



# BUSINESS PLAN 2023/2024

Adopted by Marden Parish Council on: 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
Reviewed/Amended on:  
Review date: March 2025

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MPC Business Plan

# MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

## BUSINESS PLAN 2023/2024

### MISSION STATEMENT

Marden Parish Council aim to promote a thriving community where housing, employment, education and health and wellbeing opportunities exist for all, whilst conserving and enhancing its heritage, environment and community spirit.

### WHAT IS A PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS PLAN?

Marden Parish Council Business Plan sets out the Parish Council's vision for the parish, its purpose, values, objectives and key priorities for the next four years.

The aim of the Business Plan is to provide Marden's residents a clear understanding of what the Parish Council does, what it is trying to achieve and what it intends to focus on over the forthcoming years.

The document will be reviewed annually and will be publicly available on Marden Parish Council's website. Residents will be able to monitor progress and comment.

This Business Plan is a statement of intent. However, Marden Parish Council may have to make decisions contrary to its stated commitments if events such as budget constraints, pandemic, new legislation or changes in our policies etc make that necessary. Any changes will, however, be reflected in an updated plan and explanations given as to why decisions were made.

### PRINCIPLES

In all its actions Marden Parish Council will take into account, and where appropriate, act in accordance with, the principles enshrined in the relevant legislation and best practice for:

Equal Opportunities  
Best Value  
Equality Act  
Data Protection Act  
Local Council Award Scheme

### FOUR YEAR PLAN

#### Key Council Objectives

Marden PC will:

Continue to build on the Local Council Award Scheme Quality Status (due for reaccreditation May 2024).

Work with Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council to improve partnership working.

Where appropriate, seek the development of services from Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council which would lead to an improvement in services and amenities for the community.

Pursue top 5 priorities in the Highway Improvement Plan

Pursue identified priorities in the Infrastructure Spend Plan

Review Marden Neighbourhood Plan and take through to adoption.

Initiate the introduction of the Community Speed Watch programme.

To continue with the work on the environment, climate change and biodiversity.

Provide relevant comments on planning applications to Maidstone Borough Council based on policies in the adopted Marden Neighbourhood Plan

To encourage Councillors and staff to attend relevant training courses/events where possible.

Continue to respond to consultations from Maidstone Borough Council, Kent County Council and other agencies which are relevant to the parish.

To pursue the refurbishment of the playing field changing rooms.

To provide allotments in the Parish when legal agreement is reached with Redrow

To install additional CCTV cameras at Marden Playing Field.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS FROM MAY 2023 to MAY 2024**

### **Footpath link**

To install a footpath link between Windsor Meadow and The Parsonage developments

Cost - Funded by a Love Where You Live Grant via Maidstone Borough Council of £4,000 and £158 from MPC funds.

### **Spring Litter Pick**

Undertake a litter pick in the parish with Cllrs and Volunteers.

Cost: Nil

Equipment had already been purchased for previous years and donated from Maidstone Borough Council

### **Summer Play Scheme**

Successful two weeks of play scheme for children aged 5 to 12.

Cost: £2,275 plus salaries

### **Single Yellow Lines**

Installation of parking restrictions in Pattenden Lane

Cost: Funded by Kent Highways

### **Marden at Christmas**

To run the annual Christmas event throughout the village.

Cost: £5,500.00

### **Woodland Planting at Marden Cemetery**

Planting of 2000 trees at the rear of Marden Cemetery

Cost: NIL – funded by Medway Valley Community Partnership.

### **Extension of footway between the car park and High Street**

Providing a hard surface to link the public footway to Marden car park.

Cost: £3,420

### **OBJECTIVES IN 2024-2025**

2024 is election year for Marden Parish Council which brings new challenges. All Parish Cllrs will stand down and reapply for election if they wish to stand again. This also gives the opportunity for other interested residents, who meet the criteria, to also stand for election for the next four years.

#### **Priorities for 2024-25**

Although the smooth day-to-day running of the Parish Council is necessary and important, there are some key priorities for the new financial year:

##### **Priority 1**

Transfer of Highwood Green Allotments from Redrow.

##### **Priority 2**

Refurbishment of Marden Changing Rooms

##### **Priority 3**

To finalise the review of Marden Neighbourhood Plan

##### **Priority 4**

Encourage volunteers to set up Community Speedwatch

### **FINANCIAL PLAN**

The Precept is set at the January meeting for the next financial year and the request is sent to Maidstone Borough Council by 31<sup>st</sup> January.

Precepts for the past 5 years are:

2020/2021	£145,795.77
Per Band D	£74.57 per year / £6.21 per month
2021/2022	£152,674.61
Per Band D	£74.57 per year / £6.21 per month
2022/2023	£168,004.40
Per Band D	£77.55 per year / £6.46 per month
2023/2024	£175,564.60
Per Band D	£80.28 per year / £6.69 per month
2024/2025	£182,504.04
Per Band D	£82.72 per year / £6.89 per month

Marden Parish Council holds money in an investment account which has been ringfenced (see the 4-year financial business plan).