

News from
**Marden
Parish Council**



Spring 2019



www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

Letter from the Chairman of the Parish Council



Dear resident

Happy New Year! Hopefully the cold winter weather has passed and Spring is now in the air.

The Winter months are a very busy time for the Parish Council. We once again held a very successful Marden at Christmas event in December and I hope that all residents who attended enjoyed the day.

December and January are also the months when we have to set our budget for the following financial year. Your councillors and Ali, our Clerk, spent many hours reviewing our finances and have agreed the budget for the forthcoming year, you will find more information about this later in the newsletter.

We said good-bye to Erika Lock, our Assistant Clerk at the end of January. Erika had decided it was time to take a well-earned retirement and we wish her well for the future, she will be missed by all of us. Erika's departure means that we now have a vacancy in the Parish Office for a Deputy

Clerk, see the advert on page 5. We are in interesting and challenging times and this role will give the right candidate the opportunity to get fully involved in the work of the Parish Council. If you think you have the skills we are looking for please contact Ali for more information.

Finally welcome to all new Marden residents. If you have not received a welcome pack please contact Ali in the Parish Office, details on the back page.

Warm regards

Kate

Kate



Maidstone Local Plan Review

There is a lot of speculation within the village about a specific site that may be put forward for development in the future. Until this, or any site, is put forward to Maidstone Borough Council for the Local Plan Review we are unable to comment further. To date, no planning application has been submitted.

Maidstone Borough Council has just issued this notice about the Local Plan Review: *“Maidstone Borough Council is starting its Local Plan Review, following the adoption of the Maidstone Borough Local Plan in 2017. An important early step in the process is a ‘Call for Sites’.*

The Call for Sites is an open request for information about land and sites which may have development potential in the future. It is particularly aimed at landowners, developers and their agents but it is open to anyone to submit a site. A key proviso is that the person submitting the site can confirm that the landowner is willing to make the land available for development should it prove suitable. We are asking for information about land which could be suitable for the following uses;

- *Housing, including specialist housing such as housing for the elderly*
- *Employment uses – offices, research & development, industrial uses and storage & distribution*
- *Retail*
- *Leisure eg hotels, gyms, cinemas*
- *Gypsy & Traveller/Travelling Showpeople accommodation*
- *Nursing and care homes*

Importantly, submitting a site through the Call for Sites does not mean that it will prove suitable for inclusion in the Local Plan Review or that it will get planning permission in the future. Its important purpose is to give the council a starting list of candidate sites to consider.

More information about the Call for Sites is available through the following link on the council’s website

<https://maidstone.gov.uk/callforsites>

We have prepared an information pack which provides supporting information, including a dedicated New Garden Communities Prospectus as guidance for those wishing to promote large scale new neighbourhoods or settlements. The dedicated submission form available on the website will give us the information we need to assess the site. The Call for Sites will open on Thursday 28th February 2019. The deadline for submitting sites is 5pm Friday 24th May 2019.

Once the deadline has passed, we will spend time comprehensively assessing the planning merits of the submitted sites. In due course the outcomes of the assessment will be compiled into a single report called a Strategic Land Availability Assessment which will be one of the evidence documents underpinning the Local Plan Review.

The current timetable sees the first public consultation on the evolving Local Plan Review document taking places in July-August 2019 with further consultations following in 2020 before the Local Plan Review is submitted for Examination in 2021.”

Marden Parish Council is committed to ensuring residents are kept informed when information about sites becomes available. Once we have definite information from the Call for Sites process we will help facilitate the consultation process with residents which will be in Summer 2019.

If you have any queries please email the Parish Office at clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council Finances

We have undertaken a thorough review of our financial situation and have concluded that we need to very slightly increase the amount of money we can collect from residents to be

spent in Marden. The Parish Council always strives to be prudent and diligent with our finances. The Precept is collected by Maidstone Borough Council on our behalf as part of the Council Tax and we will make every effort to maintain the existing level of service as well as staying on a sustainable financial footing. This means that a Band D tax payer will pay £74.57 per annum or £6.21 per month which is an increase of 15p per month.

As part of reducing our costs last year we decided to decrease the number of editions of the Parish Newsletter from 4 to 3 per year. As you know, serving the community and engaging with residents are two of the Parish Council's main objectives. We are committed to communicating effectively with you and strive to keep you up-to-date with all that's going on. However, we would like to know if you have any ideas or thoughts about what you would like to hear about in the Newsletter or on our Facebook page.

Parking Update

In the last Newsletter, we updated you on progress towards changing some of the parking restrictions in the village, in response to what you told us in the 2016 questionnaire and the parking consultation in February 2018. We have been working with Kent Highways and Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) and can now announce what the changes will look like.

