

# News from Marden Parish Council



Summer 2019



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## Letter from the Chairman of the Parish Council



Welcome to our Summer Newsletter, my first as the newly elected Parish Council Chairman. This issue is packed full of lots of interesting items and information for the whole community.

Firstly, we say a huge “Thank You” to Kate Tippen for so ably handling Parish matters over the last three years. A difficult act to follow! However, we were very happy when she was recently elected to the position of Vice-Chairman, so we continue to benefit from her extensive knowledge and expertise.

We also welcome to the Parish Office our newly-appointed Deputy Clerk, Rachel Gillis-Coates, who many of you in the village will know from her PTA, Theatre Group and Village Voices connections. Rachel is full of enthusiasm for her new role and we hope she will enjoy working for the Parish Council at a time



when there are increasing pressures on the Parish office.

I suppose the conversation surrounding Maidstone Borough Council’s Local Plan Review has been in the forefront recently, and many of you will have attended recent meetings on planning, as well as the Marden Planning Opposition Group’s march on 18th May. It will be very much a case of “Watch This Space”! but you can rest assured that the Parish Council, through its various communication avenues, will endeavour to keep everyone posted on any future planning developments.

We were hoping for lots of visitors at the Marden Parish Council stall at the Marden BIG Musical Picnic. Unfortunately, the bad weather caused the organisers, Friends of Marden’s Heritage, to cancel the event. We hope to find a way to share this information with you in some form or another.

This year, the first time for several years, the Parish will be having a by-election to fill the vacancy left by Sean Harvey who resigned earlier in the year. Normally the Parish Council would call for co-options from the Parish when a vacancy arises between normal elections however there have been the required number of electors requesting a by-election and this will be held on 27th June. As there isn’t another local election on which this can be piggy-backed the cost of the by-election will have to be met from Parish funds. See the item below for more information.

I look forward to representing the interests of your Parish for the next year – hopefully with success.

Warm regards

*Lesley Mannington*

Lesley Mannington

## Parish Council By-Election – Thursday 27th June

Following the resignation in April of Cllr Sean Harvey, a By-Election has been called by 10 electors of the parish and will take place on Thursday 27th June. Please note that there will no polling cards issued and in this instance you just need to attend the polling station, if you are eligible to vote, in the John Banks Hall, Marden Memorial Hall and give your name and address. Following the close of the vote the elected person will become a Parish Councillor until all the Councillors step down for the May 2020 parish elections. There are three candidates for the one vacancy and these are Chris Barker of Church Green, Marden; Jane A Cowin of Barrel Arch Close, Marden; and Sam Lain-Rose of Offens Drive, Staplehurst.

## Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 16th April where our now ex-Chairman, Cllr Kate Tippen, presented a report on what work the Parish Council has been undertaking in the parish over the past year. Councillors would like to thank Kate who has been such a dedicated and hard-working Chairman over the past 3 years and has pushed so many issues along. As well as the Parish Council Amenities and Planning Committee updates, Cllr Andy Turner gave an update on the Marden Neighbourhood Plan, which has been formally submitted to Maidstone Borough Council (see below), and Cllr Richard Adam who gave a rail update. We were very fortunate to have a few guest speakers this year:

- Acting Chief Inspector Mark Hedges, spoke about the role of Kent Police in Marden and answered a number of questions from the public:

- Simon Jones, Director of Kent Highways, gave a statistical run down of what had been achieved on our highways over the last year and is also looking to see what communities want in the future;
- Representatives from INVOLVE spoke about a social prescribing initiative, who are working with Marden Medical Centre. The pilot has been running for a few months and patients are able to make appointments to speak with Hannah Stainton to discuss issues regarding social interaction such as engaging with village organisations. INVOLVE is able to signpost residents to other outside organisations and charities. Our County Councillor Eric Hotson and Borough Councillor Steve McLoughlin also spoke as well as Sian Burr, Chairman of the Patient Reference Group (PRG) and Kasha Deverney who manages Marden Children's Centre.

