

Susan Carey

Conservative Member for Elham Valley Division



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

Kent County Council has 84 Members representing every part of the County. Susan has been serving the community of Elham Valley as a Member since May 2005.

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 Susan

Susan's background is in transport, travel and tourism and she is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Transport. She has spent much of her career overseas and is fluent in French and German. She is a graduate of the University of York, has an MBA from Ashridge Management College and a Postgraduate certificate in local governance for councillors, the first formal qualification at University level for councillors. Susan came to Kent to work for Eurotunnel and was soon involved in her local community becoming a Shepway District Councillor in 1999. 'I enjoyed helping my constituents and seeing how local government worked so when an opportunity came up to stand for KCC I didn't hesitate.' She says.

Susan is now a full time councillor and is currently Deputy Cabinet Member for Finance, which means she spends most weekdays at County Hall working on budgets and plans for savings with KCC's finance team.



Volunteers at the Railway Museum in Peene

As County Member for Elham Valley, Susan is a trustee of two local charities; the Sir John Williams' Charity in Elham, which gives grants to support education and sport and the Robert Thompson Charities which owns the Village Hall and Alms Houses in Saltwood and is starting a programme of major improvements. Susan is also appointed by KCC as a Member of the Court of the University of Kent and serves as a governor of the Churchill School in Hawkinge. Susan has recently been invited to become the President of the National Coastwatch Institute (Folkestone), an organisation with many volunteers in her division. These roles are all unremunerated. With a large rural division which includes one town council and eleven parish councils, Susan has her work cut out to get round to see everyone but she loves being part of local events and managed to attend Diamond Jubilee parties in five of her villages.

Susan is married to John Hall and they are members of Saltwood church.

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.

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

Find out more about the meetings Susan 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 Susan:

By Post

North House
116A North Road
Hythe
Kent CT21 5DY

By Telephone

01303 670561

By email

susan.carey@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 Susan spent hers last year:

The creation of a petanque court next to Etchinghill Village Hall received £2,000
Litterpicking equipment for Shepway District Council to support volunteers to keep their neighbourhoods clean received £1,400

Extra phonics courses to help pupils with reading difficulties at Churchill School, Hawkinge received £1,500

Village signs for communities in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (they look like metal but are recycled plastic) received £1,755

Kitchen equipment for Lyminge Bowls Club received £332

Young people's football tournament with teams from across the district arranged by the Community Wardens and held in Lympe received £300

A receiving bay for the village shop in Elham to enable parcels to be left outside shop hours received £320

Transport costs for a camping trip for families supported by the children's centre in Hawkinge received £400

Ramp for disabled access, Sellindge Village Hall received £300

Survey on sustainable energy in Elham received £383

Signs and compost bins for Hawkinge allotments received £310

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...

A pair of dropped kerbs in Belclaire Close, Lympe received £2,330

Keep clear markings outside schools across Shepway and associated Traffic Regulation Orders to make them enforceable (joint project with William Richardson) received £7,664.50

Replacement salt bin and three refills, Westfield Lane, Etchinghill received £620

Resurfacing of footway, Newington Road, Peene received £3,943

Three salt bins and three refills of each, Winterage Lane, Acrise received £1,786.59

Scheme to reduce traffic speeds in School Road, Saltwood received £8,000

My achievements this year, and ambitions for next year

Most of my year was spent working on the budget for Kent County Council at a time of increased demand for services, increasing costs and reduced income. I'm proud we achieved our savings target of £97 million, kept council tax frozen and continued to deliver frontline services. Locally I have looked for ways to support the volunteers who make so much difference to their communities. As well as awarding grants I have also volunteered my own time to help with litterpicks, Speedwatch, a local charity, a school and a village hall. I have also looked for ways to celebrate the contribution made by volunteers in our community and successfully nominated National Coastwatch (Folkestone) for the Queen's Award for Voluntary service presented in October 2011 by the Lord Lieutenant. I was also pleased to help a number of individuals with problems.

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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