



Tony Hills KCC member for the Romney Marsh Division Report November 2024

It's that time of year...



When we commemorate the sacrifice made by so many to protect the country they loved. I grew up hearing about the air war over Kent... 'Reach for the Sky' on TV Sunday afternoons.

A few years ago, I noticed people had built

a memorial at Dungeness to two young Polish pilots who died defending freedom and this country in Kent's arial second world war. I believe its our duty to keep these memories alive.

Water quality

I had a meeting with the EA to discuss the current system of water quality assessment, I don't think it is fit for purpose, I have asked that its performance be reassessed. We are waiting on the decision from the EA (normally in December) on what beaches they will recommend for bathing or not in 2025. The algorithm that the EA use, cannot, as I see it be challenged.

The other point I raised again was the funding for the EA, we need more investment in water quality and water management. As I have already said. I don't think the

testing regime has enough urgency in finding what causes the poor water quality samples for our coastal waters.

Flooding concerns

As Spain has sadly found out flooding can just happen...

“Intense rainfall in eastern Spain produced deadly and destructive flash floods in the province of Valencia. On October 29, 2024, more than 300 millimetres (12 inches) of rain fell in parts of the province, reported Spain’s meteorological agency, AEMET.”

This tragedy has cost hundreds of lives, climate change has increased the severity of weather events, so we must be aware that this could happen anywhere.

I have put in motion a ‘bid’ to my regional flood committee for funding to do a detailed study on how we can manage ground water and surface water to protect Romney Marsh into the future.

Supporting the Romney Marsh Community Hub
This is a membership service for people living on the Romney Marsh to access medical appointments at their GP surgeries or local hospitals. The vehicle is fully accessible and has seating for 5 people plus one wheelchair.

How much does it cost:
All users must be members and the annual membership cost is £20.00
All return journeys from the member's home to a GP appointment is £5.00
All return journeys from the member's home to William Harvey Hospital or Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone is £10.00
All return journeys from the member's home to Dover Hospital or Canterbury Hospital is £15.00

The transport can be booked for non medical journeys (medical appointments will take priority).
For non medical journeys the costs charged will be as follows:
Each journey will be charged at £2.00 plus £1 for each mile travelled.
All bookings must be made at least 24 hours in advance.
Please email marshbee@rmch.org.uk for a membership form.

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Marsh Transport

Great news

the Marsh Bee is up and running...

We need to make this a success...so remember use or lose it.

The announcement at the budget to increase National Insurance, lowering the threshold for when it commences puts small business and charities at risk with the cutbacks in support from County, who in their turn are under great financial pressure. We the Marsh community needs to support the Romney Marsh Community Hub.

Highways

The government in the recent budget declared more funding to fix 'potholes' great news. I don't know the details yet, but when I find out what Kents share will be I will let you know.

Many roads across the Marsh are closed for badger repairs as they have been undermined by the badgers. These roads historically are higher than the surrounding farmland. Badgers love burrowing into the earth banks causing the roads to become unstable.

But in the meantime, 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>

I mentioned last month that down the coast at Greatstone and Lade the Southern Gas Networks are putting in a new gas main these works are proceeding under 'traffic lights' making good progress. So far so good we have managed to keep this road open.

This shows the importance of working together.

The European 'Entry Exit Scheme'

Due to various EU member states not being ready for November 10th implementation, the whole programme has been postponed till next year!

Tony

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