You can find all the reports from the speakers and from the Parish Church, PC Nicola Morris, Marden Business Forum and village organisations on the Parish Council Website:

<http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/shared/attachments.asp?f=db46420e-9158-4a18-9c51-c54b2778b473%2Epdf&o=APM-Reports-2019%2Epdf>



## Financial Annual Report

| Budget Heading                        | Expenditure        | Income            |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Staffing                              | £75,946.29         | £0.00             |
| Administration                        | £12,289.79         | £0.00             |
| Newsletter, advertising and publicity | £3,579.99          | £0.00             |
| Vehicle/machinery                     | £4,798.06          | £0.00             |
| Finance                               | £1,722.00          | £128,145.50       |
| S106 (developer) contributions        | £27,408.65         | £11,923.57        |
| Miscellaneous                         | £2,731.20          | £88.24            |
| Christmas                             | £2,781.69          | £768.64           |
| Public Conveniences                   | £10,149.12         | £2,500.00         |
| Public Works Loan                     | £18,237.92         | £0.00             |
| Neighbourhood Plan                    | £1,608.23          | £0.00             |
| Open Spaces                           | £3,988.54          | £955.00           |
| Other Amenities                       | £3,969.93          | £0.00             |
| Play Scheme                           | £2,725.00          | £4,514.42         |
| Hall Risk Assessment grant            | £31,969.26         | £0.00             |
| Cemetery                              | £1,376.29          | £7,605.00         |
| MBC Parish Services Grant             | £0.00              | £5,513.00         |
| Capital                               | £6,813.93          | £0.00             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                          | <b>£212,095.89</b> | <b>162,013.37</b> |

### Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2019

| 31 Mar'18       | Current Assets      | 31 Mar'19      |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| £6,432          | VAT Control A/C     | £2,400         |
| £37,377         | Nat West (Reserve)  | £13,455        |
| £17,966         | NS&I (Capital)      | £0.00          |
| £38,456         | Santander (Capital) | £46,725        |
| £33,271         | Unity (Reserve)     | £17,013        |
| <b>£133,502</b> |                     | <b>£79,593</b> |

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of Marden Parish Council as at 31st March 2019 and reflects its Income and Expenditure during the year.

## Summer Play Scheme Monday 29th July to Friday 9th August

Marden Summer Play Scheme will run again from Monday 29th July to Friday 9th August from 9.30am to 3.30pm at Marden Scout HQ for 5-12 year olds (please note that your child must have reached the age of 5 by 1st September 2018). This year's theme is 'Circus Bazaar' and Jordan Manley has kindly agreed to be the Scheme Manager again. Registration forms are now available from the Parish and School Offices or from <http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/community/marden-parish-council-13394/summer-play-scheme-2018/>. If you would like your child/children to attend, but are experiencing financial problems, please do not hesitate to speak with Alison on a confidential basis.

## Marden Parish Council Communications

At the Marden BIG Musical Picnic we were hoping to share with you on our stall, a variety of information such as Frequently Asked Questions on the Marden Neighbourhood Plan and Possible Future Development Proposals, Welcome Packs, Powers of the Parish Council, what village events would residents like to see in the village, etc. The majority of this information can be found on our website but we will try and share some of this through our social media. We are looking at running a few polls/questionnaires to get your views on events, how we share information and how you think we should spend the rest of the Section 106 funds for the playing field. We hope to hold an Open Day in the Autumn once all information has been collated.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a flyer that we would appreciate you completing with your feedback. Please complete and drop into one of our suggestion boxes located in the Library, The Old Post Office Café, in the lobby at Marden Village Club or in the Marden Parish Council letter box.

## Planning Update:

Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) has embarked on the review of the Maidstone Borough Local Plan. This involves a Call for Sites exercise where landowners are invited to put forward land which may be considered for potential future development. This exercise closed on 24th May 2019. Officers at MBC will collate the sites and produce a Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA). This will provide a very brief analysis of all the sites that has been put forward, some of which may be included in the Local Plan. This is not the same thing as applying for planning permission. The SLAA is likely to be published in 2020. Parish Councils are consultees in the planning process and therefore Marden Parish Council (MPC) will be responding to the findings of this report once it is published. MPC will also be looking at ways of involving residents in formulating such a response. We have put together a Frequently Asked Questions document – see link below: <http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/shared/attachments.asp?f=4f4c1156-b3a0-467c-b693-5c09fd94e860%2Epdf&o=Possible-Future-Development-Proposals-FAQs-March-2019%2Epdf>

