

# Richard King

Conservative Member for Ashford Rural West Division



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

Kent County Council has 84 Members representing every part of the County. Richard has been serving the community of Ashford Rural West as a Member since 1997. 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 Richard

Richard was born in 1943. He moved to Kent in the early 1980s and settled in the small rural village of Egerton with his wife Gale and became involved in the life of his rural community.

In the late 1960s, he and a group of friends undertook a world tour in a 20 year old double decker bus, driving overland to India, around Australia and across America, returning to the UK in 1972.

Initially paying their way as export representatives for British companies, they ended up as Product Promoters and became an internationally famous Folk singing cabaret group working for the British Tourist Authority, BOAC and other British travel interests.

On his return to the UK, Richard began a 20 year career in the broadcasting industry ending up as

the Independent Broadcasting Authority's Regional Executive for the South East of England.

On taking early retirement in 1993 he became an elected Member of the County Council in 1997.



**Working with Kent Wildlife Trust volunteers at the Kent Wildlife Trust's Hothfield Heathlands Reserve, repairing an electric fence.**

### 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.

Richard has attended 8 out of 8 meetings of the Full Council. Find out more about the meetings Richard 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 Richard:

#### By Post

Iden Farm Cottage  
Egerton  
Ashford  
Kent  
TN27 9AR

#### By Telephone

01233 756592

#### By email

[richard.king@kent.gov.uk](mailto:richard.king@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 Richard spent his last year:

Westwell Parish Council – bus shelter - £500

Great Chart Club – youth activities - £500

Hothfield Village – street party - £250

Charing Parish Council – fence - £400

Smarden Parent and Toddler Group – play equipment - £500

Bethersden Scout and Guide Group – new windows - £500

High Halden – roof for village hall - £500

Smarden Group – Jubilee - £250

KSCP – Kentish Sour - £500

St Mary's Great Chart – central heating - £350

Westwell Parish Council – outdoor equipment - £500

Charing Church of England School – playground - £500

Hothfield Parish Council – notice board - £500

Westwell Parish Council – Diamond Jubilee - £250

Smarden Youth Club – refurbishment - £500

Challock Youth Club – youth events - £500

Charing History Society – new book - £500

St Margaret's Church – repairs - £500

Westwell Parish Council – notice board - £500

Pluckley Parish Council – Jubilee - £250

Boughton Aluph Parish Council – Jubilee - £250

Great Chart Parish Council – Jubilee - £250

Bethersden Parish Council – Jubilee - £250

Charing Parish Council – Jubilee - £250

Hothfield Parish Council – Jubilee - £250

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...

Improve safety for pedestrians, Cades Road, Hothfield - £2500

Goat Lees Lane, Kennington – salt bins - £2000

Smarden – request for amendments to ADS and installation of bollards – 34000

Wye Road, Boughton Aluph – weight restriction advanced signing - £5000

Pivington Mill Pluckley – weight restriction signage - £519

The Street, Hothfield – salt bins - £1191.06

**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](#)

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

In May, Richard became the Chairman of the County Council, which involves chairing every meeting of the full council and representing the County Council as its Civic Head.

As Chairman he has chosen the Kent Wildlife Trust and Protect Kent (CPRE Kent) as his two nominated charities and is working hard to support volunteering and the growth of job and apprenticeship opportunities for young school leavers.

He is also endeavouring to visit KCCs frontline staff to thank them personally for the wonderful work they do in often very difficult circumstances.

He continues to help constituents resolve problems with overflowing drains and highway damage, school and transport appeals, obtaining grants, Borough and County planning issues and a wide range of other issues.



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