

Deputy Clerk's Report

By Rachel Gillis-Coates for the Amenities Committee meeting on 26th November 2024

1. Actions and updates from the last Amenities Committee meeting on 22nd October 2024.
 - a. **Community Payback.** The Community Payback team will be painting the gates at the Marden Playing Field play area on Thursday 28th November. Please do let me know any suggestions for further work in the village for them.
 - b. **Tree Work in Playing Field.** The Cherry Tree that had died between Napoleon Drive and the Playing Field has now been removed by the Caretakers.
 - c. **Left over Wood from Tree Removal at Car Park.** The trunks and wood left over from the tree removal at the Marden Library car park has now been removed.
 - d. **Caretaker's To Do List.** The Caretaker's To Do List is being created following the Site Meetings.

TREES ON MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL OPEN SPACE

TREE WARDEN - TREE INSPECTION FORM

Month: November Year. 2024 _____

Name: Charlie Edwards

<p style="text-align: center;">ROOKERY PATH</p> <p>Date of inspection 12th Nov. 24</p> <p>Work required N</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COMMENTS</p> <p>The trees along both sides of the path look healthy, however some tidying work may be necessary such as to the initial chestnut at the junction with the road that has a few overhanging branches. There are a few new saplings growing, Elder and Ash specifically, that appear to be self-seeded, and in time will be good additions.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PLAYING FIELD</p> <p>Date of inspection 12th Nov. 24</p> <p>Work required N</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COMMENTS</p> <p>Again, no major issues. Some of the trees at the back (near the original cockpit) have a lot of ivy growing up that can affect them if left too long. There is a nice example of a young silver birch growing by Cranham Square.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CHESTNUTS AREA</p> <p>Date of inspection 12th Nov. 24</p> <p>Work required N</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COMMENTS</p> <p>I counted 6 sweet chestnut trees growing in the area which is perhaps more than my last report suggested. There are also several new saplings which should add to the numbers over time. Of note is a newish looking willow tree in this area as well as some lovely Oak and Yew trees.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">NAPOLEON DRIVE</p> <p>Date of inspection 12th Nov. 24</p> <p>Work required N</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COMMENTS</p> <p>The play area is neat and tidy. It was pleasing to see the hedging that has been planted along one side of the playground and by the tree divide between this area and the playing field. The hedging is still young and contained in protection and seemed to be healthy and undamaged. The more established Fir and Rowan trees also appear to be doing well. The two Rowan trees planted on the Pavement for Napoleon Drive are well protected and flourishing.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SOUTHONS FIELD</p> <p>Date of inspection 12th Nov. 24</p> <p>Work required N</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COMMENTS</p> <p>The trees in Southons Field present as a significant addition to the area. I enjoy the variety. There are good examples of both established and sapling trees. I have previously commented upon the different species and have nothing to add, they are cared for very well.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CEMETERY</p> <p>Date of inspection 8th Nov. 24</p> <p>Work required N</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COMMENTS</p> <p>The cemetery continues to be very well managed with the central Oak being a fantastic example. The smaller trees along the centre continue to grow and feature in the cemetery. The whole area shows respect and comfort for the departed and their visiting families.</p>

TREES IN MARDEN PARISH (NOT MPC)