You can also see updates on how the MBC Local Plan Review and Call for Sites is proceeding by visiting: <https://www.maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/planning-and-building/primary-areas/local-plan-review>

You can view planning applications on Marden Parish Council's website under 'Planning Tracker' or on Maidstone Borough Council's Website under 'Planning' – Search and Comment on Planning Applications: <http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/planning-and-building/primary-areas/search-and-comment-on-planning-applications>  
If you want to discover more about planning applications in general or a particular planning application please attend a MPC planning meeting. Planning meetings are usually held twice a month on a Tuesday evening in the Parish Office. Agendas for all meetings are published the week before and placed on notice boards around the village and on the Parish website and the Parish Council Facebook page.

### **Marden Neighbourhood Plan (MNP)**

The MNP is now at Regulation 16 stage and has been formally submitted to Maidstone Borough Council (MBC). MBC will now submit the plan for formal consultation with the statutory authorities in accordance with Regulation 16 with the consultation period running from 14th June to 26th July 2019. All are encouraged to read the Plan and you are welcome to submit any written comments to MBC. The Plan will then be examined by an Independent Planning Inspector. Please view the plan on the MPC website: <http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/community/marden-parish-council-13394/draft-np-documents/> or a hard copy can be viewed at Marden Parish Council Office or Marden Library.

We have put together a Frequently Asked Questions document – see link below: <http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/community/marden-parish-council-13394/neighbourhood-plan-faqs/>

## **Assets of Community Value (ACV) Steering Group Tuesday 25th June at 7.30pm venue tbc**

At the end of April an informal meeting took place to discuss the formation of a Steering Group designed to investigate Marden's potential Assets of Community Value. If you are interested in being part of this group the inaugural meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 25th June at 7.30pm. Please contact Alison in the Parish Office for further details. All are very welcome.

ACV's form part of the Community Right to Bid. This allows communities to nominate buildings or land for listing by the local authority (MBC) as an Asset of Community Value. It acts as a first stage in identifying and nominating buildings or other assets whose main use or purpose is the furthering of social well-being or social interests of the local community. Once listing is accepted by MBC the local community will be informed if the ACV is listed for sale with the five-year listing period. The community can then enact the Community Right to Bid which gives them a 6-month moratorium to determine if they can raise the finance to purchase the asset. The Localism Act 2011 states that 'social interests' include cultural, recreational and sporting interests e.g. libraries, community centres, pubs or green spaces that are of value to the community. A list of potential ACV's within the Parish boundary is being compiled and will be discussed at the inaugural meeting.

## **Infrastructure Spend Plan (ISP)/Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**

Marden Parish Council is currently working on a policy document entitled Parish Infrastructure Spend Plan (ISP) (formerly the Marden Parish Council Development Contributions/S106 Agreements policy document). The purpose of the ISP is to

identify the infrastructure and investment needed by the parish. The policy document is constantly evolving and is based on evidence gathered in the production of a series of community-based documents and the emerging Marden Neighbourhood Plan. Planning obligations, known as Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or Section 106 agreements, are an established and valuable mechanism for securing the financial or other contributions required to mitigate the impact of a development proposal. Additionally, Maidstone Borough Council, in liaison with Marden Parish Council, is also putting together an ISP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document.

The ISP is essentially a 'wish list' of projects within the parish which would mitigate the impact of new development. Projects could include revenue items or a Community Right to Bid for any accepted Assets of Community Value or matched funding for Capital Projects. Residents will of course be consulted on the ISP and any proposals for CIL spend. This is an ongoing exercise and you will be informed of all updates in the next Newsletter or on the Parish Council's website where you can find the current S106 Developer Contribution document.

## **Highways and Public Transport:**

### **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 submitted parking proposals to Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) as a result of all the feedback we received, which resulted in the recent

Traffic Regulation Order consultation. The consultation is now closed and the majority of proposals received no comments. Disappointingly, despite double yellow line restrictions for Pattenden Lane receiving a lot of support when we held a public consultation session last year - with residents citing dangerous road conditions as a reason for needing them - a number of objections have been received by MBC.

