingbourne residents relating to the Minerals and Waste Framework, worked to protect the popular Lenham Youth Centre, and opposed the plans of Maidstone Borough Council to develop Junction 8 off the M20. I have also been successful in representing residents in their school transport appeals and in secondary and grammar school appeals. I work closely with Kent Highways, Parish Councils and residents to tackle issues relating to pothole and road repairs and verge cutting as speedily as possible. My Member Highway Fund has enabled me to continue to fund the popular Wormshill-Sittingbourne minibus service and speed indicator devices for the villages of Grafty Green and Hollingbourne and Thurnham Lane, although these have not yet been installed. I am very privileged to represent one of the most tranquil and scenic areas of Kent and champion the needs of our most vulnerable children and I look forward to continue doing my best over the next year and hopefully beyond May 2013 if I am re-elected.