

## **Downswood Parish Council meeting 3rd March 2026**

### **Borough councillor's report. Cllr Val Springett**

The MBC budget for next year has been approved at Full Council. Despite attempts to get the money reinstated to research the potential route for the Leeds Langley Relief Road (LLRR), this was rejected, which is very disappointing. The congestion we see everyday on local roads disrupts the lives of our residents, and with yet more housing being forced upon us, the situation needs more than just minor junction modifications to make a noticeable difference.

I understand from a comment made at Full Council by the Cabinet member for Planning that the ruling administration is finally going to commence the call for sites, which starts the process of reviewing our local plan. This is a process the borough council must follow, and the time-scale to get it done is very tight, and so I do hope they start it soon.

I am pleased to see that residents can now recycle Tetra pacs via their household recycling. This is excellent news as we use so many of them in our everyday lives. It is mentioned in the Borough Insight magazine recently distributed but it would be appreciated if the parish council could publicise this on their website too for those that may have missed it.

Cllr Spooner has covered Local Government reorganisation.

Kent Police are holding a series of community surgeries on Saturday 18th April, for residents to visit to discuss any local concerns. PC James Phillips and PCSO Boyd will be at the Stoneacre play area in Otham between 1pm and 2pm and then at Bearsted Green between 3pm and 4pm.

I have not been contacted by any Downswood residents for assistance with any matters.