The Parish Council continues to support the implementation of double yellow lines in this location, for road safety reasons, and will keep you informed of progress through the newsletter. Hopefully, by the time of the next newsletter, some of the restrictions, which received no objections, will have been implemented!

### **Works in Albion Road to Roundel Way – Countryside Properties**

It is hoped by the time this newsletter has gone to print, the roadworks/road closure in Albion Road will finally be complete and this has undoubtedly caused much annoyance and inconvenience to many residents over the period. Cllr Tippen recently met with Countryside who are the developers at the old Cricket & Hockey Club site. There have been an unfortunate number of incidences of damage to properties from lorries, damage to power lines and the ongoing use of South Road and Stanley Road for heavy lorries. Countryside has given assurances about how they plan to make sure that inconvenience to residents is minimised.

### **School Parking – Traffic Regulation Order**

The chaotic parking outside the School in the morning and afternoon is such an issue in term time and parked vehicles near the entrance to the school are a hazard despite the school sending regular notes to parents about it. After consultation with Kent Highways, we are pleased to advise that

finally a Traffic Regulation Order is in place to support the yellow no parking zig zags outside the School which prohibits parking at certain times during term time - between 8.00am-9.30am and 2.30pm-4.30pm. Thankfully this will be enforceable by the Parking Wardens and the School Governors will be considering what actions they can now take.

### **Speed Indicator Device (SID)**

After consulting with residents living adjacent to the three proposed SID location sites, Kent Highways have now confirmed that these will be positioned in Goudhurst Road (by entrance to Gravel Pit Lane), Thorn Road (on grass verge by Cobtree House and Beechway) and Howland Road (on grass verge by 13 & 14 council houses). The SID would be in situ at each location for a period of 1-3 months and then moved by the Village Caretaker. Hopefully this device will help deter speeding along these roads particularly those vehicles entering the village on the Goudhurst Road.

### **Roadwatch**

We understand residents' concern about the amount of disruption HGV's cause in the village, and it has been suggested by Kent Highways that a Roadwatch scheme be set up in the Parish to monitor the amount of lorries and other inappropriate vehicles passing through the village. The Parish Council will be sent the relevant information in due course and hopefully we can then get the scheme up-and-running. We will update you in the next Newsletter.

### **Speedwatch**

Thank you to all those residents who have signed up to be Speedwatchers. Alison, the Parish Clerk, will be in touch with you shortly to get the scheme up and running. We have all the equipment and after initial training, it will only take an hour or two of

your time per session. If any more residents would like to sign up, please contact the Parish Office on 01622 832305 or email if you think you can help. Our village PCSO Nicola Morris will also be invited to attend some of the sessions.

### **Lorry Signs in Milebush Lane**

As a result of a recent incident at the junction of Milebush Lane and Maidstone Road, 'No HGV's' signage has been installed by Kent Highways.

### **The Highways Fault Reporting Tool**

This tool is the easiest and quickest way to tell Kent Highways about issues – street light faults, salt bins, potholes, bollards, overgrown vegetation including hedges and grass verges and flooded drains or gullies. Check out: [www.kent.gov.uk/roadsandtravel](http://www.kent.gov.uk/roadsandtravel) If you don't have internet access, please call 03000 418181 (office hours only) - It won't get fixed if it isn't reported!

### **Marden Railway Station**

There is no user group for Marden Station in the village, so the Parish Council represents the parish on matters relating to the railway. MPC respond to consultations including those on timetable changes and the Department of Transport franchise. We recently held a meeting with the Station Manager to discuss various issues including long-term measures to increase parking spaces, lighting, road markings, gullies etc. As a result, the Station Manager will liaise with his colleagues at Southeastern and Network Rail.

It is very disappointing that Marden Station, who were nominated last Autumn for Government funding for step-free access, was not successful in its bid. Across the railway in South East London and Kent accessibility schemes were selected for Catford and Herne Bay with previously announced schemes set to be completed at

Chatham, Hither Green, Peckham Rye, Petts Wood and St Mary Cray. However, we have been assured that Southeastern (whose franchise has been extended until April 2020) is working together in partnership with Network Rail and will continue to do everything they can to make our stations as accessible as possible – watch this space! On a brighter note, Ruchi Agya who works in the ticket office and resident Norman Croasdale, have made a wonderful job of clearing up the beds at the front of the station and Marden in Bloom may place two half planters there to welcome passengers travelling in and out of our village!

