



**Tony Hills KCC member for the Romney Marsh Division Report
January 2025**

Happy New Year
2025

Wishing you all on the Romney Marsh a very happy and peaceful New Year.

What will the New Year bring

I thought I would take this opportunity to commit to you our residents that everything I will do this year will be seen through a lens of putting the Romney Marsh first.

My resolutions for this year are:

Sorting out the Marshes long term flood risk.

Improving water quality for Hythe Bay

Getting better measurement and control of water quality

Making sure the Marsh gets its fair share of highways spending

Fighting to protect the Marsh from over development

Bringing in a new nuclear power station to Dungeness

South Kent Energy Park

The plan for the solar farm at Old Romney. I am hoping to meet with 'Lo Carbon' later this month. I realised that the agreement to proceed will be given by the Secretary of State, but my driving concern is to make sure that Marsh residents of Old Romney will not lose out. Also, the Marsh infrastructure is improved.

Local Democracy

The Government is determined to change how our local democracy will be delivered.

The English devolution 'white paper' that the government produced just before Christmas talks about a new framework.

As I see it this will be the biggest change we have seen in over fifty years for Kent. It will affect all levels of local government.

Kent will have a Mayoral Strategic Authority. No details yet but I guess it will work with leaders of the Tier 2 organisations to decide the County's strategy.

District councils, our 12 District Councils will be reorganised into I think 3 or 4 Unitary Councils (including Medway) the aim of government is to have unitary councils of around 500k of residents, Kents population, I believe Kents growing population is around 1.9 billion.

Then we come to Parish Councils, these organisations concern me the most, as I see it a lot more responsibilities could be placed on their shoulders. Taking over toilets, play areas and the like.

There are no details now, but these ideas have been kicking around for some time, but the current government has put 'Rocket Boosters' under the process.

Kent has been encouraged to go early, I believe this could bring more funding and support to the County, decision then will be taken on the 9th of January by the Kent County Council to go early in the process or not and we have to inform the Secretary of State by the 10th of January.

So exciting times ahead.

If you have concerns, please email me... tony.hills@kent.gov.uk

Tony

Tony Hills, Kent County Councillor for Romney Marsh. F&H District councillor for Romney Marsh Ward. For details on how I will use your information please click [here](#) for my privacy notice. Home Telephone 01797 321246 Mobile 07860 295730