

## **A Message from your County Councillor - May 2015**

May I start this month's report by thanking all those who voted in the Elections just 10 short days ago, it already feels much longer. Although I always try to keep these reports non political I must especially thank those of you who voted to return two Conservative M.P.'s, Gordon Henderson for Sittingbourne and Sheppey which covers the Teynham and Lynsted and Murston Borough Wards and Helen Whatley for Faversham & Mid Kent covering the Boughton & Courtenay and East Downs Wards. The area which comprises the Swale East County Division will also be represented by seven Swale Borough Councillors, six of them Conservative.

I really enjoy Election time. With less Committee meetings I am able to spend more time out on the streets meeting and talking to residents. As well as getting to every address in my own Borough Ward of Boughton & Courtenay at least twice I also, as Conservative Group Leader, canvassed in many other areas. Within the Swale East Division these included Conyer in Teynham & Lynsted Ward, Painters Forstal in East Downs Ward and East Hall in Murston.

Under proposals just released by the Boundary Commission the Swale East County Division which I currently represent stands to be carved up before the next County Elections in May 2017. The villages which comprise Boughton & Courtenay and East Downs Borough Wards are proposed to join with the Eastern half of Faversham Town to form a new Swale East Division. Those villages currently within Teynham & Lynsted Ward would join with the villages of West Downs and the rest of Faversham Town to form a new Division to be known as Mid Swale. Murston meanwhile would become part of a Sittingbourne North Division. All residents as well as Parish Councils are encouraged to respond to these proposals.

This week Swale Borough Council will hold its annual meeting to elect a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor and the Leader of the Council. Following these elections the Members of the Cabinet will be appointed and Councillors will be allocated Committees and representational roles on outside bodies. With 18 new Councillors only two of whom have served before there will be a lot of training as well as a settling in period. I wish all of those elected in May the best of luck and hope they find the role of serving their residents as fulfilling as I have done

*Andrew Bowles*