

## **HALLING ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 27 APRIL 2010 -**

### **Update report from Councillor Ray Maisey**

Once again it has been a busy year for Halling and for Medway and here is an overview of what has happened since my report last year.

The regeneration of Medway is continuing, with work beginning on the new bus station in Chatham. Rochester Riverside continues and the redevelopment of Medway Park has been completed, transforming it into a regional centre of sporting excellence.

Medway has recently hosted its first international sporting event, with the Modern Pentathlon World Cup taking place at Medway Park, and Medway is well placed to benefit from the Olympic Games in 2012 as a training venue. Already the Portuguese gymnastics and trampolining team and the Paralympics Association of Barbados have signed up to train here.

Medway Council has recently set its budget for the year, which includes a number of new proposals to help residents: new allotments, more youth facilities, disabled bays, made companion passes free. (bus passes for those travelling with old/disabled). We have yet again maintained the lowest council tax in Kent, which is around £130 less than the average in the area.

To encourage more people to visit our high streets, the council have frozen car parking charges once again and, as last year, there will be free parking on the run up to Christmas.

The severe winter weather conditions has been very hard on our roads and the council will be spending £320,000 to repair the damage in the coming months.

There are also proposals to improve our green spaces and parks in Medway, with funds being set aside to further develop the foreshore at Grain into a Coastal Country Park. Plans are also being put together to hold a new Festival of Sport as well as to expand the traditional English event, which was held for the first time last year.

In 2009, Medway had the honour of hosting the first ever National Armed Forces Day, which attracted 30,000 people to Chatham. This year the council is supporting the four Cadet Forces to celebrate their 150th anniversary with a parade through Rochester high street and a Cathedral service on Saturday 8th May.

The council has recently agreed its new waste contract that will start in September and we have made sure that the weekly bin collection will continue.

In Halling I have introduced Drop Kerbs for the disabled in the High Street, installed another Salt Bin in Stake Lane and paid for 2 grass cuts for Halling Cemetery. That ends my report.