

Report of October 2025, for Marden & Yalding Ward Parishes –

After the busy, but ‘purdah’ month of September, this month has been another busy one for the main business of the Borough Council, including a special meeting to approve documents for two of the ‘garden community’ proposals in Lidsing and Lenham Heath. Plus there was a delayed Council meeting on 13th, to deal with the North Downs election results; this meant that we had to slightly re-organise Committees to accommodate the three new ReformUK councillors. In conjunction, I have relinquished my Climate & Nature post within Cabinet, and taken on the Corporate Strategy post from a former Independent Councillor, so am now busily involved in understanding Finance matters!

At the Cabinet meeting on 22nd, various items were debated, including the first steps towards the next Local Plan, a ‘Pump Track’ and next stage in the Gypsy & Travellers’ planning documentation. Moves towards LGR (local government reorganisation) continue, albeit nothing concrete emerges!

As well as his Planning Committee duties, Mike has recently been appointed as the MBC’s Assistant representative on Rochester Bridge Trust, one that will extend beyond the purported end of Council. Joining two chartered civil engineers on the Board, including the Bridge Clerk, is a great opportunity.

In wider ‘community’ terms, the pop-up Eco-Hub was an interesting idea, and it allowed visitors to view the new Arts Hub on Gabriels Hill, where there is also a Tony Hart centenary exhibition & celebration (open until 8th November). The Remembrance Sunday parade in town is on Sunday 9th November, and the Christmas Lights switch on is Thursday 20th November at 5-7pm in Jubilee Square. Please check for other social events on: <https://www.visitmaidstone.com/whats-on>

Parish Matters –

Collier Street – Nothing to report, except email communications about the Play Area equipment.

Hunton – A quiet month with no PC meeting, but much mail about highways concerns and PlanAps.

Marden – Attended the medical centre as parking supervisor for the Flu Clinic, and the Community Café with MBC staff and Police. A couple of SpeedWatch stints, and reported a blocked footpath.

Nettlestead – Attended the Joint Transport Board meeting at Town Hall on 15th, to witness a formal presentation of the Petition for the new Crossing, alongside Parish Councillors and Ward Member.

Yalding. Have reviewed another application in a serial submission about housing on Vicarage Road.

Borough Councillors Grace Couch & Mike Summersgill – 30th October 2025

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