TREE WARDEN - TREE INSPECTION FORM

Month: November

Year: 2024

Name: Charlie Edwards

<p>Date of inspection: 12th November 2024</p> <p>Work required: y</p> <p>Location: Admiral Way Campion Way Cockpit</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COMMENTS</p> <p>The saplings that the Parish Council planted in the area around Campion Way and the Cockpit have long since disappeared as I reported last year. This area is now very overgrown, particularly with brambles, so if any of the trees did survive it would be difficult to find them now, and indeed, for them to grow. There are some now established saplings that were planted by the building contractors at the side of the Campion Way housing. Walking the path that takes you to the back of the Admiral Road estate I found some good examples of Alder both on the border to the estate and at right angles to it. Further along there are saplings of Silver Birch and Rowan, that I also think were planted by the contractors. They are doing well. In addition, hedging has been planted featuring Hawthorn, Maple and Beech. Continuing along the path and into the vineyard area, Hazel, Ash, Holly and Maple feature. These continue along the path that goes into the Apple Orchard. I returned by crossing the wooden bridge over the ditch, on the right, and then following the track to the right (I suspect this isn't an official path). This route took me past an old and established Apple Orchard, on my left. It is pleasing to see an old orchard still exists. Halfway along this path a large limb from an Ash Tree has broken off and is hanging some 10 ft from the ground above the path. I would recommend this is cut down as it could present a danger to walkers were it to become dislodged any further.</p>
<p>Date of inspection: 8th November 2024</p> <p>Work required Y</p> <p>Location: Copper Lane</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COMMENTS</p> <p>I understand that planning has been granted to the area I reported upon last year. I also understand that TPO's have been applied for, for the Oak trees bordering the boundary between the planned area and the adjacent field that also borders Thorn Road. My concern is that the TPO is essential to protect the trees from the development and it needs to be pursued vigorously to ensure all subsequent building work honours the order.</p>
<p>Date of inspection: 8th November 2024</p> <p>Work required: Y</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COMMENTS</p> <p>The willow tree reported upon last year is still over hanging the public footpath and still could be considered a danger to people walking the path.</p>

Location: Maidstone Road footpath by Church Farm	
Date of inspection: 8 th November 2024 Work required Y Location Bridgehurst Woods	<p style="text-align: center;">COMMENTS</p> <p>The wood is an ancient woodland that I understand is owned and managed by two local people. Access to the woods is limited as there are no public footpaths into the woods themselves, and in recent years local interest has been discouraged. However, paths along the side of the woods do exist so that some observations can be made. Over the past years there has been significant clearance work taking place in the southern and western parts. Recently, local residents have been voicing some concern, about this work, concerns that I share, particularly as such work is being done in a somewhat clandestine manner. Because the access to the woods is limited it is difficult to know the full extent of the clearance work, but from what I can observe, it seems excessive. Where once trees, scrub and cover for wildlife existed, there are now large open spaces not conducive with ancient woodland. I feel that at the very least, residents' concerns should be considered, especially as the area where the clearance has taken place seems to have a connection to the Marden Wildlife group. Of note is the felling of a large willow tree, the remains of which are beside the car parking area near the fishing lake.</p>

NOTES FROM KALC CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE – 5th November 2024

Organised by Alison Stevens, KALC and Sarah Barker, Kings Hill PC & Chair of KALC Climate Change

KALC hold area committees once a quarter on climate change – **check out**

CHANGING WEATHER RISKS IN A WARMING WORLD – Chrissie Wilson, Met Office

- The Met Office have weather products that help contingency planners prepare for and respond to emergencies.
- Changes in water/rainfall patterns – too much rainfall in short period of time. Localised heavy rainfall leading to an increase in surface water flooding due to frontal systems.
- UK average 6% wetter over last 30 years – 6 out of 10 wettest years occurred since 1998. By 2070, rainfall events expected to increase by up to 25% and in Feb 2020 wettest on record.
- 0.9% warmer temp over last 30 years with the greatest warming in East Midlands & East Anglia.
- Extreme heat on 18/7/22 in Lincolnshire of 40.3 degrees. It's predicted by 2050, these hot summers will occur every other year and will be much drier. These heatwaves put people at risk re regulating body temperature – there were a number of excess deaths in 2022 mainly in care homes and hospitals.
- Therefore increase in heatwaves, heavy rain and wildfires could be five times more likely by 2100.
- UK Climate Projections – a greater chance of warmer, wetter winters and hotter drier summers. Sea levels are rising and will continue to rise due to glacial isostatic adjustment resulting in coastal flooding and erosion.

