

## Downswood Parish Council Meeting – 22nd May 2024

### Borough Councillor's Report – Cllr Val Springett

As this is my first report to Downswood Parish Council as one of your new borough councillors, I thought a brief background about me might be helpful for those who do not know me.

Myself and my family have lived in north Bearsted since 1999. Prior to retiring from my career in aviation, I was part of the campaign to stop the KIG development near junction 8. That inspired me to become involved in local matters and I have now been a borough councillor representing Bearsted ward since 2011.

I was co-opted to Bearsted Parish council in February 2022 to assist in their reorganisation following a period of turmoil and was one of three borough councillors placed on Detling parish council in October 2023 to assist the parish council as it was not quorate at the time. I remain on Bearsted but did not stand for election again at Detling due to frequent meeting clashes which was proving difficult.

As a Bearsted Parish councillor I have set up the Coordinated Parishes Traffic Group, which you may have heard of. This brings together eight local parish councils to work together and meet with KCC Highways to try to resolve some of the traffic issues that affect our area, both urban and rural roads.

I therefore have a fairly extensive knowledge of both Borough and parish matters, which I hope will enable me to assist Downswood Parish Council where appropriate.

As regards Borough matters affecting Downswood, there is little to report this month, as elections dominated and there were few meetings at MBC.

However, the issue of missed refuse collections has caused a lot of upset to residents across the borough following the change from Biffa to Suez as the contractor. I am hopeful that the majority of the issues have now been resolved and that the system is starting to work as it should. There are still a few small pockets where collections are still not being made when they should and so, please feel free to contact me if you are one of the residents still being affected.

My MBC email is [valspringett@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:valspringett@maidstone.gov.uk) and my phone number is 01622 737702

I look forward to working with Downswood Parish Council.

*Val*