

# Eric Hotson

Conservative Member for Maidstone Rural South Division



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

Kent County Council has 84 Members representing every part of the County. Eric has been serving the community of Maidstone Rural South as a Member since 2001. 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 Eric

Eric has been a County Councillor for 11 years representing the Parishes of Staplehurst, Chart Sutton, Sutton Valence, Langley, Boughton Monchelsea and Loose, all in the South of Maidstone.

He is also a Borough Councillor on Maidstone Borough Council and has been for almost 20 years! For the past six years, Eric has chaired one of the senior Committees of the County Council, Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny. The County Council earlier this year agreed to change its Committee Structure and he now chairs the Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee. Eric enjoys this work immensely.

Eric sits on the Maidstone Joint Transportation Committee and the Locality Board where highway and community matters are respectively dealt with.

He is a school governor at New Line Learning Academy and Cornwallis Academy.

During the past four years, Eric has supported numerous highway and community projects within his ward from his Highways Members Fund and Community Fund.

Eric is Vice Chairman of Kent County Council and with fingers crossed will become Chairman next year.

### 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.

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

Find out more about the meetings Eric 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 Eric:

#### By Post

White Willows  
High Street  
Staplehurst  
Kent TN12 0BL

#### By Telephone

01580 892313

#### By email

[eric.hotson@kent.gov.uk](mailto:eric.hotson@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 Eric spent his last year:

Kent Equality Cohesion Council - Maidstone Mela Schools Project - £250  
Boughton Monchelsea Scout Group - Slingsby Hut Vinyl Flooring Replacement - £300  
Walk to School at Loose Junior School (Kent & Medway Charity Team) - £500  
Langley Parish Council - Langley Village Hall Car Park Perimeter Fencing - £500  
Staplehurst Parish Council - Winter Warmer - £1,000  
Plaque to Honour War Heroes of Loose (Loose Parish Council) - £350  
Maidstone Borough Council - Hotfoot Summer Playscheme - £1,000  
Staplehurst Youth Club - Cooking Equipment - £500  
Staplehurst Parish Council - Up Rockin' Event - £500  
Sutton Valence Parish Council - Harbour Play Area - £2,000  
Staplehurst Carnival and Fête - Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations - £1,000  
Switch Youth Café - Youth Participation & Youth Events/Outreach Support - £1,500  
Staplehurst Library User Group - The Bench - £180

In addition, the Maidstone Rural South division has benefitted from the Local Schemes and Small Community Capital Grants: Animate & Create - Olympic 2012 Animation Project - £3,000; Age Concern, Maidstone - Community Hub Activities - £1,500; Staplehurst Parish Council Mobile CCTV - £4,000; Langley Hall Committee - Replacement of Chairs - £4,000.

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...

Langley – Installation of gateway features as requested by the Parish Council - £2,400  
Busridge Road, Loose – Traffic speed survey - £600  
Southern end of Brishing Lane, Park Wood – Installation of a designated footway - £10,000  
Boughton Monchelsea – Installation of "Unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles" signs - £3,141.24  
Beresford Hill, Boughton Monchelsea – Contribution to Phase 2 of the Parish Council's project to construct a permissive footpath - £2,000  
Loose Road, Loose – Pedestrian safety improvements, including dropped crossing points - £6,000

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

Two years ago I had the great honour of becoming Mayor of Maidstone and apart from, I hope, successfully representing and promoting the borough, I was delighted, with the aid of my wife, to raise £18,000 for local charities.

I am a Cabinet Member on Maidstone Council, where my portfolio covers Corporate Services.

Next year I hope to represent the County fully and have enjoyment with Kent residents throughout the year.



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