Impacts of Climate Change – increase in deaths; transport disruption – rail services; melting roads; disruption at airports; water shortages – demand higher; increase in water rescues; wildfires, drought; coastal flooding; fluvial – rivers; surface water flooding.

Wildfire Season Risks – high temperature, low humidity, low rainfall and often high winds. Risks occur naturally but is increasing in frequency resulting in disruption of land, danger to buildings, poor air quality, impact on Fire & Rescue service.

Storms in North Atlantic bringing heavy rain and high winds. These systems will increase resulting in structural damage, power outages, transport disruption etc.

Action: MPC to prepare the Emergency Plan in liaison with Kent Resilience Forum.

<https://www.kentprepared.org.uk/community-resilience>

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION – WHAT IS KCC DOING? - Ben Hudson, Climate Change & Emergency Manager, KCC

- **Operational Footprint** – **refer to slides once received**

Remove	Reduce	Replace	Restore
Stop Using Fossil Fuels			
Only own 1 vehicle		Electric Bike	Offsetting

- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions** – oil, gas, petrol, diesel, service delivery and supply chain activities
- **Electricity** – Construction of two solar farms (not in Kent!) to reduce their electricity bills
- **Business Miles, Fleet etc.**
- **Solar Together Kent** – installed 160 EV charge point installations. All 12 boroughs and Medway collaborate to promote this initiative.
- **Adaptation Plan 2025-2028** – Anticipated to be adopted by April 2025. Focused on KCC assets and services. Aims to build resilience to negate impacts etc.
- **Severe Weather Impacts** – monitoring system with Kent partners to collate info.

- **Water Audit** – Working with SE Water and Aqualogic – improvements in 98 schools, 47 community HUBs have been shortlisted – up to £13k annual savings per site.
- **Action: SE Water keen to work with Parish Councils – they offer water audits.**
- **KCC Engagement and Events – ‘KCC Take the Jump’** – 1 flight every 3 years, end clutter, holiday local, eat green, dress retro, reduce all travel – trialled internally and looking at expanding out.
- **Home Improvements and Energy Efficiency** – retrofit, green open home events – heat pumps, compatible low carbon products.
- **Community Energy** – in infancy – help groups understand e.g. community take charge of a solar farm. Paddock Wood looking at this – people get together and do it collectively on roofs rather than using a field but complicated hoops to go through.

JOINT APPROACH TO NET ZERO – Andrew Maliphant, SLCC Environmental & Sustainability Advisor and Deputy Chair of NALC’s Climate Emergency Network

- **Mitigation** – reduce carbon emissions
- **Adaptation** – responding to climate change
- **Nature Recovery** – offsetting impact from past development

Idea – Battery Operated ground maintenance machinery to reduce fossil fuel usage.

- Manage sites for biodiversity, building management – retrofitting, neighbourhood development plans, council transport, council policies, purchasing, letting contracts.
- Nobody has a statutory duty to respond to climate change, but have we got a biodiversity duty – one that relates to planning applications?
- Flood and Heatwaves – emergency plans.
- There are co-benefits from taking action – save running cost of parish buildings.
- New allotments.

What’s Stopping Us from Getting Involved?

- Council powers, what about funding, what about staff/councillors, what about good practice, power of competency – Section 101.
- Money – National Lottery + guidance and lists sources. **Action: Check this out**
- What Government funds are around re ACV’s?
- Work with community and other parishes – joint action to make a difference.
- Carbon copy – case studies on what parishes have done.
- **Great Collaboration Mapping** - <https://greatcollaboration.uk/> **This will be discussed by the Environment Group**
- Connect with environmental initiatives with the LPA.
- Voluntary sector networks
- Neighbouring parishes
- Wildlife Corridors
- Public Rights of Way
- Offer support to local climate action and conservation groups
- **Planning Applications** – ask searching questions. Labour want more houses!
- Need to involve more people – the **7 segments** – covered in Carbon Literacy training
- **Community Projects** with real results will impress the most – get more engagement from residents e.g. Marden Plastic Free Campaign
- **Communications** – think of different ways to do this. **Action: Engage the community at the APM**
- Speak to doubters about co-benefits
- **Community workshops**

- **Household survey** – generates a mailing list
- **Bioblitz** for a biodiversity audit
- Neighbourhood Planning Events
- Open house events from residents who have made low carbon changes
- Council and community working groups
- Carbon Calculators – impact tool

Action Planning – keep it simple – parish councils to lead the way e.g. allotments, carbon literacy training, dealing with an emergency.

