

Penny Cole

Conservative Member for Dartford East Division



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

Kent County Council has 84 Members representing every part of the County. Penny has been serving the community of Dartford 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 Penny

Penny was born in Dartford in 1963. She spent the first 18 years of her life living in Bexleyheath. In 1981 she moved to West Dartford and subsequently moved to Stone in 1990 where she was a Stone Parish Councillor between 1999 and 2003. Before getting involved in local politics Penny worked for the BBC World Service, Rio Tinto one of the world's largest mining companies and latterly as an office manager and PA to the finance director of a small corporate communications consultancy in London.

In 1997 Penny gave up her job to bring up her two children, Grace now aged 15 and David, 11. During that time she worked for four hours a week as an office administrator for the Dartford Conservative Association as well as volunteering on the PTA of her children's primary school, acting as the treasurer of a local amateur dramatic company and helping at her local church's

Sunday Club and fete committee.

Since becoming a Kent County Councillor Penny has also become a governor of Stone St. Mary's Primary School and a director of the Healthy Living Centre based at Temple Hill.

In her spare time Penny likes reading, listening to music, taking her dog for a walk and going on family holidays to the seaside in her touring caravan.



In front of the Stone Triangle stand at the Stone Fete with Christine Bates, KCC Community Warden

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.

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

Find out more about the meetings Penny 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 Penny:

By Post

New Blossom
Woodland Avenue
Hartley
Longfield
DA3 7DB

By Telephone

07540 668751

By email

penny.cole@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 Penny spent hers last year:

One Day Football Festival at The Rec held by Hall's FC. Donation towards prizes, refreshments, shirts etc received £2,000.00

Donation towards the Try Angle Awards celebration evening for young People received £400.00

SOS - Save Our Streets Donation towards posters made by the children of Brent School reminding people to clear up their dog litter received £312.00

Help towards the start up costs of the Youth Outreach Project undertaken by Stone Parish Council received £2,000.00

Donation towards Dartford Township Choirs "Sing Soul" with Mike King evening received £500.00

Sponsoring a Home Start Volunteer for Home Start North West Kent received £500.00

Coaching sessions in schools in Dartford undertaken by Dartford Cricket Club received £670.00

Festival of Lights celebration event in Dartford run by the Kent Equality Cohesion Council received £250.00

Fighting Chance Judo inclusion programme run by Kent Police at Stone Parish Council received £500.00

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...

Park Road interactive speed sign to be completed by the end of July 2012 received £3,117.00

Brent Lane planting of six trees with protection to replace those cut down due to disease received £5,835.36

Powder Mill Lane improvements to the footpath to help with access to the local nursery received £15,500.00

Hayes Road new fencing to replace existing gate on land next to Stone St. Mary's Primary School received £550.00

Roundabout at junction with Park Road and Green St. Green Road tidying up of the bushes and new planting of several hundred bulbs received £3,038.00

Watling Street for the provision of a bus stop border to prevent congestion when buses stop in the road following the relocation of the bus stop further away from the roundabout at Princes Road received £550.00

Various roads in Brent and Stone wards to improve 54 bus stops with new posts, flags and timetable cases received £3,500.00

Gore Road new zebra crossing situated 15 metres in the southerly direction from the junction of Lunedale Road completed in June 2012. Contribution shared with KCC Cllr Jeremy Kite received £14,602.50

My achievements this year, and ambitions for next year

I have spent most of the year dealing with residents problems relating to highways issues. I am currently working with the residents of Pilgrims Way to alleviate a number of road safety concerns utilising monies from my Highways fund. Other roads I have been looking at are Hill House Road and Darenth Road with an aim of installing a zebra crossing at the shops across to the park entrance. I also had a meeting with Stone Parish Council and the Kent Highways lighting officer to look at the safety of rail passengers at the bottom of Stone Place Road. I have regularly attended Stone Parish Council meetings, Stone Triangle meetings and PACT meetings to address any issues brought up by residents, such as the new development at the end of Hedge Place Road, as well as holding surgeries in Fleetdown Library and Stone Pavilion with the relevant Borough Councillors.

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](#)



Additional grant information

Members can use this area to communicate any additional grant information here's how it was spent last year...

Donation towards the refurbishment of the playground at Fleetdown Primary School received £1,000.00

Donation towards the Big Switch On Christmas event organised by Dartford Borough Council received £300.00

Singing for the Brain sessions run by the Alzheimer's & Dementia Support Services received £500.00

Donation towards new tables and chairs for St. Mary the Virgin Parish Church in Stone received £1,068.00

