

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 21st March, the Cabinet Meeting on 19th 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 17th May.

Other items at Cabinet on 19th 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 12th 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.

Also happening all over town venues at the May Day Weekend is Maidstone Fringe musical festival, and 'Rock the Mote' takes place from 23rd-25th 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 20th, and took away a couple of residents' concerns to be reported to MBC and/or KCC. We're attending Litter/Plastic Pick on 29th.

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 – 27th March 2025

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