## **Open Space:**

### **Playing Field**

The Parish Council has continued to spend S106 monies on improvements to the Playing Field, and these monies can only be utilised at the Playing Field and not at Southons Field, the Cemetery or for any other parish facility. We will be consulting with residents via social media throughout the year and residents will also have the opportunity to comment at our planned Open Day in the Autumn.

The path around the circumference of the field is now complete and hopefully this will help residents with their fitness campaigns and a great way for children to safely cycle around. Councillors will be discussing the exact location of the field gym equipment shortly before it is installed and will consult with residents in the surrounding area if the positioning is changed from that proposed at the Open Day in February 2018. The ugly old bins have been replaced, new benches will be fitted shortly 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.



We reported in the last newsletter that sadly the old rocking horse was going to have to be removed due to the high level of noise when it is rocked heavily – when it was installed this was not supposed to happen. We have also been informed by a play equipment supplier that it doesn't conform to current safety standards and it is of upmost importance that play equipment is safe and regular safety checks are carried out. The old rocking horse will be removed from site and a new one will be installed by Wicksteed from S106 money. We know that some residents have expressed an interest in having the old rocking horse so the Parish Council will be accepting sealed bids for the purchase of this equipment. Bids should be received by the Parish Clerk by 5th July 2019 and the highest bid will be accepted after this date. Collection will be at the cost of the purchaser (although Wicksteed may be able to assist) and will be bought as seen. Any funds received will be ring-fenced towards the purchase of a 2nd defibrillator to be placed at the Memorial Hall end of the village.

As ever the problem with dog mess continues, and whilst the field is covered by Maidstone Borough Council Dog Control Orders, they do not clear up the mess in the field. They will respond if dog owners are reported for allowing their dogs to foul the field and they will then visit to monitor and review. Our Community Warden Mira Martin also monitors the situation and it is such a shame that a few irresponsible dog owners spoil things for others.

### **Southons Field, Maidstone Road**

The field is dog-free (apart from guide dogs) and open during day light hours. Village events such as the 'Marden BIG Musical Picnic' and PTA Firework Display are held here and residents and village groups are welcome to hire the field. Please call 01622 832305 or email [clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk) for details.

## **Police & Crime Update:**

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

Of great concern to the Parish Council and to residents over the last 12 months has been the unprecedented amount of anti-social behaviour experienced in the village which we have been closely monitoring. We have held a number of meetings with our excellent PCSO Nicola Morris, Youth workers and the Maidstone Community Safety Unit to discuss the issues and crucially what action is being taken to address it. We have also been in contact with our MP Helen Grant who has given some reassurance that the Police are continuing their work with this issue and she will continue to raise in her meetings with the Police Commissioner.

Kent Police held a surgery back in February which a number of residents attended, but unfortunately nobody attended the last session. However, Police surgeries will be an ongoing event and we will arrange different venues and times to see if we have more attendance. Inspector Mark Hedges from Kent Police attended the Annual Parish Meeting and gave an update on the actions they have been taking.

If you recall, there have been various incidents at Marden Station. It is good to hear that Nicola our PCSO, the Maidstone Safety Unit and British Transport Police are now working closely together to help resolve any anti-social behaviour on the railway. You can report any incidences to BTP on 0800 405040.

Additionally, a CCTV camera has been installed at The Parsonage to help monitor any anti-social behaviour in that area.

We urge residents to continue to report any occurrences 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.

