

District Councillor report Sellindge June 2023

Thank you for re-electing me as your District Councillor. I am grateful for the support of those who have voted for me and especially those who have helped with the campaign. North Downs West covers many villages and many houses are tucked away in the countryside which makes reaching every house a challenge but it's one I always think worth the effort. I would also like to thank my colleague Susan Carey for her support, friendship and help over the last 24 years which has covered many changes in parish boundaries. Susan did not stand again for election to District Council but as she is our KCC Councillor we will continue to work together for the benefit of our residents.

Elaine Martin from the Green Party was the other candidate returned in our ward. Overall the results were Green 11, Labour 8, Labour & Co-operative 2, Conservative 5, Liberal Democrats 2, Independent 2. The Annual Meeting of the council is on 24 May at which a Leader will be elected and appointments made to committees. I wish the new council all the best in delivering our local services and balancing our finances at what is a challenging time for everyone in local government.

I am likely to continue to serve on the Planning Committee and be Leader of the Conservative Group. However you voted you should feel free to contact me for help with District Council matters and I will continue to help.

I'm sure you'll be as pleased as I was to learn that enforcement action by district councils was up and flytipping was down across Kent in 2020/21. The figures are in the annual report of the Kent Resource Partnership. As well as the flytipping information, the report includes data on the amount of waste collected, how much is recycled and where it goes to. You'll find it here:
https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/130596/Kent-resource-partnership-annual-report-2020-21.pdf

A recent example of enforcement action in our district was against Lee Nelson from Folkestone who sold waste disposal services on Facebook and then fly-tipped the rubbish. The fly-tipping was found on 15 March and Nelson was quickly identified as being responsible. He pleaded guilty in court on 12 April and his penalty was £950.

(Anyone using a private contractor should check they hold a trade waste licence and ask to be given a trade waste notice for the waste collected or they too could find themselves fined.) The District Council offers a bulky waste collection service from just £35 (Lee Nelson charged £90!) or you can take the waste to a Household Waste Recycling Centre yourself at no charge.

It was heart-warming to see so many people come together to celebrate the coronation of King Charles. Let's hope this joyful occasion will set the tone for the rest of his reign.

Jenny Hollingsbee Folkestone & Hythe District Councillor