



## Tony Hills, Kent County Council member for the Romney Marsh Division, report for October 2023

### Marsh Highways

It is challenging times trying to keep our Marsh road surfaces safe...but I have had some good news this week from my Highways Manager...

***"I am pleased to inform you that additional 'Pot hole blitz' funding has been obtained, from which the local Operational highway team will look to direct this funding towards problem areas within the Marsh."***

I have had some concerning reports from residents, from all over the Marsh...I had this photo sent in showing the damage to Harden Road Lydd. This road is critical as it is used by Dungeness station 'A' traffic. My highways team have told me that it is due to be 'micro surfaced' in October.



Another resident emailed me about 'Badger damage' at Brack Lane over at Brookland. He invited me to a site visit with my 'Highways Steward'...and yes there is a problem a lot of 'tunnelling' under the tarmac.



As I say every month, below is the link to report 'potholes' online. We must continue to report dangerous potholes, the more complaints we log the more chance of getting them fixed.

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

## **RNLI - Dungeness Lifeboat**



As Kent County Council member for Romney Marsh, I had the great pleasure to be invited to the annual 'Blessing of the Lifeboat'. To celebrate the great work that 'The Morrel' does, and recognition of her crew's achievements over the last year. The first speech from Jason Adams as coxswain, was inspiring. The service was conducted by the Reverend Chris Hodkins Vicar of the Romney Marsh Benefice and Chaplain to the Dungeness Lifeboat. The service was very moving for all that attended.

## **Sea Defences - Dymchurch**



I had concerns raised with me by residents concerned over the damage to the Dymchurch sea wall. So, I organised a site visit, joined by Jennie Hawkins KCC member for Hythe West and some concerned Dymchurch Councillors. The EA officer agreed that this damage will be fixed before the winter storms. When repaired I will do a follow up inspection.

## **Water Quality – St Marys Bay**

I monitor the governments web site weekly to see the results of that week's water sampling, to check the bathing water quality at St Marys Bay, classified as poor last year. This year looking much better - with less than 500 colonies or CFU per 100ml required to achieve a higher ranking for next year. I will be contacting the Environment Agency in November, when they will publish the classification for next year.

## **NHS**

No more news at the moment on our new 'Primary Care' unit in New Romney to serve the whole Marsh, hopefully more news next month.

## Fly Tipping



We must crack down on this scourge of fly tipping (photo of dumped rubbish at Swamp Road)

I'm working with Alan Martin ward member for Walland & Dengemarsh ward at Folkestone & Hythe District Council to find solutions.

I will be pressing the Police to take stronger action on this blight to our Romney Marsh.

## Buses

Many residents are concerned over Stagecoach cutting evening buses from Folkstone to Romney Marsh late evening. We have a shrinking service which I raise at County with my bus officers to see how services can be retained and improved.

## Dungeness



We continue to press and lobby government for a new SMR at Dungeness to be a home for a Small Modular Nuclear Reactor. KCC is working hard with local organisations for Dungeness to be among the first in the country to get a SMR.

Our location is perfect as we have Highly trained local staff, grid connections and space.

## 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.

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