The main aspect you were concerned about is the lack of visibility at the top of Pattenden Lane due to parked cars and it is planned to install double yellow lines, from the junction with West End/Church Green to 2 Coronation Villas on the east side and to Sovereigns Way junction on the west side. It is also planned to add a single yellow half-hour parking restriction, 11.00am-11.30am in Sutton Forge and Albion Road from the High Street to Roundel Way, with double yellow lines around the Sutton Forge/Albion Road junction. Additionally, there

are some changes to the existing no parking restriction times. All times are being standardised to either 11am-11.30am or 1.30pm-2pm as set out below:

Proposed New Single Yellow Line Restriction

Chantry Road – extend current 1.30pm -2.00pm Monday to Friday parking restriction to junction with Maynards

Current Single Yellow Line Restriction Time 9.30am-10am - Change to 1.30pm-2pm Monday to Friday Church Green

Current Single Yellow Line Restriction Time 9.30am-10am – Change to 11.00am-11.30am Monday to Friday

Sovereigns Way to Lucks Way and West End

Current Single Yellow Line Restriction Time 10.30am-11.00am – Change to 1.30pm-2.00pm

Church Green/High Street from Medical Centre / Station Approach to Old Market both sides

Current Single Yellow Line Restriction Time 10.30am-11.00am – Proposed Change to 11.00am-11.30am

High Street, Old Market to Maidstone Road

Public notices will be displayed by MBC around the village and in local newspapers.

As this is a formal consultation, everything you have told us in the past will not be taken into consideration, so it is very important that if you agree with the changes, you send your comments to The Parking Services Manager, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone ME15 6 JQ by 12noon on Monday 25th March 2019 (quoting reference "Waiting Restrictions Street Parking Places Variation No.22 Order 2019)

Providing there are very few objections, the new parking restrictions should be in place by the Summer. If there are objections, this could delay or even cancel the scheme and we may not have another opportunity to make the changes you have asked for, for a long time.

In addition a separate parking restriction will come into force soon outside the School on the yellow zig zags. No parking will be permitted from 8.00am to 9.00am and 3.00pm to 4.00pm

Job Advertisement

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a **Deputy Clerk with Marden Parish Council**

20 hours per week (Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays) - some evening work and flexibility is required. Salary Range from NJC SCP 9 £20,344 to NJC SCP 12 £21,589 (based on a full time post of 37 hours) – Hourly rate is £10.57 to £11.22. Pension Scheme is available. Marden Parish Council is looking to provide you with an opportunity to develop a rewarding professional career in the most important tier of local government.

The post holder will be expected to carry out duties relating to the work of Marden Parish Council and to deputise for the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) in her absence. The Deputy Clerk (acting as the Clerk) is under a statutory duty to carry out all the proper functions, and in particular to serve or issue notifications required by law of a local authority's Proper Officer.

As well as being a friendly, enthusiastic, confident and calm individual, we are looking for someone who:

- Has excellent people skills, including the ability to work with Councillors, members of the public, third party organisations and other members of staff;
- Is proficient with the use of email, Microsoft Word, Excel and other Office applications;
- Is confident in managing a website and using social media accounts;
- Is flexible to attend meetings, consultations, information events and other events for, or on behalf of, the Parish Council;
- Is an accurate record keeper, well organised and able to meet deadlines;
- Has the ability to support and deputise for the Clerk when required;
- Will undertake all other duties as may be reasonably required;

The job is office based and the successful candidate, if not already held, would be expected to work towards obtaining the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) once they have completed the initial six month probation period.

Please contact Ali Hooker, via phone or email if you would like to know more about the Parish Council, the position or would like an application pack.

The closing date for return of applications is 5pm on 29th March 2019 with interviews to be held between 8th and 18th April 2019.

Ali Hooker, Clerk to Marden Parish Council,
Parish Office, Goudhurst Road, Marden Kent TN12 9JX

01622 832305 / 07376 287981 / clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

Spring Clean Up Saturday 16th March we need you!

We are calling for volunteers to help out with the village clean up on the morning of Saturday 16th March.

You will be provided with a picker and bags and are covered by the Parish Council's insurance.

Please contact Alison for further details and to register your interest – either via email:

clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

or call

01622 832305.

To entice residents to participate, every adult and child who volunteer will receive a raffle ticket to win a prize, so please put your hand up to help – we need as many of you as possible!

It's a great community event working together to keep our lovely parish of Marden tidy.

Once again can we thank all those wonderful residents who regularly litter pick around the village

– you are stars!

