

Report for Sellindge Parish Council 14 May 2024

A reminder that Kent Together on the KCC website brings together help for those in Kent who are struggling with finances, mental health problems or both. For those without internet access there is a phone line 03000 41 92 92. Kent Together's helpline does not provide financial advice but it directs people to services that do so. There's help available with energy costs, clothes, food, furniture, advice on childcare, housing, bereavement support transport costs and more.

I have no further updates on the situation with Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children arriving in Kent but the matter is unresolved over how these under 18 year olds are cared for by other local authorities so that this does not fall so heavily on Kent.

Lobbying of the Government continues on making the EU's Entry and Exit System (EES) work smoothly. It has been rumoured that the 06 October implementation date may be postponed but this has not been confirmed. It is of particular concern to our part of Kent that the new biometric checks do not cause delays that disrupt our local road network.

Congratulations to Matthew Scott who was elected for his third term of office as Kent's Police & Crime Commissioner on 02 May. The turnout was just 20.22% but as the election covered the whole of Kent and Medway this was 273,278 voters. Matthew Scott (Conservative) 120,491 (44.1%), Lenny Rolles (Labour) 92,508 and Graham Colley (Liberal Democrats) 60,279. I've known Matthew since before he was first elected and like his calm competence. Watch out for his regular surveys among Kent residents for their priorities for Kent Police.

Susan Carey, Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council