Belbin Team Roles <https://www.belbin.com/>

RETROFITS – **Steven Love, Centre of Sustainable Energy** – UK wide charity based in Bristol.

WodE-EnergyDemo@cse.org.uk - West of England Local Energy Advice Demonstrator working with local partners in the West of England to increase the provision of community led retrofit and home energy advice.

What is Retrofit? – process of modifying existing building to improve.

Good retrofit – reduce energy and consumption – improved health and comfort

Poor retrofit - Failure to realise savings, increase in damp and mould.

Climate change having an effect – wind driven rain – exposure, increased rainfall – can our gutters and drainage cope, increased humidity – mould growth.

Local Authority Climate Exposure – can generate a report for local authorities:

<https://climatedataportal.metoffice.gov.uk/pages/lacs>

Carbon Emissions – embodied + operational emissions and disposal e.g. demolition and disposal.

Carbon & Life Cycle Analysis – carbon cost, durability, longevity, evaluating the environmental impacts of a product or service through its entire life cycle e.g. Solar Panels

Repair & Maintenance – Don't overlook – 40% can be saved in energy consumption.

Whole House Approach – focus on whole system not individual elements.

Sustainable Traditional Building Alliance – <https://responsible-retrofit.org/> - ventilation, indoor air etc. – different considerations – **check slides**

Assessment & monitoring – being mindful of energy bills, do we understand how heating systems work?

Performance Gap – energy performance certificates – be mindful this doesn't cover everything.

Traditional Buildings – solid stone – allows for moisture to evaporate.

Modern – designed to keep moisture out.

Monitoring, assessments, surveys- air tightness testing, building condition surveys, energy performance certificates, retrofit – specific surveys, energy use monitoring, air temperature monitoring, indoor air – quality monitoring, carbon dioxide – CO2 monitors, **thermal imaging assessments**.

KENT FIRE & RESCUE – **Gary Miller, Station Manager and Wildfire Tactical Adviser**

Wildfires in UK – increase linked to weather – wetter winters, increased vegetation, drier summers, windspeeds etc. Met Office predicts 2% increase in global warming will lead to twice the number of hot

summer days etc. Have significant challenges now and the hot summer of 2022 had an impact on firefighters and resources.

- **What defines a Wildfire** - Length of flame determines fire classification: up to 0.5m low – hand tools, hose reels ok; up to 3.5m extreme – can't use hoses too dangerous – attack option – aerial firefighting aircraft. Length of more than 1.5m requires a committed resource of at least 4 fire and rescue appliances/resources. Resources committed for at least 6 hours.
 - European fire risk increased – EU increased 12 extra aircraft relocated to Paris as fire risk higher.
 - Kent at forefront of climate change and how it will impact the fire service.
 - **Wildfire incidents** – 2016-2023 increased with greatest peak in 2022 – more than 70. In 2023-2024 – wet windy weather in winter and seasonal lower temperatures in spring decreased the risk of wildfires.
 - How do they start – disposable BBQs, accidental, lightning – sparks on electricity lines, human activities such as use of weapons.
 - **Rural wildfires** – with the increase in housing developments affecting where houses meet or intermingle with vegetation – highest risk for wildfire damage. Combination of fire behaviour and the built environment. Integrating firebreaks in new developments slows fire progression, disrupt the continuous fuel supply, slowing or even stopping a wildfire advance, creates a defensible zone, protecting property and lives, reduces risk of property damage and loss of life.
 - **Farmland adjacent to housing** – advice to farmers not to grow crops next to buildings – need to get them on board and agree boundaries to form fire breaks.
 - **Example** – this has happened in Thanet.
 - **Urban wildfires** – drought, strong winds and human activity can bring fire danger. There is a growing threat in urban areas.
 - **Fire control lines** – strip of land cleared of flammable materials to halt the spread of a wildfire – it acts as a barrier to stop or slow the fire's advance. It's an essential tool for wildfire suppression providing a way to contain and manage spread of flames, protecting lives and minimising damage.
 - Needs to be an increased awareness, preparedness and mitigation efforts to protect from fires and promoting evacuation of residents.
 - **Consequences of Wildfires** – environmental damage, air pollution and potential water contamination. Need to work with County Council re evacuation and shelters and disruption to essential services.
 - **Grassland** – above 6mm - thicker vegetation in terms of stem, reduces risk of wildfire.
 - **Action: put in Emergency Plan – enhance community resilience.**
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ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE WITH TREES & WOODLAND – Bridget Fox, Woodland Trust

