

Downswood Parish Council Meeting – 11th June 2024

Borough Councillor's Report – Cllr Val Springett

With no meetings at MBC apart from the initial ones to determine chairs and vice-chairs for each committee, there is not much to report. There has been no information from the new Leader of MBC or his Cabinet on what they are doing, but with an election looming I suspect their minds are on other matters! Some scheduled meetings have now been delayed due to the election.

Of the issues affecting residents that I have been made aware of, almost all relate to the ongoing disruption to bin collections. It was hoped that matters would have settled by now but we are still seeing an unacceptable number of missed collections, and to say all councillors are becoming exasperated is an understatement.

I have personally visited the depot to look at the Bearsted and Downswood areas and have hopefully got some of the repeated missed bins sorted out now. Can residents continue to report their missed bins online, or if that does not work, let one of us borough councillors know and we will report them.

We received an email on Wednesday from Kent Highways announcing a further delay to the A249 widening works by the Vinters Park crematorium. To say this is frustrating is an understatement and I am actively pursuing this via KCC councillors.

I have received a response from our community PC regarding my proposal to set up a shared speed watch team across the eight parish councils in the Coordinated Parishes Traffic Group. He is making enquiries to see if that is possible and will respond back to me when he has an answer.

The CPTG will be having its first meeting with our KCC Highways officer on 11th June regarding speed limits and weight limits on rural lanes and I will report back on the outcome at your next meeting.