

What is a Neighbourhood Plan and Why Does Marden Need One?

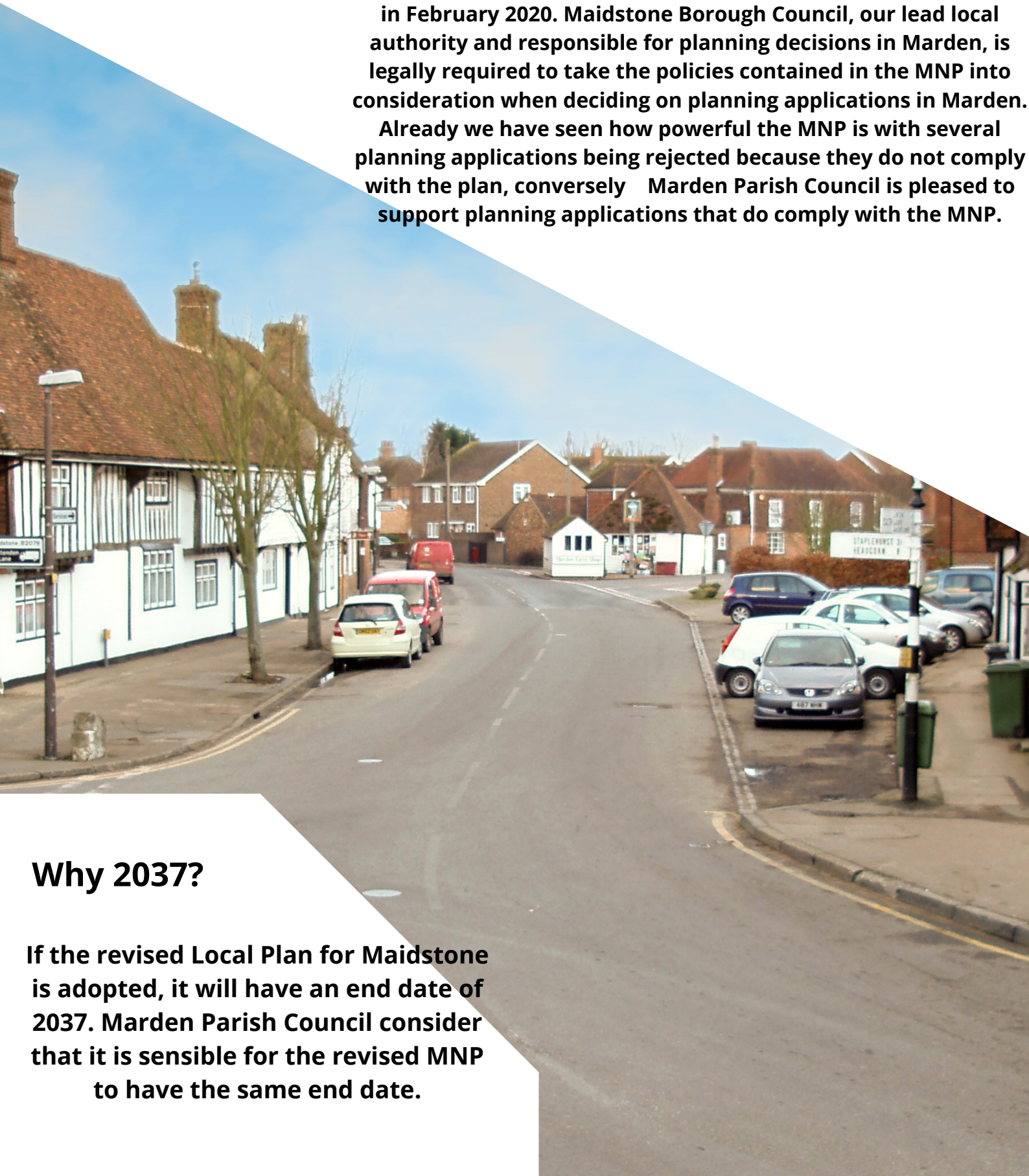
Planning legislation introduced in 2012 gave greater powers to communities to help them shape the growth of their community in a sustainable way through the development of neighbourhood plans.

The first Marden Neighbourhood Plan (MNP) was approved in July 2020, having been agreed by the community at referendum in February 2020. Maidstone Borough Council, our lead local authority and responsible for planning decisions in Marden, is legally required to take the policies contained in the MNP into consideration when deciding on planning applications in Marden.

Already we have seen how powerful the MNP is with several planning applications being rejected because they do not comply with the plan, conversely Marden Parish Council is pleased to support planning applications that do comply with the MNP.

Why 2037?

If the revised Local Plan for Maidstone is adopted, it will have an end date of 2037. Marden Parish Council consider that it is sensible for the revised MNP to have the same end date.



Why Are We Reviewing the MNP?

Change is constant and since 2020 when the original plan came into force several events have taken place that may change our perspective. We have lived through a pandemic that has changed the way people live and their outlook on life. We are now living through an unprecedented cost of living crisis and war in Europe, events which will change our lives and our outlook, and we would never have considered possible when the plan was written in 2018 and 2019.

An important aspect of a neighbourhood plan is that it is in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Local Plan. The NPPF was last updated in July 2021, after the MNP was approved and therefore we need to satisfy ourselves that there are no major changes that impact our plan. The Maidstone Borough Council Local Plan which was adopted in 2017 is now being reviewed and will hopefully come into force early in 2023. It is vital that our Neighbourhood Plan is in line with both of these important planning documents, whilst reflecting any changes we all identified in our community.

How Are We Going About Revising the MNP?

Today is the first step. We are looking for your input to help us define what might need to change in the plan. We are also looking for volunteers who might like to be involved in the process – if you are interested, please sign up.

**THANK YOU FOR SHOWING YOUR INTEREST BY
ATTENDING TODAY'S SESSION**