### **Police & Parish Surgeries**

Further dates have been arranged for the Parish & Police Surgeries where PCSO Nicola Morris and at least one member of the Parish Council will be in attendance. These are on 15th June, 20th July and 17th August outside Marden Library at 12noon to 1pm

### **Safer in Kent**

Investment will see another 180 more Police Officers recruited to the Kent Police in 2019/20 and officers will be focused on visible patrols, community policing and investigations. As well as investing in Police Officers, there will be continued investment in Police Staff and PCSO's, and it has been agreed that all 300 PCSO posts will remain in the county. They now have more powers to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. For more info, you can check out the Kent Police website:

[www.kent-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk) or Facebook: Kent Police and Crime Commissioner

### **Cold Callers are Targeting Kent Residents**

A number of reports have been received of cold callers claiming to be part of an ex-offender scheme and selling gardening and household items - please be aware that ex-offenders will never be asked to cold call as part of an ex-offender or prison release scheme. Additionally, doorstep criminals call on unsuspecting households offering convincing deals to try to get you to agree to have work carried out or buy goods. It is recommended that:

- You don't open the door to the doorstep cold caller
- You don't trade on your doorstep – just say No

- Warn vulnerable family members, friends and neighbours
- If you need home repairs carried out, use reputable traders who are members of the KCC Trading Standards approved trader scheme, run in partnership with Checkatrade.

If you feel afraid or threatened by a doorstep caller, phone 999

## **Youth Provision:**

### **Youth Club**

The Youth Club has been run by Kent County Council youth workers for the last 10 years. It is such a shame that they have stopped running the Wednesday youth session in Marden as they have been providing valuable support to some of the village youngsters. We are indebted to Joanna Rhodes who has set up a youth club on a Friday evening along with other adult volunteers to support our young people and to provide them with a safe venue, which now comes under the umbrella of the Parish Council. Many thanks to our Borough Councillors who have provided a grant of £1500 to the Parish Council, which will be used to support the Youth Club. However, if this youth club is to survive, it needs adult volunteers – if you have time to spare and are keen to help out, please let Alison in the office know and she will pass on your details.

We are pleased to announce that Amanda Drummond from KCC youth and the Children's Centre has started up a Junior Club on Wednesdays from 3pm-5pm (term time only) in the John Banks Hall (next to the Memorial Hall). They accept children from 6-11 free of charge but referrals need to come from the primary school or other professional body as spaces are limited. A Youth Café also runs on Friday afternoons by

the Church in the Vestry Hall.

### **Skateboard/Bike Park in Marden**

We reported in the Spring Newsletter that 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, but so far none have been found. If you know of any suitable parcel of land please let us know.

## **Health & Welfare:**

### **Marden Children's Centre**

Marden is fortunate to have an excellent Children's Centre.

The Marden Children groups (Mondays and Thursdays) will continue throughout the summer and we welcome any parents of children from age 0-5. Each Thursday from 12.30pm to 2.30pm the Children's Centre is hosting support for breastfeeding mums. This is run by the qualified NHS staff. Parents do not need to book – just turn up on the day.

During the summer holiday the Children's Centre is planning a bug hunt in the secret garden, interested parents please contact the Children's Centre for further information. For those parents who are struggling financially, the Marden Children's Centre can support them with interim food parcels – eligibility criteria applies.

Think Action is providing free counselling service at the Centre for parents and young adults. Please contact the Centre for further information and referral process.

For parents who are unemployed and would like help and advice on writing CVs, advice on interviews, filling an application form etc Golding Homes employment adviser will be available to assist on a monthly basis.

Staff at Marden Children's Centre would like to say a big thank you to Golding Homes, Marden in Bloom project (especially Anne and Rob) and Golden Hill Plants for their generous donation towards creating a happy garden for our parents and children. We are also very grateful to Marden Parish Council for their ongoing support and special thanks to Cllr David Burton for his enormous support and to County Councillor Eric Hotson.

Please call the Children's Centre for more info: 01622 831503 or see the timetable on: [https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/kent/directory/files/march-may\\_2019\\_22.pdf](https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/kent/directory/files/march-may_2019_22.pdf)

## **Drainage and 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 and Footpaths:**

### **Pavement Parking Inquiry**

The Parish Council has responded to the House of Commons Transport Committee's inquiry into Pavement Parking as this is an issue of widespread and ongoing concern to Marden residents. Pavement parking has caused difficulties for many years in various parts of Marden. As we all know,

many footways on the village's through roads were constructed years ago and now don't comply with current width guidance e.g. many footways are just 1.2m-1.5m wide with some only 0.9m or less. The current preferred minimum widths are in the range 2.6m-3m with acceptable minimum widths being in the range 1.5m-2m. This means a vehicle even slightly parked on the footway can render it difficult or impossible to use even by able-bodied pedestrians.