Annual Parish Meeting (APM) – Tuesday 16th April from 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

This is an ideal opportunity to learn more about the role of the Parish Council, the work that has been undertaken over the past year and gives village organisations and groups the opportunity to let residents know of their activities. We are delighted that our guest speaker will be Simon Jones, the Director of Kent Highways, Transportation and Waste who will give an update on the role of Highways and their vision for the future. Representatives from Involve will also tell us about the new pilot scheme at Marden Medical Centre.

Organisations will shortly be contacted to provide a report from 2018 and these reports will be available at the event and on the Parish Council website following the meeting. Organisations will also be able to speak at the meeting if they so wish. Tea & coffee is served at 7pm and the meeting begins at 7.30pm.

After the meeting everyone is invited to stay to meet Parish Councillors over refreshments. If you have anything of interest you wish to hear about that is relevant to the Parish, please let Alison the Parish Clerk know.

Planning Update

You can check out planning applications on Marden Parish Council's website under 'Planning Tracker'. Councillors are keen for residents to attend MPC planning meetings which are usually held twice a month on a Tuesday evening in the Parish Office. Agendas for all meetings are published the week before and (continued on page 6) placed on notice boards around the village; on the Parish website together with a link on the Parish Council Facebook page. Please be aware that MPC is a statutory consultee and does not make the final decision on planning

applications, this is done by Maidstone Borough Council.

Marden Neighbourhood Plan (MNP)

The draft MNP is almost ready to go to the next stage of the process - Regulation 16 before formal inspection. We'll keep you updated on progress.

Highways and Public Transport

Parish Councillors hold regular meetings with Borough and County Councillors which helps to move issues along.

The Highways Fault Reporting Tool

This can be accessed from all kinds of devices (its optimised for smartphones and tablets) and you can use KCC Libraries or gateways if you don't have internet access at home— www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults. It's noticeable that potholes have appeared after the recent cold weather, so if you spot one please report it.

- This is the easiest and quickest way to tell Highways about issues – street light faults, salt bins, potholes, bollards, overgrown vegetation including hedges and grass verges and flooded drains or gullies
- Enables you to check out existing faults
- You can upload photos or videos to show how bad things are and help Highways to prioritise repairs
- It saves the council £5 on every enquiry logged online as opposed to phone calls as faults go directly to the relevant Highways team. It also frees up Contact Point staff to handle emergency and complex enquiries. If you don't have internet access, please call 08458 247800 - It won't get fixed if it isn't reported!

Speeding

The recent installation of the Pedestrian Crossing at Church Green should help deter speeding in that area and 30mph restrictions

have been added in Plain Road, Albion Road and Thorn Road. The 40mph speed restriction has also been extended in Chainhurst.

Speed Indicator Device (SID)

Part of the Highways agreement with Redrow Homes (developers for Highwood Green and The Parsonage) was to install a portable Speed Indicator Device (SID) on several of the approach roads into the village helping to control speeding of vehicles entering the village. Following advice from Kent Highways, three locations have been agreed by them and we are currently liaising with residents who live adjacent to the proposed sites before final agreement is made. The SID would be in situ at each location for a period of 1-3 months and then moved by the Village Caretaker.

Speedwatch – We Need You!

To further help deter speeding in the village, the Parish Council are appealing for speed watch volunteers to get this scheme off the ground. We have all the equipment and after initial training, it would only take an hour or two of your time per session. Please contact the Parish Office on 01622 832305 or email if you think you can help. Once up and running, our village PCSO Nicola Morris will also be invited to attend some of the sessions. If you are interested Ali will contact you again in June to explain the training involved. Come on Marden, we need you!

Sharp Bend in Maidstone Road

As a result of a couple of near miss incidents, the Parish Council asked Highways to see if additional warning signs could be placed on the sharp bend on the Maidstone Road to help slow traffic down whilst approaching the village. There are already bend ahead warning signs in place either side of the bend and Highways are going to place slow markings there too. Please be aware that the Police will only record incidents where personal injuries have taken place, but Highways will continue to monitor this

location. Please log any incidents via the Kent Highways website.

Junction at High Street & Maidstone Road

Lorries have been mounting the pavement when turning left to the sites at Windsor Meadows, Appledown Grange and the old Cricket and Hockey site, the Parish Council approached Kent Highways to see if bell bollards could be placed on the corner matching the ones on the other side to prevent damage on the footpath. Costings have been received which were quite substantial, so Councillors decided not to pursue this option at the current time and monitor once the site works have all been completed.

Marden Railway Station

The Parish Council is in the process of arranging a meeting with Southeastern, Network Rail and the British Transport Police to discuss various issues at the railway station including some recent anti-social behaviour.

