



AMENITIES COMMITTEE

SOUTHONS FIELD BEACON & BEACON LIGHTING POLICY

(see also Southons Field Beacon Risk Assessment)

This policy should also be reviewed prior to any event when the beacon will be lit.

Marden Parish Council's beacon is permanently located to the north of Southons Field and will be lit for village commemorations and other events agreed by MPC.

No other organisation/person must light the beacon unless specifically agreed by MPC.

Kent Fire and Rescue Services to be notified prior to the event.

Kent Police to be notified prior to the event.

Maidstone Borough Council to be notified prior to the event.

First Aiders must be in attendance with a first aid kit being on site.

MPC to strive to erect lighting at entrance and spectators advised to bring torches.

The Parish Council's insurers to be advised and confirm that providing the Beacon event is being organised by Marden Parish Council, its responsibilities towards it are covered automatically under the Public Liability Insurance section of the policy. A £10million limit of indemnity applies.

Any organisations/third parties should have their own Public Liability Insurance in place to cover any activities undertaken by them at the Beacon lighting event.

Good access to the Beacon to be established by representatives of the Parish Council and those who are lighting the Beacon.

The area must be cordoned off so public are kept at a safe distance from the Beacon. A safety barrier of ropes/fencing and stakes to be constructed.

The Beacon is situated a safe distance from properties and trees. It is not in the vicinity of roads of public rights of ways nor overhead power lines.

The area around the Beacon will be kept clear of flammable materials/liquids.

Office Opening Times:

Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays 10am - 12 noon

Email: clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council Amenities – Southons Field Beacon Lighting
Policy March 2025



The Parish Council to provide sufficient marshalls for the number of people attending (ie minimum 1:100).

The Parish Council will nominate an appointed person(s) for the event.

The appointed person(s) who will be lighting the Beacon is familiar and competent with the operation.

The appointed person(s) will check the stability of the Beacon and ensure only suitable materials are used.

Only the appointed person(s) will have access to the Beacon.

The appointed person(s) will fill and light the Beacon. If a ladder is to be used two people must be in attendance.

The appointed person(s) must wear hi-viz and stout footwear. No flammable /lightweight clothing that could easily ignite must be worn.

Lighting:

Accelerant, paraffin or petrol MUST NOT be used.

Paper and solid firelighters should be placed in six places around the inside wall of the Beacon to ensure an even burn.

To Light to Beacon:

The preferred option is from a cherry picker but the alternative is from poles at least 2m in length with prepared hand torches for lighting with paraffin-soaked rags wired around one end. (Paraffin can be used as directed but it is still dangerous and should at all times be treated with great care – if spilt on clothes these should be replaced before lighting proceeds. Remember always to return the lid of any container of unused paraffin immediately after use and store in a safe place away from naked flames).

The Beacon will be supervised at all times whilst alight.

After the event the appointed person(s) will ensure that the fire is complete extinguished. Any remaining debris will be cleared and site left clean and time.

Adopted by Marden Parish Council on: 9th October 2018

Reviewed/Amended on: 28th May 2019 / May 2020 / 8th March 2022 / 14th March 2023/ 12th March 2023 / 28th January 2025

Review date: March 2026

Office Opening Times:

Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays 10am - 12 noon

Email: clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council Amenities – Southons Field Beacon Lighting
Policy March 2025

