

**Monthly Report – Councillor David Wimble**  
*Cabinet Member for the Environment, Kent County Council*  
**June 2025**

As I complete my first six weeks in post, the initial period of getting to grips with the inner workings of our departments has now made way for the reality of the role – and the workload that comes with it.

I have now settled into a steady and productive rhythm, with a diary consisting of around eight meetings a week, in addition to a range of site visits and local duties. These visits have included everything from inspecting our household waste transfer stations to exploring the fantastic green assets within our county, such as the country parks network – all vital components in our environmental infrastructure.

One particularly eye-opening moment came recently when I was informed I would be chairing a key meeting on the *Kent & Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy*. Alongside the invitation came a briefing pack – a rather daunting 148 pages, which could well serve as a cure for insomnia! Nevertheless, I am pleased to report that the meeting was a success. Constructive engagement from the 25 attendees helped move the conversation forward, and the outcome is now progressing toward formal policy adoption.

In parallel with this strategic work, I have been working closely with local members, particularly in relation to Romney Marsh. One major focus has been shaping our emerging county-wide policy on solar farms. This has included extensive consultation and the development of a **Kent Solar Forum**, which is now in its final stages of formation. Importantly, this forum will include a specific clause opposing the deployment of **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)**, due to the serious fire safety concerns they present.

To that end, I have been in direct discussions with **Kent Fire & Rescue Service** about the risks posed by these systems. The challenges of emergency access to remote locations, often where such installations are proposed, cannot be overstated. Their input is shaping our approach and will ensure public safety remains paramount in all related planning discussions.

In terms of communications and media engagement, I have taken an active role in speaking publicly about our evolving environmental stance. I have represented the council's views on **BBC1, BBC South East Today, BBC Radio Kent, LBC, and Capital Radio**, where I discussed our plans to **scrap the Net Zero commitment** in favour of a more pragmatic and deliverable **best practice policy**. This approach, grounded in reality rather than rhetoric, will still prioritise environmental stewardship but ensure Kent leads by example in sustainable action, not hollow promises.

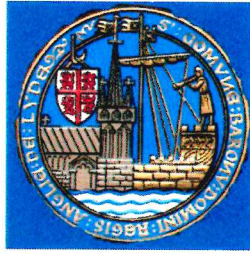
As ever, I remain committed to putting local people first, ensuring environmental policy reflects the needs and voices of Kent's diverse communities – from urban hubs to rural landscapes.

David Wimble  
*KCC Councillor for Romney Marsh*  
*Cabinet Member for Environment*

Kind Regards

David Wimble Cabinet Member for (the Kent) Environment

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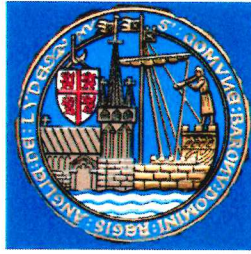


## **CIVIC AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS 2025-2026**

### **June 2025**

**The Worshipful The Town Mayor**  
**Cllr Bob Jones**

<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Lydd – Mayors Sunday and Lydd Club Day United Service</b>	<b>TS</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Lydd – Club Day and Luncheon</b>	<b>TS</b>
<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>New Romney – Mayors Civic Service</b>	<b>TS</b>
<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Bishop of Dover – Summer Drinks Reception</b>	



## **CIVIC AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS 2025-2026**

### **May 2025**

**The Worshipful The Town Mayor**  
**Cllr Bob Jones**

<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Lydd – VE 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b>	<b>TS</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Lydd – 1<sup>st</sup> Lydd Scouts Fun day</b>	
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Hastings – Confederation of Cinque Ports Mayor and Town Clerk</b>	