As you will recall, Marden was nominated last Autumn for Government funding for step-free access at the station. Southeastern and Network Rail subsequently submitted a list of 22 stations to be considered under the 'Access for All' scheme and Marden was one of the stations selected. We are waiting for the decision by the Department for Transport on which stations across the country will receive the funding – fingers crossed Marden is successful!

Works in Albion Road to Roundel Way

Water connection work for the old Cricket and Hockey club site needs to be undertaken along Albion Road to the junction of Roundel Way. Unfortunately this will result in Albion Road being closed between Roundel Way and Jewell Grove from 12th March 2019 for up to 10 weeks. Further information, or if date changes, will be available on the Parish Council website and Facebook page.



Open Space

Sky Lanterns and Drones

Maidstone Borough Council has banned the release of sky lanterns (also known as Chinese lanterns) on all land they own. They consist of a candle or a fuel cell filled with paraffin wax suspended inside a frame of wire or bamboo and covered in paper. When lit they float upwards then landing when the fuel has run out and can reach up to 1,000 metres often drifting for several miles in the breeze presenting a hazard when falling onto land or

property. Farmers and campaigners have called for a ban for many years as a result of the harm that the lanterns can do if ingested by animals or if they become trapped in them. Marden Parish Council plan to follow suit and prohibit the use of both sky lanterns and drones on their open space areas – Marden Playing Field, Southons Field and the Cemetery.

Playing Field

A new Sports Wall is now in place which is considerably quieter than the old one and the Running Path and Adult Gym are due to be installed in the Spring. Please note that it will be necessary to temporarily close the footpaths at the playing field whilst the new track is being installed which will take a couple of weeks. The old bins are being replaced and new benches fitted in both play areas in Napoleon Drive and the playing field, and hopefully at some point we are looking at installing more CCTV in the field.

Sadly, the Parish Council have had to make a difficult decision to remove the wonderful old Rocking Horse in the play area because of the considerable amount of noise it makes when rocked which affects local residents. Many Mardonians will have fond memories of playing on it in the past! Councillors have looked at various ways of trying to overcome this, but have not found a viable solution.

Southons Field, Maidstone Road – ‘The Battle is Over’

It was fantastic to see so many residents joining the moving and poignant ‘Lighting of the Beacon’ event on a bitterly cold evening as part of the Battle’s Over commemoration back in November in Southons Field which marked the day 100 years ago when the guns fell silent at the end of WW1. Our brave fire crew led by Andy Wardley lit the beacon, the Village Voices sang WW1 songs, Mia Gillis Coates read a poem and the Last Post was played by Mo Gillis-Coates.

The field is dog-free (apart from guide dogs)

and open during day light hours. Village events such as the ‘Big Music Picnic’ and PTA Firework Display are held here and residents and village groups are welcome to hire the field. Please email clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk or call 01622 832305 for details.

Police & Crime Update

The Parish Council have been closely monitoring the anti-social behaviour issues in the village and have held a number of meetings with the Police, Youth Service and Housing Associations over the last six months including a meeting with the Maidstone Community Safety Unit (MCSU). The MCSU is committed to providing a first-class service to the residents and community in Marden and are aware of some of the issues we have experienced recently in particular anti-social behaviour and are working hard with partners to address these. Support and intervention plans have been put in place for those identified as being involved and this is subject to continuous assessment and monitoring. They urge residents to continue to report such incidents so that an accurate picture is in place and incidents can be responded to appropriately.

So please call 101 – if it’s not reported, it isn’t investigated! Alternatively, you can report an incident online: <https://www.kent.police.uk/> Then click on Services/Report a Crime.

A drop-in surgery was arranged in February in Marden with representatives from Kent Police including PCSO Nicola Morris and Mira Martin, our Community Warden. The surgery was well attended and gave residents the opportunity to air any concerns they may have.

Police and Parish Surgeries

Joint police and parish surgeries have been arranged for PCSO Nicola Morris and a representative of the Parish Council to hold drop in sessions at the Parish Council office from 2pm to 3pm on the following dates:

Saturday 6th April / Saturday 15th June /
Saturday 20th July and Saturday 17th August.

Rural Policing in Kent

A Rural Crime Co-ordinator has recently been recruited who will work closely alongside the rural sergeant, building an intelligence picture of crimes and anti-social behaviour happening in rural locations. They develop this to drive action by rural officers to maximise the operational capability of the team and make most effective use of available resources. The Rural Crime Co-ordinator will maintain positive communication links with the rural community and partner agencies on a daily basis in addition to providing support and advice to other departments within Kent Police on rural related matters.

