



An update from your local and vocal Independent Councillor:

Cllr. Michael Pearce

**Standing up for Chattenden, High Halstow and Hoo
Defending our beautiful Hoo Peninsula!**

Working for residents - an update on some of what I've been doing:

May 2025 - Supported Hoo & Chattenden Parish Council with their VEDay80 beacon lighting event, including providing and managing the sound system to play God Save The King. This event commemorated the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (WW2).

May 2025 - Organised and hosted the first Hoo Peninsula Bus Watch meeting at Hoo Village Hall - securing improvements from Arriva Buses, including: new timetable boards and earlier buses (including at Hoo Marina and St. John's Road). I also welcomed a trial 192 bus route (linking Allhallows to Chatham, via Medway Tunnel).

June 2025 - Submitted representations objecting to Homes England's consultations concerning its proposals to build 500 houses on the former Chattenden Barracks site. A planning application is expected to be submitted soon. Nightingales are present on the development site.

June 2025 - Helped establish the Alliance of Hoo Peninsula Parishes (AHPP) with Ward Councillor colleagues. This is a group of Parish Councils working together to tackle issues such as housing development and pressures on services. I was recently elected Secretary of the organisation.

June 2025 - Organised, paid for (from Ward Improvement Fund) and collected twenty-five swift boxes created by local volunteers at charitable organisation The Octopus Foundation, based at Medway City Estate. I distributed these swift

boxes to local residents to erect on their properties to help our local swift population.

July 2025 - Successfully requested for Royal Mail to repaint the post boxes across the Hoo Peninsula, including: Chattenden, Hoo, High Halstow, Stoke, St. Mary Hoo, Allhallows and Grain. They are supposed to be repainted every three years, but hadn't been locally.

July 2025 - Supported and submitted Stoke Parish Council's Save The Lower Stoke Car Park petition (over 1,300 signatures) to Medway Council, who want to dispose of the car park (possibly for development) despite significant opposition from local residents. I'm working with the Parish Council to acquire the site for the community.

July 2025 - Attended and supported the excellent Grain Fete & Carnival. Well done to all the hardworking volunteers, especially Gain Fete Committee. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

August 2025 - Read the proposals and helped unite the Hoo Peninsula to defend our rural community from Labour's Local Plan - to build thousands of houses on our green and pleasant land.

August 2025 - Drafted and submitted hundreds of pages and tens of thousands of words to Medway Council's Local Plan (development blueprint) Regulation 19 Consultation, objecting to and scrutinising the plans. The representations I submitted included those from The Independent Group

(TIG), Alliance of Hoo Peninsula Parishes (AHPP) and The Save The Hoo Peninsula Campaign (STHP), which I lead.

August 2025 - Successfully lobbied Medway Council to resurface Bells Lane/Dux Court Road Roundabout. The road was finally resurfaced after several representations to Council Officers. The road had not been properly resurfaced for decades and was becoming incredibly dangerous.

August 2025 - After carrying out my own Nightingale survey of Deangate Ridge, the Kent Ornithological Society released their latest Nightingale Survey figures for the county of Kent. This showed a significant increase in Nightingale territories on the Hoo Peninsula between 2012 and 2023. Lodge Hill in particular increased from 80 to over 140 singing males!

August 2025 - Back in April I promised residents to investigate whether Medway Council's "Medway Matters Live" event in Hoo was a misuse of public funds. I concluded my investigation, which included discovering the Council had spent thousands of taxpayers' money on this event. I subsequently submitted a formal complaint to the Monitoring Officer.

August 2025 - I attended High Halstow & District Gardening Club's Annual Show and judged the Photographic Section. Well done to the hardworking volunteers who organise the show, and especially well done to all the exhibitors. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Email: michael.pearce@medway.gov.uk or Phone: 07919 693095