



AMENITIES COMMITTEE

OPEN SPACES AND HIRING POLICY

SOUTHONS FIELD AND MARDEN PLAYING FIELD

Marden Parish Council owns two areas of open space which are open to visitors:

OPEN SPACES

Southons Field

Southons Field consists of a large area of open space, picnic benches, pavilion (not for public use) and wooden play trail/swings.

There is no electricity, water or toilets on the field.

Access to Southons Field is restricted with the gates being unlocked and locked dawn to dusk throughout the year with the exception of Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day – times are published on the hiring agreement and on the notice board at the field. Neighbouring properties are also written to.

No dogs (except Assistance Dogs) are permitted on the field.

No vehicles, other than by previous agreement by the Parish Council, are permitted on the field.

No barbeques are to be lit other than by previous agreement by the Parish Council (organised events only)

No flying of drones allowed from the field without prior permission of Marden Parish Council in writing.

Southons Field has a premises licence for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 2pm to 10pm.

All litter to be placed in bin provided or taken home.

No climbing on trees is permitted.

Marden Playing Field

Marden Playing Field consists of a brick building (previously used as changing rooms but currently in the process of being refurbished), large area of open space, easily accessible play area (Napoleon Drive), accessible play area (playing field), outdoor gym, footpath around perimeter, youth shelter and sports wall.

Public access is available at all times.

No vehicles permitted on the field other than by previous agreement of the Parish Council.

No barbeques or flying of drones are permitted.

Dogs are allowed but must be kept under control at all times and any fouling must be picked up by owners.

All litter to be placed in the bins provided or taken home.

Office Opening Times:

Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays 10am - 12 noon

Email: clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

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HIRING OF OPEN SPACE

Please contact the Parish Office to obtain a booking form for either of the locations.

Southons Field

All hiring requests, conditions and charging of fees are at the discretion of the Parish Council.

A booking form to be completed providing date and time of the event and when access is required; public/private event; whether there will be a marquee, bbq or inflatables; will music be played? will alcohol be sold? (a temporary events notice (TEN) will need to be obtained by the hirer if not within the timeframe of the Parish Council premises licence and any costs will be incurred by the hirer); any other information that the Parish Council requires.

A separate booking form is to be completed if parking is required on the field.

Risk assessments to be undertaken by hirer and a copy provided to the Parish Council.

A copy of the public liability insurance to be provided to the Parish Council.

Any rubbish accumulated during an event must be taken away from the site at the end of the hire period.

Any noise to be kept to a minimum to respect the neighbouring properties.

Hiring of the field for daily, weekly or monthly group activities (both public and private) will be at the discretion of the Parish Council but will be free for the first three months of use. The Parish Council will review after this time to ascertain whether a hire charge should be incurred. Requests for use should still be in writing with a copy of risk assessments and public liability insurance provided.

There will be no hiring fee for public village events, if entry fee is not charged. It will be at the discretion of the Parish Council to charge if exclusive access is required by village organisations.

Fees will be charged for private events and if exclusive access is required (ie field closed to all other users)

A booking form should still be completed if no fee is charged.

Marden Playing Field

Anyone wishing to hire the field should put the request in writing to the Parish Office and agree to the hiring rules and regulations.

All hirers must arrange for collection of litter from the field after the event.

There is no parking available on the field without prior permission from the Parish Council.

All hiring of the Playing Field is at the discretion of the Parish Council.

A booking form to be completed providing details of the event (*as Southons Field hiring*).

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Email: clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

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*Adopted by Marden Parish Council on: 29th March 2016
Reviewed/Amended on: 24th April 2018 / 28th May 2019 / 6th April 2021 / 13th July
2021 / 8th March 2022 / 12th March 2024 / 28th January 2025
Review date: March 2026*

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