### **Marden Walking Group**

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. Please call Catherine Alderson for more details of the walks she arranges on 01622 832455.

## **Other Parish Information:**

### **Allotments at Highwood Green**

As a result of some detective work by Dr Julie Morgan, we may now be getting somewhere with the allotment saga at Highwood Green. The Parish Council has recently met with Redrow and as a result has received the following press release from Matthew Finch at Redrow:

#### Property Features

- Parcel of land measuring 0.42ha designated for use as allotments
- Located to the West of Marden, within Redrow's Highwood Green Development
- Mains water supply
- Dedicated parking
- Currently maintained
- Land enclosed with security metal fencing
- Easily accessible from Goudhurst Road

#### Property Description

A rare opportunity to acquire a long lease for a parcel of land designated for use as

allotments. The leasehold will comprise vacant possession and will be entered into with Highwood Green Management Company and the Leasee, free of charge. There are 16 allotments in total which are supplied by mains water. Redrow Homes will pay reasonable legal fees and ensure the allotments are fully serviced and ready for use. The allotments are to be available for residents within the community.

For further details, please contact Matthew Finch at Redrow Homes: Telephone 01322 422325 or email: [matthew.finch@redrow.co.uk](mailto:matthew.finch@redrow.co.uk)

### **Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Community Awards**



The Parish Council entered Marden again in the 2019 KALC Community Awards and the scheme is designed to give acknowledgement and recognition to those that have made a significant contribution to the local community.

We are delighted to announce that Catherine Alderson has deservedly received the award and been presented with a Certificate signed by the High Sheriff of Kent at the Annual Parish Meeting for all her hard work particularly in establishing the Walking Group. Also for being involved

with Marden History Group and the Patient Reference Group to name but a few. Social interaction and care in the community are the bywords of Catherine, a much-valued resident of Marden. She is selfless in her concern for the needs of others. Many congratulations Catherine and thank you.

If you would like to nominate somebody in the parish who you think has made a big contribution to the local community for the award in 2020, please let Alison in the Parish Office know.

**125 Year Celebration!** Parish Councils were

### **Annual Parish Litter Pick**

Back in March more than 50 adults and children came out on a wet and windy day to participate in the annual litter pick. Anyone who visited the Library car park that weekend will have seen the enormous pile of rubbish that was collected. Our grateful thanks go to all those who volunteered on the day and in the preceding week to clean up our lovely country lanes and village centre. We are also indebted to those residents who regularly undertake litter picks in their road, and indeed if any resident wants to regularly litter pick, we can supply litter pickers & gloves.



formed in 1894 and Marden Parish Council celebrated its 125th anniversary at the Annual Parish Meeting in April. During that time, there has been 12 Chairmen and 9 Clerks. To celebrate this long-standing institution, previous Councillors and employees were invited to go along where a group photoshoot took place. Heartfelt and grateful thanks go to all those dedicated residents of Marden who gave up countless hours of their time to serve our community. Marden History Group has also been asked if they will put on a display at the Library.

### **Marden In Bloom**

We desperately need some extra hands to help with our projects – you only need to spare an hour or two. If there any willing residents, please email: [mardeninbloom@outlook.com](mailto:mardeninbloom@outlook.com) or call 01622 833351. If there is a planter near to your property, a drop of water and deadhead would really help – watering is always an issue. The planters will be re-planted shortly and we will be placing some new planters outside the front of the Library (and tidying up there), probably at the Railway Station, the

Children's Centre and two more in the School Quiet Garden. Our competition this year is 'Best Blooming Pot'. If you would like to enter, please email your jpeg images to [mardeninbloom@outlook.com](mailto:mardeninbloom@outlook.com) Please also post images on our Facebook page.

*Anne Boswell, Chairman*

### **Memorial Bench for Ken Rhodes**

You may have noticed, and from the photo on the front cover, that a memorial bench has now been installed 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"!

## **Public Consultations:**

### **Environment Agency Consultation - Draft National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England**

The Environment Agency has launched a consultation on its draft National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England - <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fcrm/national-strategy-public/>) The consultation document explains that the draft strategy vision is 'for a nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change – today, tomorrow and to the year 2100'. The deadline for responding to the consultation directly to the Environment Agency is 4 July 2019.

