

## **Green Party Cllrs Grace Couch & Michael Summersgill - Parish Report for January 2026**

### Council Updates:

- The Medium Term Financial Strategy and Final Saving Proposals and Capital Programme have gone through PACs and Cabinet before full Council next month.
- The Council Tax Base has been published by cabinet
- Cllr Couch's 'Sustainable Period Poverty' Member Agenda Item Request was passed unanimously at Health PAC. Passed to Cabinet for approval and has been included in the budget.
- The VAWG deliberative engagement is progressing well and we have lots of volunteers, but we are lacking younger women.
- Solar at the Depot has been installed and gets switched on very soon.
- Money for shop fronts in Maidstone scheme has commenced, with the aim of making the town more attractive.
- Cllr Jeffery met with SEW with other Kent Leaders, but the CEO did not attend. The leader has written to the CEO requesting answers.
- 'Swift Streets' launched on suitable streets to support the swift population
- Temporary Accommodation Plan agreed by Cabinet

### Events Highlights (full list already forwarded to Clerks):

- Light Up Maidstone - 6th Feb
- Chinese New Year - 21st Feb
- Heart of Kent Walking Festival - 20th-29th March

### Collier Street:

- Resident enquiry about damage to Longends Farmhouse caused by dangerous driving passed onto KCC councillor, no response yet.
- Discussions about Natural Flood Management options with farms progressing with the South East Rivers Trust

### Yalding/Laddingford:

- Cllr Couch submitted a letter to the Planning inspectorate, supporting MBCs position imposing 10% solar requirement on Yalding Enterprise Park
- Encouraging residents impacted by light pollution from The George/Village Shop to submit reports via MBC website (we can't raise ourselves, has to come from affected residents)
- Spoke to KCC about considering Laddingford school area as a priority to grit during cold weather
- Received update on ramp arriving soon to instead accessibility of Yalding library

- MBC resilience manager writing to EA and KMRF's Severe Weather Group Chair regarding use (or lack thereof) Leigh storage/barrier
- Cllr Summersgill ongoing liaison with KCC & UMIDB about tree removal and ditch culverting on Claygate Road

Hunton:

- Cllr Summersgill has been discussing the potential effects of polytunnels on Greensand Ridge, plus several road closures due to flooding and culvert blockages

Marden:

- Cllr Summersgill liaison with residents on and adjacent to Stilebridge caravan site about site service charges and flytipping on opposite road. Queries escalated to MBC director & council leader when offer responses deemed insufficient

Nettlestead:

- Cllr Couch supporting residents opposed to application 26/500120/FULL (land west of Maidstone Road)
- Boat & Bean license granted at licensing hearing
- JTB petition not discussed, Cllr's Summersgill & Russell have questioned the chair about this