



Tony Hills, Kent County Council member for the Romney Marsh Division. Report for January 24.

Wishing you all a Happy (and dry) New Year.

What will 2024 bring for the Romney Marsh. As a unique area of Kent, (as I say closer to France than Maidstone). I believe we face some major challenges. Sea water quality is failing in Hythe Bay, we need to find out why, its complicated but this work has to be done. Surface water flooding is a problem this winter for many on the Marsh, with more extreme weather forecasted we need to improve our water management.

The 'Romney Marshes Area Internal Drainage Board do a great job working with the Environment Agency to move water around the Marsh, excess to the sea. But 'Climate Change' will increase the need to move more water faster to the sea. The rising water table will increase the pressure on our current systems.

Marsh Highways. The winter service.

We have already had salting of our important roads with some cold days in December. Below is what it costs KCC.

"Our annual winter service budget is £3.7million. ▪ If icy conditions or snow is expected, we will be salting about a third (30% - 2,586km) of the county's total carriageway (road) network which includes the A and B roads, major strategic, other strategic and locally important roads – these are termed Primary Routes. ▪ The service is well planned. It does not cover motorways and trunk roads, which are salted by Highways England. ▪ Kent County Council Highways Operations provides details in a media bulletin, as required, when crews are going out, giving details of where we are operating, how long for and how much salt is being laid. This will be included in the Kent Road Weather forecast issued to media. Salting routes are published online at www.kent.gov.uk/highways, throughout the winter service"

KCC continues to maintain our highways on a reduced budget. But remember safety comes first, so if you find what you consider to be dangerous, please report it.

<https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.KHSFaultsGIS.Web.Sites.Public/ReportAFault.aspx>

Flooding Matters

I have my fingers firmly crossed that we have a dry back end of winter. Southern water has been spending a small fortune tankering water away from various locations across the Marsh.



With the heavy rains in December, we had surface water flooding all over the Marsh. The pictures above (Littlestone Sewer Arm and the Lydd Petty Sewer) show the problems we have getting water away. It was the same down at Dymchurch.

We need to improve how we move water on the Marsh I will try and set up a working party with the Environment Agency, Southern Water and the IDB to investigate.



Re-shingling

Following storm Kerian our east bay beaches were stripped of shingle by the current and the storm action as it headed north.

The Environment Agency are planning to re-shingle the east bay frontage by the end of February.

Tony

Tony Hills, Kent County Councillor for Romney Marsh. For details on how I will use your information please click [here](#) for my privacy notice.

Home Telephone 01797 321246 Mobile 07860 295730 .