Waste Dumping & Fly Tipping

Rural police officers have been working with environmental enforcement officers to clamp down on waste dumping and fly tipping countywide and there has been a number of vehicle seizures as a result of a crackdown. Previous joint working with Medway and Maidstone environmental enforcement officers resulted in 19 vehicles stopped carrying waste. Fly tipping is a large-scale issue which blights both rural areas and town centres and it is often the result of organised criminality that causes considerable distress. If you are paying anyone to remove waste, for example as a result of building work, always ensure you check the person is licensed to do so. Remember to report anything suspicious by calling 101 or 999 if a crime is in progress.

Burglaries

Householders are being encouraged to make life difficult for opportunist thieves. There have recently been a number of incidents of outbuildings, vehicle, sheds and garages targeted. It is a good time for people to review the security of sheds, garages, outbuildings and vehicles and guard against the theft of tools and garden equipment. Most people make sure their homes are secure but often

their sheds and outbuildings are not such a high priority.

There are several ways to protect property against thieves: Lock garden equipment securely away and use good quality locks and shed and padlock alarms; Make sure security lights are working properly; Disable ride-on mowers and chain expensive equipment together or to secure anchor points; Keep an inventory of equipment; Keep serial numbers and receipts safe; Photograph and insure expensive or unique items; Defensive planting, which is using prickly plants on boundaries, acts as a deterrent and can help catch criminals through DNA if they are cut on the thorns; Invest in an alarmed padlock (a heavy duty lock that has a built-in 120 decibel alarm); Security-mark items including bicycles, smartphones and laptops; Register important items for free at www.immobolise.com. This can help police return them if they are stolen and then recovered.

Youth Provision

The Parish Council has been looking at ways to increase activities in the village for teenagers. Sadly we have been informed that the Youth Club on Wednesday evenings will no longer run, due to lack of funds. Fortunately, a group of volunteers led by Jo Rhodes, have taken the great initiative to run a Youth Club in the John Banks Hall on a Friday evening. If this youth club is to be successful then it needs willing volunteers. If you are prepared to give up some time to support the young people of Marden then please let Ali know. A Youth Café also runs on Friday afternoons by the Church in the Vestry Hall.

It would be of benefit if more physical activity events could be run such as a Boxing Club and a local resident who is a qualified fitness trainer, is looking at running a Junior Boot Camp to include activities such as 5-a-side football and pad boxing. The Youth Club are also liaising with Marden in Bloom who is

seeking funds from Golding Homes to run a carpentry course and our Borough Councillors have kindly made a donation from their 'pot'.

Skateboard/Bike Park in Marden

As a result of a petition handed to the Parish Council by a young resident, Councillors have been investigating the possibility of creating a Skateboard/Bike park in Marden. This would need to be easily accessible from the village centre and away from residents which means the Playing Field and Southons Field would not be viable. We have been looking at whether there are any parcels of land that would be available and, if this is not possible, we will then approach the Marden Business Forum to see if any local businesses could help. If you know of anywhere that would fit the bill, then please let Alison in the Parish Office know. If we are successful in finding a suitable location, we would then need to look at how this could be funded.

Health & Welfare

Involve Connect for Wellbeing - Social Prescribing

Local charity Involve Kent have launched a new Social Prescribing project across West Kent, with co-ordinators based in 5 practices, including Marden Medical Centre. Involve Co-ordinators will work with patients and support them into accessing community activities, peer support, advice and more to help improve their wellbeing and reduce isolation. Patients from the practice can simply book through reception if they would like to have a conversation with the co-ordinator about their well-being. This service is ideal for those feeling lonely, suffering from low mood or low self-esteem or facing life challenges including retirement, bereavement or unemployment.

As part of the project Involve are building an online directory of groups, services, charities and activities. Once on the directory they will be able to have access to a £25,000 fund to support their group, service or activity. The

group will need to have their quality assurance in place for the public facing directory. If the service group or activity wants to be known to the Social Prescriber in Marden but not on the Directory, please contact the Involve Co-ordinator at Marden.

The co-ordinator at Marden is also seeking volunteers to be part of the project. Volunteers will have varied roles, but tasks include supporting patients into local activities, offering transport and starting new activity groups. To find out more about the directory and fund or volunteering please contact Lizzie Lowrey – 01622 677337 or lizzie.lowrey@involvekent.org.uk

Living Memories

Living Memories are here to help those living with memory loss, but everyone is welcome. They pick a theme and expand it with memories, photos, memorabilia and music. If you know someone who would benefit, please contact Rachel on 01622 831941 or email: livingmemories@mardenchurch.org.uk

Maidstone Citizens Advice

Maidstone CAB continue to hold outreach sessions in the Old School Room, Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 2pm to 4pm. No appointment is necessary. You can also access advice from the main office at 2 Bower Terrace, Tonbridge Road, Maidstone (walk-in advice); Maidstone Town Hall (appointments only) or Maidstone Gateway (walk-in advice). For further information please ring 01622 752420/757882 or visit www.maidstonecab.org.uk Future dates for Marden are 19th March / 16th April / 21st May / 18th June.

Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre (PWCAC)

PWCAC is a registered company with charity status and member of Advice UK, the UK's largest support network for free independent advice. The trustees and volunteers of PWCAC strongly believe that the community needs to work together to

provide a comprehensive advice service for those who live and work in Paddock Wood and surrounding areas. A number of Marden residents have used its services helping them to access unclaimed benefits, debt relief etc. They offer a full, free, confidential and impartial advice service. Guidance on filling in forms, making telephone calls and online applications is given and advice on legal rights. If you want to use their services, they operate a drop-in service at 64 Commercial Road, Paddock Wood.

Check out: <http://www.pwadvice.org/>

Guide Dogs - My Guide Service

My Guide is a free service that helps people with a vision impairment get out of their homes and into the community with a volunteer as their sighted guide and are looking for volunteers in the area. My Guide fully trains you as a volunteer to provide confident sighted guide assistance on a regular basis to people living with sight loss. It helps them achieve their goals, such as accessing services in the community, gaining confidence on public transport and engaging with the local community. This could make a life-changing difference to those in need in our community, an opportunity to build experience and knowledge of sight loss and develop existing skills whilst doing something that you enjoy.

If you can spare a couple of hours a week and would like to know more information contact the Guide Dogs team at Maidstone on 01189 838711 or email simon.cope@guidedogs.org.uk

Drainage & Water

Please check out Marden Parish Council's website if any problems occur regarding drainage and flooding where you can find the Highways Drainage and Flooding guide and the Environment Agency Flood Action Plan and other agency advice.

<http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/community/marden-parish-council-13394/drainage--flooding/>

Roads & Footpaths

Marden Walking Group

The surrounding countryside in Marden has many footpaths and is beautiful in the Spring. Why not join in some of the walks led by Marden Walking Group who have published six new walks around Marden? These are available from Marden Library, "No 47" in the High Street and Marden Farm Shop which cost £5 per set.

Other Parish Information

Public Toilets

The public toilets at the car park were closed for a few weeks as the cleaning contract with the previous company had expired. The toilets are an important village asset and the village is lucky to have such a facility. We are pleased to announce we have awarded the new contract to a local company based in Marden – RJP Cleaning who gave the toilets a deep clean before reopening. Opening times are: April to August 7am to 8pm / September to October 7am to 7pm / November to March 8am to 4pm.

Marden Brownie Appeal

Would you like to help run our Brownie Pack? Marden Brownies is a group of 7-11 year old girls and a few young at heart adults who meet weekly to have fun, learn new skills and develop as people. We enjoy baking, craft, playing games, having fun outside and learning new skills to earn badges. We meet on Mondays during term time from 5.30-7pm at Marden Memorial Hall. Over the past year, two of our much-loved leaders have had babies and are unable to continue volunteering at the moment. Therefore, we are looking to recruit new volunteers to keep the group running. If you are interested in joining Girl Guiding and completing your leadership qualification (or if you are already a qualified guider) we would love to hear from you. If you are interested, please contact Lizzie Marks on 07845 113118

Marden Primary School – Recycling

With your help Marden Primary School can exchange unwanted clothes and shoes for funds and resources that the school needs. It is also a great way to divert waste from landfill, teaching the value of waste reduction and the benefits of recycling. It is very easy – bring your shoes (in twos and either tied by the laces or put an elastic band round them) and clothes/unwanted textiles and place in the bags located at the main gates of the school entrance.

Unwanted DVDS and CDs can be left at the Primary School office.

YES PLEASE to all paired trainers, boots, sandals, flip flops, clean clothes, bed linen, towels and bags (ruck sacks, handbags, lap top bags etc. NO THANKS to slippers, wellie boots, roller skates, single shoes, heavily soiled or stained clothes, pillows, duvets or sleeping bags.

Local Needs Housing in Maidstone Road

Golding Places will soon be releasing for sale, 2 shared ownership properties at their new development – Rhodes Close, Maidstone Road, Marden.

There is one 2 bedroom house and one 3 bedroom house specifically for people from Marden or its surrounding parishes.

