

Downswood Parish Council Meeting – 3rd February 2026

Borough Councillor's Report – Cllr Val Springett

MBC has received national recognition for its use of drones to investigate fly tipping incidents. Residents are asked to report all fly tipping they find online.

I have raised concerns expressed by dog walkers who use Mote Park, on the removal of small waste bins. I think this is a backwards step, but this has been done to prevent smaller bins from over-flowing at busy times and staff resources being used to empty them more frequently. Unfortunately, MBC is unlikely to reverse this decision, which is disappointing.

I have asked if the Bearsted Speedwatch team could undertake a Speedwatch session in Church Road, whilst Downswood is trying to establish its own team. They are happy to do this but need to wait for a location for the Speedwatch to be approved by the police.

At JTB I asked if the money due from developers to fund improvements to the junction between Willington Street and the Sutton Road could be diverted to pay for the A20 /Willington Street junction. The former is not now going ahead as councillors did not approve the proposed changes, whereas improvements to the A20 junction are designed and ready to go, but lack funding. Although the proposed improvements are relatively minor, and, in my opinion, will not make a very noticeable difference to queues along the A20 at the Willington street lights, once done, the only other improvement KCC can do will be to consider the Leeds/Langley relief road! I live in hope!

I continue to assist residents where I can with various issues such as housing, planning and parking. The Government is introducing legislation to permit KCC to introduce restrictions on pavement parking, which inconveniences pedestrians, and I am hopeful that ward councillors will be involved in deciding which roads suffer from nuisance pavement parking and are suitable for restrictions to be introduced.