

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

In a busy period within the Borough Council before election 'purdah' kicked in on 21<sup>st</sup> March, the Cabinet Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March dealt with over a dozen items for approval. This included agreeing a submission to central Government on reforming Kent Councils, which included our preferred option for a West Kent Authority covering four Boroughs; the Government will respond at the end of April. Only the monthly Planning Committee and a Scrutiny committee (Crime & Disorder) will meet during April, and then the next (mayor-making) Council meeting/event will be on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

Other items at Cabinet on 19<sup>th</sup> March included approving Mike's updated Biodiversity & Climate Change Strategy (now split into two strategies) and an update on Biodiversity Net Gain sites in the Borough; other matters were chiefly Financial, but also included details on Homes in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and a strong rejection of the KCC scheme for the A229 changes on Blue Bell Hill.

### **Updates for Newsletters/Sharing with Residents:**

#### Medieval Fayre at Brenchley Gardens on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April

The gardens (and the adjacent Museum) will have traditional crafts and skills being demonstrated (in costume) from 11am to 4pm, no charge. Find out more on [www.visitmaidstone.com/whats-on](http://www.visitmaidstone.com/whats-on).

Also happening all over town venues at the May Day Weekend is Maidstone Fringe musical festival, and 'Rock the Mote' takes place from 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May, with a host of UK tribute bands in Mote Park.

Maidstone's 'Big Day Out' - MBC is inviting everyone to get out and enjoy our amazing parks and open spaces, and to be part of the first community-led 'Big Day Out.' Being held on Saturday 14 June 2025, this inaugural one-day festival is celebrating outdoor areas to be found all across the borough.

To find out more about the Maidstone Big Day Out, please visit the website: <https://bigdayout.info/>

## Parish Matters –

**Collier Street** – Mike visited Crow Plain Farm to look at re-aligning drainage and re-working ponds.

**Hunton** – Liaison continues with upset residents over activities on a large 'agricultural' site, with 12 caravans moved onto site and heavy traffic movements causing verge damage on the minor roads.

**Marden** – Mike attended the Police liaison morning at the Club on 20<sup>th</sup>, and took away a couple of residents' concerns to be reported to MBC and/or KCC. We're attending Litter/Plastic Pick on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Nettlestead** – The litter pick on Hempstead Lane & Station Road finally took place, after two delays.

**Yalding** – The Repair Café event in March was attended by Grace, and she deemed it a big success; the next one is at the end of April. Mike also chased up a couple of Planning enquiries/matters.

Borough Councillors Grace Couch & Mike Summersgill – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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