To register your interest please visit “Coming Soon” on our website at www.goldingplaces.co.uk/places-to-live/coming-soon or email shared.ownership@goldinghomes.org.uk or contact the Shared Ownership Team on 0300 777 2600.

Also coming soon are four properties for Affordable Rent. There is one 3 bedroom house and three 2 bedroom houses, which should be available in September.

To be eligible for these properties you need to apply to Maidstone Borough Council’s housing register. For more information visit the local authority’s website at www.maidstone.gov.uk

To view a plan of the development please visit <http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/community/marden-parish-council-13394/affordable-homes---maidstone-road/>

Royal British Legion (RBL) Marden Branch

In the October edition of the Parish Magazine it was reported that the Marden Sub Branch was in danger of closing-down because of insufficient numbers in membership. Due to the lack of members Marden was forced to become a Sub Branch of Goudhurst RBL. Marden’s AGM in November 2018 produced several new members which boosted its membership and a new chairperson and committee were appointed. As a result of this increase in membership the RBL have reinstated Marden to its Full Branch Status. The RBL held its County Conference of Branch Delegates at Headcorn in January where Marden’s new chair Tom Stevens JP was presented with The Newport Cup award. This cup is awarded annually to the branch that obtained the best percentage increase in membership.

This year on the 6th June is the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Landings in Normandy where a brutal battle ensued for 77 days. It is said that it was the largest and most ambitious invasion in the history of warfare where more than 133,000 soldiers, 22,000 paratroopers and 11,000 ships landed on the Normandy beaches. The Royal British Legion all over the country will be remembering and honouring the thousands of dead, injured and missing personnel from many nations who took part or gave their lives in this battle.

It’s easy to associate the RBL with remembrance days each year for WW1 and WW2, but let’s not forget the other wars where our forces were engaged and either killed or injured i.e. Suez, Aden, Falklands, The Gulf, and Afghanistan to name but a few. The RBL was formed in May 1921 and is there to support the service personnel and their families in time of need.

Our aim is to continue to increase our membership numbers. It is a misconception by many that you must have served in the armed forces to become a member of the RBL. This is incorrect you do not have to have served in any of the armed forces. It costs less than 35p a week per person to be a member. So please join us and support this very important and worthwhile cause. For details on how to become a member please contact our secretary Mrs Caye Gould - Tel 07737 118313.

Tom Stevens JP, Chairman

Marden in Bloom

To help with ongoing costs, Marden in Bloom are looking for sponsors for the planters. The Parish Council sponsor the troughs and cycle rack in the High Street and Liz Stanley the planter by the garage. If you think your village group, business or any residents are able to help us, please email: mardeninbloom@outlook.com or call 01622 833351. If you can spare an hour or two on one of our projects, we really need some extra hands. If there is a planter near to your property, a drop of water and deadhead would really help.

Anne Boswell, Chairman

Marden Children's Centre – 01622 831503

Activities held at Marden Children's Centre, School House, Goudhurst Road, Marden (next to the Primary School):

Stay & Play 0-18mths – Mondays 9.30am to 11.30am – no booking required

Child Health Clinic Drop In – 2nd Monday of the month 9.30am to 11.30pm

Musical Menagerie – Tuesdays 10am to 11am – booking required £4 per child

Advice & Employment Shop – Tuesdays 12th March, 9th April and 14th May - 10am to 12noon

Stay & Play 0-5 – Thursdays 9.30am to 11.30am – no booking required

Breastfeeding Drop In – Thursdays 12.30pm to 2.30pm

Baby Massage 2-6 months – Friday 2pm to 3pm – please ring for details of next course

Memorial Bench for Ken Rhodes

The memorial bench is due to be installed shortly to replace the concrete one outside the Library in memory of local window cleaner Ken Rhodes, a great character always cycling around the village replete with ladder and bucket. The bench has been inscribed with Ken's favourite saying: "Nice weather for ducks"! Marden in Bloom will tidy up the area and place a half planter at the front of the Library in the Spring – Ken loved his flowers.

Village Information Sign

The History Group and Marden in Bloom are looking at sourcing a village sign incorporating images of historical village sights. We are proposing to position the sign at the green area to the front of the Library. Marden in Bloom are donating a sum towards the cost together with Eric Hotson, our County Councillor, but more funding is required for the project. If there are any businesses or even residents who are able to help sponsor the project, please contact: anne.boswell@ymail.com or call 01622 833351.

Public Consultations

Libraries, Registration and Archives Draft Strategy 2019-2022

A consultation was recently held by Kent County Council reviewing their strategy on Kent's Libraries, Registration and Archives. They are currently analysing the responses and a consultation report will be produced and discussed on 7 March to the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee before a decision is taken by the Cabinet Member for Communities and Regulatory Services.

