DDC Annual Report- Cllr Martin Hibbert

Post pandemic recovery at District level is now moving at pace albeit the current world circumstances and cost of living crisis still impacts on what can be done. A total of £780,000, funding has been made to help communities and residents with the cost of living. How to access this help and support can be found on the DDC website as well as a full range of other support services. To keep up to date simply register on the DDC Keep Me Posted site and get news and alerts by email direct.

The DDC current programme of work is focused on local issues, local actions delivering not only for Dover and Deal but also for villages. Investing in the Port Dover by being granted £43 million of levelling up funding to use on new port control infrastructures to help keep Dover moving and stop clogging up our local roads. As well as seeking alternatives to TAP and pushing for improvements to the M2/A2, M20/A20.

Other important DDC actions this year have included the protecting of our environment and heritage. Cutting in house emissions by 50%, upgrading of street lighting to energy saving LEDs. Supporting the Keep Britain Tidy campaign, where it won the Great British Spring Clean Award. Arranging local Litter Picks supported and organised by the new Community Roots van and team. The team also deliver a full range of community services direct to you, so make your bids early as this new service is becoming extremely popular. Good to note that Capel have already availed themselves of this service, coinciding visits with their regular tuesday Market Days.

DDC is also delivering an ambitious programme to add five hundred new affordable council homes for people in need across the district, as well as shared ownership starter homes. The recent housing needs survey 2023 has now closed. The Strategic Housing Team will now start to analyse the responses and make a report.

One of the best bits of news that benefits all is that DDC set the lowest council tax in East Kent, as well being committed to maintain quality services for residents. Maintaining a full range of core services and support for communities. The budget includes provision for £1 million to be drawn from strategic reserves, helping to provide key services to support households. A decision was also made to provide more help to residents through an extension of the Council Tax Support Scheme, effective from the 1st of April. Also, all Councillors voted to keep their personal allowances at last year’s level!

Finally, it is worth noting that DDC Cabinet members work hard on their assigned portfolios and provide regular detailed reports back to Councillors. I will continue to post out information from these reports where relevant to the ward.

Many thanks

Cllr Martin Hibbert

Alkham & Capel Le Ferne Ward