



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 2023 - Elected as one of three Independent Councillors in Hoo & High Halstow Ward on Medway Council, joining The Independent Group - the group now has five members. Also in May 2023, I helped with the Hoo & Chattenden King's Coronation celebrations, including the planning/installation of a flag pole in the centre of Hoo.

July 2023 - After scrutinising the proposals and submitting several representations to Homes England, the Government pulled the plug on Medway Council's £170m Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) Project, designed to enable the building of around 12,000 houses on the Hoo Peninsula.

August 2023 - Helped convince decision-makers at Medway Council not to build hundreds of houses on Deangate Ridge. The site is now safe from being destroyed and will instead become a country park.

October 2023 - Tabled a motion at Medway Council and achieved unanimous support for the East Coast Wetlands proposal to become a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site. This would include wetlands and marshlands around the Hoo Peninsula.

January 2024 - Launched a successful petition (with over 30,000 signatures) to save the Hoo Peninsula's Nightingales at Lodge Hill - under threat from housing development proposals by Esquire Developments. Medway Council refused the planning application, but the developer appealed the decision,

and the Planning Inspector dismissed that appeal in March 2024. Victory!

April 2024 - Launched a campaign and petition to protect a dozen historic English oak trees behind Knight's Road and Aveling Close in Hoo. The Save Hoo's Oak Trees petition has attracted over 56,000 signatures and counting. This campaign has gained local and regional media attention - emphasising the poor treatment of English oaks around the country.

July 2024 - Re-launched the Save The Hoo Peninsula Campaign, to protect internationally important habitat sites and top-grade productive farmland of the beautiful Hoo Peninsula. This campaign will scrutinise and respond to Medway Council's new Local Plan when published later this month.

September 2024 - Helped organise the two-day Hoo Peninsula Heritage Festival and Aveling 200 event. A huge undertaking and the biggest community event held on the Hoo Peninsula in recent history. This festival celebrated the 200th anniversary of the birth of pioneering Victorian engineer Thomas Aveling, who is laid to rest at St. Werburgh Church.

October 2024 - Campaigned and delivered a leaflet for a YES vote in the Hoo & Chattenden Neighbourhood Plan Referendum. Thanks to the hard work of local volunteers over six years, the villages of Hoo and Chattenden now have a Neighbourhood Plan. This plan should protect the community from unsustainable development,

particularly within the Chattenden Valley area - separating the villages of Hoo and Chattenden.

February 2025 - Following public backlash and embarrassment, I forced the Labour administration at Medway Council to U-turn on their proposals to give all Medway Councillors discounts at Medway Council sports centres. To add insult to injury, Labour cut free swimming for children and pensioners last year - a move I passionately opposed.

February 2025 - Lobbied Medway Council to fix the potholes on, and resurface, Peninsula Way (from Main Road Roundabout to Ropers Lane Roundabout). Officials have now confirmed that Peninsula Way is on the schedule of planned resurfacing works for the current financial year (2025/26).

April 2025 - Launched my own Nightingale Walks on the Hoo Peninsula, giving residents an opportunity to hear our wonderful Nightingales up close. Six walks were organised, four at High Halstow National Nature Reserve and two at Deangate Ridge Country Park. Over a dozen Nightingales were heard on most walks, securing the protection of our green spaces.

May 2025 - Launched a campaign and petition to protect five historic English oak trees along Christmas Lane in High Halstow. These beautiful trees are under threat from house-builder Redrow and its plans to build a new cycleway/footway. The petition has attracted over 3,000 signatures and counting.

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