

MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL: Quality Gold Criteria 4

Provides leadership in planning for the future of the community

See also Marden Parish Council Planning Policies - [Planning Policies and Procedures - Marden Parish Council - Marden Parish Council, Marden, Tonbridge \(mardenkent-pc.gov.uk\)](#)

Marden Parish Council Planning Committee meets twice a month (1st and 3rd Tuesday) and the agenda is published on the Parish Council website ([Planning Committee Minutes & Agendas - Marden Parish Council - Marden Parish Council, Marden, Tonbridge \(mardenkent-pc.gov.uk\)](#)) on parish notice boards, social media and e-newsletter. These meetings are open to the public.

If public are unable to attend they can send their comments which are provided to the Planning Committee Cllrs. Public are also advised to send their comments direct to the local authority to ensure their voice is heard.

The Local Authority (Maidstone Borough Council) sends details of planning applications to the Clerk which are added to the next planning agenda. The Clerk also views the local authority website to ensure that there are no applications which have been missed – this may be for submission of details, non-material amendments, Conservation Area applications etc. All applications are responded to within their time limits.

MPC responds to all planning applications within the Parish, providing constructive, planning led feedback.

Marden PC Planning Committee is permitted to request applications be called in to the local authority's planning committee and if this occurs a Parish Cllr will attend to speak.

Marden Neighbourhood Plan (MNP) was adopted in July 2020 and forms part of the local authority's planning documents and policies from the MNP are referred to when responding to an application. MPC also has a number of Planning Policies, separate to the Neighbourhood Plan (*see link at top of page*).

The Parish Council has developed an Infrastructure Spend Plan [Microsoft Word - Infrastructure Spend Plan v12 January 2024 \(mardenkent-pc.gov.uk\)](#) which lists all the infrastructure improvements needed now or in the future as well as a Highways Improvement Plan [Microsoft Word - Highways Improvement Plan v18 January 2024 \(mardenkent-pc.gov.uk\)](#). Prospective developers are encouraged to take account of these documents when preparing a planning application for a major development.

If a developer approaches Marden Parish Council for a meeting to discuss a prospective or agreed development then those meetings are always held in public, with residents given the opportunity to comment. Recent large planning applications have been for the five new developments (between 2013 and 2018) within the village totalling 572 dwellings; a proposed development of 117 dwellings (2023); and a chicken farm proposal on the outskirts of the village (2020-to date).

The Parish of Marden is located within Maidstone Borough Council, whose Local Plan was adopted in 2017 and is currently under review. MPC has been actively involved in both the 2017 Local Plan and the 2024 revision.

Marden Parish Cllrs regularly attend planning training provided by the local authority, Kent Association of Local Councils and other agencies.