



Councillor Robert Thomas March 2024

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New Cabinet Member for Environment (me)

I was appointed as the new cabinet member last month and I have spent the last few weeks meeting the teams in Environment and the Circular Economy. The net budget for 2024/25 is £96m (split £3m for Environment and £93m for Waste). [New Cabinet Member at KCC - News & Features - Kent County Council](#)

Making Space for Nature

The Government has announced its Local Nature Recovery strategy for which Kent is one of 48 bodies coordinating the country's response. Volunteers can get involved with the project [Get involved | Making Space For Nature Kent](#)

Kent Downs National Landscapes Geo Park

Kent Downs would like to get UNESCO World Heritage status for a Geo Park which spans Kent, the Channel and France which would be a world first cross border Geo Park [Cross-Channel UNESCO Global Geopark for Kent Locals and Visitors - Kent Downs](#)



DIVISIONAL & LOCAL ISSUES

1. Village Green application for Church Street Playing Fields [Application to register land known as Church Street Playing Fields, Whitstable as a Village Green | Let's talk Kent](#)
2. The Canterbury City Council (Public Footpaths CH1, CH2, CH4 and CH67 (parts) at West Blean Woods Diversion Orders 2024 [The Canterbury City Council \(Public Footpaths CH1, CH2, CH4 and CH67 \(parts\) at West Blean Woods Diversion Orders 2024 | Let's talk Kent](#)
3. Speed changes in Tyler Hill confirmed [Canterbury Hill, Calais Hill and Wood Hill in the District of Canterbury - Amendment 4: Speed limit order | Let's talk Kent](#)
4. Herne Bay High School expansion of school places [Herne Bay High School | Let's talk Kent](#)

NEWS

1. Canterbury City Council due to consult on new Local Plan. The change of plan includes 2,000 new houses at the University of Kent and removal of bypasses [Revised draft Local Plan ditches zones and bypasses proposals - Canterbury Newsroom](#) and [Better bus services at heart of draft Transport Strategy - Canterbury Newsroom](#)
2. The Annual parking review will discuss changes to parking regulations on Tuesday 19th March [Agenda for Joint Transportation Board on Tuesday, 19th March, 2024, 7.00 pm | Canterbury City Council](#)
3. Thanet Way repairs [A299 Thanet Way to undergo extensive rebuilding - News & Features - Kent County Council](#)
4. KCC Budget approached [Plan to Secure Kent's Future approved by councillors - News & Features - Kent County Council](#)
5. No Use Empty Update [No Use Empty scheme goes from strength to strength in Kent - News & Features - Kent County Council](#)
6. More money for potholes [Millions in extra cash to fill Kent's pothole backlog - News & Features - Kent County Council](#)
7. KCC continues to make representations to government about the importance of planning and preparation for the EU Entry/Exit System that's due to be implemented from October [Government must not drag its heels in supporting Kent as EES checks loom - News & Features - Kent County Council](#)
8. CCC will reopen the Sturry Road Park and Ride on 1st April (no joke!) [Park and ride at Sturry Road returns - and it's cheaper for residents! - Canterbury Newsroom](#)

CONSULTATIONS

KCC

1. Minerals and Waste [Minerals and Waste | Let's talk Kent](#)
2. Moving Traffic Enforcement [Moving Traffic Enforcement | Let's talk Kent](#)
3. Early Years [Early Years Education in Kent – supporting settings to embed inclusive practice | Let's talk Kent](#)
4. Start for Life Strategies [Best start for life strategies | Let's talk Kent](#)
5. Adult Social Care charging [Adult Social Care Charging | Let's talk Kent](#)
6. School Term Dates 2025-2028 [School Term Dates for 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28 | Let's talk Kent](#)

KENT POLICE UPDATES - link for the past month's crime statistics in each village as well as contact details for your neighbourhood team.

Blean	Chartham
Chestfield	Harbledown
Hackington	Rough Common



APPLY	Adoption and Fostering
	Assisted Bin Collection
	Births, death, marriages, ceremonies
	Business Support
	Bus and Travel Passes
	Community grants and funding
	Community Right to Challenge and Bid
	Disabled Parking Blue Badge
	Film in Kent
	Free School Meals
	Garden Waste Collection
	Highways Permit – close a road, tourist signs, skip on highway, dropped kerb
	Kent Adult Education classes
	Library Services – books, magazines, newspapers, archives, iPads and more
	CCC Jobs & KCC jobs
REPORT	Bus Feedback
	Environmental issues – bins, litter, dog fouling
	Flytipping
	Illegal Parking
	Kent Highways – potholes, drainage, pavements, streetlighting etc
	Missed Bins
	Noise, Smoke or Smell problem
	Planning Enforcement
	Public Rights of Way
	Trading Standards

Asset of Community Value

A list can be viewed [here](#) including expired nominations