## **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're 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 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@ymail.com](mailto:anne.boswell@ymail.com) know. You can also check out events on <http://www.mardenchurch.org.uk/special-events.htm>. 'Let's Keep Marden Connected'

### **Marden Theatre Group - Confusions by Alan Ayckbourn - Friday 5th and Saturday 6th July**

Marden Theatre Group invite you to join them for a Ploughman's, a free welcome drink and an evening of comedy drama. Tickets are £15 each and performance dates are Friday 5th July and Saturday 6th July in the Marden Memorial Hall. Buy your tickets from West End Stores, One Stop Shop, P&P Signs or online on Marden Theatre Group Facebook page or search for us on the Eventbrite website.

### **Marden Primary School PTA Summer Fair – Saturday 6th July – 12noon to 3pm on the School Field.**

**Living Memories – Wednesday 10th July at 7pm** - If you are interested in helping to make Marden a Dementia Friendly Community or just curious on how this can be achieved, there is a meeting at the John Banks Hall on July 10th at 7pm.

For more information email Rachel at [living-memories@mardenchurch.org](mailto:living-memories@mardenchurch.org) or contact Rachel Cachon on 01622 831941

**'Come and Sing' Summer Concert & Party at the Congregational Church – Thursday 25th July – 2.00pm-3.30pm** – Contact Sarah on 01622 832925 or Marden Medical Centre on 01622 831257

**'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 are £17 (+ concessions) available from West End Stores and Crowhurst & Thompsett locally, by ringing 01323 501260 and on line at <https://www.therudemechanicaltheatre.co.uk/>. Bring a picnic, your own chair and warm clothing for an English summer.

**Friends of Marden Heritage – Big Musical BBQ – Sunday 15th September** 12.30pm-4.30pm – tickets £10

**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](mailto:mardeninbloom@outlook.com) by the 1st September – more details to be announced.....

**Marden Theatre Group - Wizard of Oz -** Marden Theatre Group are excited to announce their October production of Wizard of Oz! Performance dates are Thursday 24th October, Friday 25th October and Saturday 26th October. If you would like to be in it, an Audition Information Evening is taking place on Thursday 20th June from 7pm to 7.30pm for children and 8pm to 9pm for adults in the Vestry Hall followed by the actual Auditions on Sunday 23rd June 12noon to 1.15pm for Children’s Auditions and 1.30pm to 4pm for Adult’s Auditions - come join us in this fantastic experience!

**Marden at Christmas – Saturday 7th December** – bookings currently being taken for the Craft Fayre. If you wish to book a stall please contact the Parish Office. Tables are £10 each.



D-Day celebration flypast over Marden.

# Parish Council Contact Details & Other Useful Numbers:

## Parish Council Details

Chairman

Cllr Lesley Mannington 07802 720069  
lesley.mannington@btinternet.com

Vice-Chairman

Cllr Kate Tippen 01622 832305  
kate.tippen1@gmail.com

Cllrs

Cllr Richard Adam 831673 /  
mpc@tn12.uk

Cllr Anne Boswell 833351  
07808 868703

Cllr Maria Brown 832305

Cllr Mick Jones 832305

Cllr Ian Newton 831832

Cllr Jean Robertson 831331  
07950 816370

Cllr Tom Stevens 832305

Cllr Andy Turner 07803 598813

Vacancy

## Parish Clerk

Alison Hooker 832305  
07376 287981  
clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

## Deputy Parish Clerk

Rachel Gillis-Coates 832305  
07940 241333  
deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

**Address:** Parish Office, Marden Memorial  
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Marden Parish Council Website:  
[www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk](http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk)  
Office opening times: Monday, Tuesday,  
Friday - 10.00am to 12noon

## Other Useful Contact Numbers

### Borough Councillors

Annabelle Blackmore 01622 833299 /  
annabelleblackmore@maidstone.gov.uk

David Burton 07590 229910 /  
david.burton@burtons.uk.com

Steve McLoughlin 01622 820551 /  
stevemcloughlin@tiscali.co.uk

### County Councillor

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

### Police Community Support Officer

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### Community Warden

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