This is hopefully good news for Marden Library as it was proposed that Marden is placed in a higher tier 'Community Plus' category which would mean it could be open for 28 hours per week rather than 18 hours. This proves that our Library has a high footfall with a great range of services such as our wonderful

Heritage Centre, Reading Group, Children's Singing Group etc. This is a fine example of community involvement and fingers crossed the new proposal is agreed.

What's Going On in Marden?

There is always so much going on in our village, not only numerous community groups but great sporting facilities too. If you are new to the village, you can find all the details in the 'Welcome Pack' that the Parish Council provides to new residents. As ever there's lots going on this Spring and Summer and any group, organisation or business who are arranging an event, please let Ali know or call 01622 832305. If you would like to include your village group event in the Newsletter, please let anne.boswell@gmail.com know. You can also check out events on [http://www.mardenchurch.org.uk/special events.htm](http://www.mardenchurch.org.uk/special%20events.htm). 'Let's Keep Marden Connected'

Ladies Fashion Show – Friday 8th March at the Memorial Hall – 6.30pm for 7pm – tickets on sale at the Green Door, Crowhurst & Tompsett and the West End Stores - cost £6 which includes entry and a glass of wine and a chance to buy some clothing. So please come along and help support Marden in Bloom and Chalkdown RDA (Riding School for the Disabled)

Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 16th April – 7pm for 7.30pm – Marden Memorial Hall

Friends of Marden Heritage will be holding a concert on Saturday 27th April at 7.30pm in Marden Church by the BAE Systems Band.

The band is back by popular demand as they entertained us so well last year. Tickets will be available in April for £10 to include light refreshments and a glass of wine.

Marden Motor Club invite members of the village to come and visit their Motor Show on Saturday 25th May in Southons Field between 1pm and 3.30pm. The Club hope to have between 50 and 100 vintage, classic, retro and

supercars on display. If you have an interesting vehicle you would like to display please contact Nick Ferguson-Gow via email: nickfgow@googlemail.com or phone 01622 832733. Entry will be free but a raffle will be held to help defray the costs of running the event.

Royal British Legion – 75th Anniversary - Thursday 6th June – see posters nearer the time for more information.

Pop Up Plant Sale – Saturday 8th June from 8am outside Crowhurst & Tompsett – please come along to support Marden in Bloom

Marden's Big Music Picnic is on its way again! – Saturday 8th June in Southons Field from 2pm - organised by the Friends of Marden Heritage – further details to be announced

Marden Play Scheme – This year's Summer play scheme will run from Monday 29th July to Friday 9th August. Registration forms will be available from the Parish Council Office, MPC website and Primary School office from 3rd June.

'Ikarus Inc' – a performance by the Rude Mechanical Company - Southons Field – Friday 26th July – a play about what it takes to achieve your dream. This is the 3rd year 'The Rudes' have performed in Marden and it's been a great evening - tickets on sale at a later date

Scarecrow Safari – Saturday 28th September – Marden in Bloom will be inviting all village groups, residents & businesses to participate by making a scarecrow (think sustainably – use existing rather than purchasing new materials). There will of course be a prize for the best Scarecrow. If you would like to participate in this fun village event, please email your entry form to: mardeninbloom@outlook.com by the 1st September – more details to be announced.....

**Marden at Christmas – Saturday 7th
December**



**Parish Council Contact
details & other useful
Contact numbers**

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kate.tippen1@gmail.com

Vice-Chairman Cllr Richard Adam 831673
richard@tn12.uk

Amenities Cmt V-Chairman

Cllr Anne Boswell 833351
07808 868703

Cllr Ian Newton 831832

Planning Cmt Chairman

Cllr Lesley Mannington 07802 720069
Cllr Maria Brown 832305
Cllr Sean Harvey 832305
Cllr Mick Jones 832305

Amenities Cmt Chairman

Cllr Jean Robertson 831331
07950 816370

Planning Cmt V-Chairman

Cllr Tom Stevens 832305
Cllr Andy Turner 07803 598813

Parish Clerk

Alison Hooker 832305
07376 287981

clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

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Marden Parish Council Website:

www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

Marden Parish Council Facebook

@MardenParishCouncil

Office opening times: Monday, Tuesday,
Friday - 10.00am to 12noon

Other useful contact numbers

Borough Councillors

Annabelle Blackmore 01622 833299
annabelleblackmore@maidstone.gov.uk

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Steve McLoughlin 01622 820551

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County Councillor

Eric Hotson 01580 892312
eric.hotson@kent.gov.uk

Police Community Support Officer

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