

Chairman's Update

Mr Graham Gibbens: June 2020

Introduction

For me, June has been a month of firsts, and it will be a month that lives in my memory for quite some time I imagine. As Covid-19 continues to hamper events and meetings at County Hall, our officers are working hard to provide virtual solutions to the challenges of democracy in lockdown. I have to say that I have been really impressed with our officers and their ability to keep the business of Council running in these difficult times.

17 June – Annual Council Meeting



On 17 June we held our first ever virtual Annual County Council Meeting, where we held our first ever virtual election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and I have the honour of being the first Chairman elected during a virtual meeting.

Mr Michael Northey, was elected Vice-Chairman and you can [watch the meeting](#) via the Kent County Council website.

I also hosted the first ever virtual County Council lunch, where several Members, Honorary Aldermen and officers joined me for a virtual lunch. We were also joined by Jo Skelton from Porchlight, my charity for the year, who spoke to those present about the charity.



22 June – Armed Forces Flag Raising

To mark the start of Armed Forces Week, I was delighted to host a virtual Flag raising Ceremony. With words of support from the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, the KCC's Armed Forces Champion and KCC's Civilian Military Partnership Liaison, as well as contributions from many of Kent's Armed Forces Units, I am really proud that we were able to host the event to honour and support the Armed Forces.

If you are interested in seeing the [full recording](#) of the event you can watch it via the [Armed Forces Celebratory and Commemorative Events](#) page on the KCC website.

25 June – Canterbury & District Early Years Project



On 25 June, I went along to support the [Canterbury and District Early Years Project](#) Car Park Sale to help raise funds to support the project in these difficult times. All done very well and set out according to government guidelines, and they raised £105 from the morning. It was great to be able to help support this local project.