

Elected Member Annual Report and Review – 2010/11



PLEASE READ THE ACCOMPANYING GUIDANCE NOTES BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM

Member Name: Richard Long

Electoral Division: Malling Rural East

Year first elected: 2005

Telephone Number: 01732 360895 **e-Mail:** richard.long1@kent.gov.uk

Are you in paid employment in any capacity in addition to your role as a County Councillor (excluding membership of other authorities)?

YES	
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If yes, please give details in the box below

1. Partner of Longs Solicitors
2. Director of Integrated Services Programme (fostering agency)
3. Director of Pikefish Consultants Ltd
4. Territorial Army Officer

A. As a Member of Kent County Council you must give details in the box below of any remuneration received.

Basic Allowance		£
		13,000
Special Responsibility Allowance (please give details of the nature of your duties in the next column and the amount received in the third column)	Chairman – Governance and Audit Committee	£7,750

Are you a Member of another local authority or do you serve on any other public authority or Trust for which remuneration is received?

	NO
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B. If yes, you must give details in the box below, including details of any remuneration received

	£
Total Payments for A & B above	£20,750

Section 1: Attending County Council Meetings Please list all meetings including how many meetings you attended of your Local Board

Name of Board or Committee	Number of Meetings attended	Number of Meetings each year	Position on Board or Committee and nature of responsibility
County Council	7	7	Member
Cabinet Scrutiny Committee	7 (since appointment in May)	10	Member
Children, Families & Education – Resources and Infrastructure Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee	2	3	Member
Governance and Audit Committee	5	5	Chairman
Governance and Audit Committee Trading Activities Sub Group	1	1	Member
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	2 (left committee in May)	10	In attendance

Joint Meeting of Children, Families and Education Resources & Infrastructure, Learning & Development and Vulnerable Children & Partnerships Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee	1	2	Member
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Section 2: Liaising with your Electoral Division

Please list here any organisations within the community with which you have contact. What are you doing in your division? (Please specify if you are acting as a member of the body or as a KCC representative)

Meeting	Meetings attended (aprox)	Capacity
Mereworth PC	9	KCC Member
Kings Hill PC	9	KCC Member
East Peckham PC	10	KCC Member
West Peckham PC	5	KCC Member
Hadlow PC	9	KCC Member
Wateringbury PC and highways committee	9	KCC Member
Borough Councillors meetings	5	KCC Member
Joint Transportation Boards	2	KCC Member
Parish Partnership Panel	1	KCC Member
Friends of Wateringbury Church	1	KCC Member

Attendance at Parish Councils is my main means of staying in touch with my division. The division is 100% parished and the PC meetings are mainly well attended. Most matters of interest to residents can be tracked through the Parish Councils and supported in the same way.

In all the villages in my division this year this has been close scrutiny of the winter plan, which had mixed results. In several villages I have supported requests for more salt bins and for additional salting and gritting routes. For the first time we obtained maps showing routes cleared by farmers and contractors. These caused surprise as there has been very little evidence of ploughing on the rural roads. I have supported a formal complaint by Mereworth and attended meetings to pursue the issue.

In most of the villages, but especially in West Peckham and Mereworth there has been a difficult situation with a planning application for polytunnels on a large scale. Although this is a Borough matter, I have been asked to urge the County to give countywide guidance, which the County is reluctant to do. I have tried to stay neutral as between the farmers and the protestors. The issue affects Wateringbury, Mereworth and Hadlow to a lesser degree

In Hadlow we have nearly (after a year of effort) found a solution to traffic problems caused by parking at the entrance to private houses by a redundant and empty piece of highway. Stopping up, the best solution, was too expensive. However with local support and money provided by owners of nearby houses, we seem to have agreed the building of a bank of earth to discourage parking.

In Kings Hill the big issues have been:

- a. The emergency expansion of primary school places when it became clear that there were about 30 families who were being offered places in neighbouring villages. I worked with the local MP, Sir John Stanley on this issue and attended several public meetings
- b. The failure of the County subsidized Broadband provider and work to ensure alternative provision. I worked with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services (Roger Gough) to find a solution and we were ultimately successful.
- c. The development of the Central retail area which has required diplomatic liaison between Liberty and the Parish Council.

I have also worked with the Parish Council, Borough Councillors and Liberty to find solutions to these and other problems.

East Peckham: throughout the year there have been continuing complaints about the lack of action on road repairs and adjustments sought to highways. The situation has improved a little in 2009. I have assisted in communications between the parish and Highways.

Wateringbury: the big issue here is the crossroads (junction A26 and B2015) which is congested with traffic and polluted. I have attended more meetings with KCC officers and Parish Councillors; I have put up an application for a highways fund grant for better road markings and another application for an additional salt bin.

Mereworth: I have continued to press for the scheme started last year for an improved traffic layout at the junction of Kent Street and the A228. We have now identified s106 money from Kings Hill which will hopefully pay for this. I have assisted the parish pursue a formal complaint against Highways regarding a failure to snowplough roads in the parish this winter. The farmers contracted to do this work continue to claim they have done it while no one in the village saw any sign of snowploughing having taken place. A meeting of all parties in the village and including a senior KHS officer has prepared the ground for a way forward.

Please set out in this box any attendance at conferences, seminars etc including the benefits of attending

None

Section 6: Political Activity

Please use this space to give a full picture of your Political activities, including attendance at Group meetings and any offices held, and/or responsibilities held within your Group or within your electoral division or Parliamentary constituency.

Attendance at 90% of Group meetings and Awaydays.

During March and April and early May 2010 I was heavily engaged in the General Election campaign. I attended meetings and spent many days canvassing and delivering and encouraging others to do so. I also contributed time to the Tonbridge County by-election in January 2011 following the death of the County member.

I have been a member of the Local Government Advisory Committee for the Constituency.

I have also led the reestablishment of a Conservative Party branch in Hadlow which has been defunct for 5 years. I am currently chairing the branch until I can find a Hadlow member to do so.

Section 7: Supplementary Information

Please feel free to add any information you feel may assist in defining your role as an Elected Member, or indeed any additional information you wish to add:

Ensure that the section below is signed and dated both by you and your Group Leader.

Signature of Member:

Date:

Richard Long

8 April 2011

Signature of Lead

Date:

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY 31 March 2011

