

Green Party Councillors' Report of June 2025, for Marden & Yalding Ward Parishes –

Things continued to be busy again within the Borough Council after the (KCC) election 'purdah', and Cabinet have been rapidly catching up with projects and proposals that had been 'on hold' during that period, setting out the priorities for Year One (April '25 – March '26) that needed to be emphasised from our approved Programme for 2025-29, so they are addressed right now and don't fall victim to any central government 'halt' to forward financing of projects (which could happen!).

We had a public Cabinet meeting on 18th June, after three Policy Advisory (PAC) reviews earlier in the month (Grace is vice-chair of one of these), and that looked at last year's financial outturn (a £100,000+ surplus, unlike last year's deficit), took forward the future budget planning, looked at community safety activities, approved Mike's Action Plans for Biodiversity & Climate Change up to 2030, and also discussed a project to refurbish Maidstone House (which has been 'called in' for more scrutiny). The next Council meeting is due on 16th July, which will be chaired by the new Mayor, Cllr. Martin Round of Headcorn (who was this weekend hosting the Battle of Britain festival at the aerodrome); after that, another Cabinet meeting is being held on 23rd July with none due in August.

Updates for Newsletters/Sharing with Residents:

Please check out www.visitmaidstone.com/whats-on for details of things happening in and around the town; there is an Arts Carnival on 12th July, with a town procession and a musical event in Brenchley Gardens and a new Titanic exhibition at the Museum from 12th July.

Don't forget the River Festival in town on July 26th, and there will be Bandstand concerts on Sundays from 20th July, and Art in the Park on Fridays, in Brenchley Gardens all Summer. For other musical interests, there is the Maid of Stone rock festival in Mote Park and Blue Reef in Linton, both in July.

Parish Matters –

Collier Street – All Councillors (+ MP) had an email from resident about problems on Benover Road.

Hunton – Traffic concerns (another crash outside the school) and school-time parking issues.

Marden – Mike has been involved in residents' concerns about illegal land use near StileBridge.

Nettlestead – Mike & Grace publicised the zebra crossing petition to the wider M&Y Ward (again).

Yalding – The monthly Repair Café events are proving very useful; much praise needs to go to all the local community members 'staffing' this initiative. Grace has been liaising between Kenward Trust staff and our beat PCs, re. anti-social behaviour support work in the Summer. MBCs emergency response team are still trying to liaise with Trooli about landline issues, after Laddingford problems.

Borough Councillors Grace Couch & Mike Summersgill – 29th June 2025

Emails: michaelsummersgill@maidstone.gov.uk, gracecouch@maidstone.gov.uk