- UK's net zero target will not be met without changes in how we use our land – changes need to start now.
- Tree planting must be scaled up in the 2020's for abatement to be sufficient for later carbon budgets and net zero. Plant trees along rivers and plant a green corridor to help to prevent development.
- **Carbon Sequestration** – carbon capture and storage – grasslands + woodland soil – **look at slide**
- Good for the economy to use timber products.
- Only 13% tree cover in the UK – need to get up to 19-20% just to survive.
- **Local Council's Leadership Role** – amend MPC tree policy – **see slide**
- Community Seedbanks and Tree Nurseries
- Call for Site for tree planting – local verifiable source of trees and plants. Marden Wildlife Group already doing this. Does Network Rail have land to buy that isn't developable?
- **Citizens Science** – mapping trees, ancient tree and veteran tree inventory.
- **Kent Planning Network for Nature** - <https://kent-planning-network-for-nature.org.uk/discovery>
- Forestry Commission guidance on tree mix – 80 local species/20 non-native.
- Woodland Trust say 100% only plant native local species only.
- **Action: Set up a village group to map all the trees and hedgerows.**

Report to Marden Parish Council

Meeting date: 26 November 2024

Authors: Richard Adam

Subject: Marden Parish Council - Waste

Purpose: To agree a new approach for Marden Parish Council in its approach to waste arising from the parish office and other locations within the council's control

Recommendations: That council agrees to investigate further options for reducing, reusing or recycling the waste arising from its activities in the most sustainable way consistent with the best use of public money.

1. Background

Marden Parish Council has a variety of methods for the disposal of waste arising from the parish office, playing field, cemetery and facilities.

However, most of the current arrangements have little or no ability to follow the sustainable principles of 'reduce, reuse and recycle', with much waste being disposed of in an unsegregated manner.

This is contrary to the policies and guidance adopted at parish, borough, county and national level.

2. Options for Council

- a. Do nothing – with the risk of the parish council being seen as ready to preach the principles of sustainability to residents and local businesses while failing to set a good example itself.
- b. To seek to work with existing waste disposal service providers and partners (e.g. the Marden Memorial Hall management committee) to adopt a segregated approach to maximise the opportunities to reuse or recycle the waste arising from its various premises and outdoor facilities.
- c. Alternatively, to investigate other – more sustainable – waste disposal arrangements.
- d. In addition to both b) and c), to challenge itself to minimise the amount of waste produced as a result of its activities in the first place.

3. Reason for recommendation

To lead by example in the long-term interests of a sustainable future for the parish, its residents and local businesses.

4. Expected benefits (categorise the benefits if possible, good for reaching councillors who have interests, also useful for any potential funding applications)

- The local community ✓
- The environment ✓
- The wider community ✓
- Other

Report to Marden Parish Council

4. Appendices

(Attach any additional information/paperwork/links which will allow Cllrs to find out more details)

Other notes to author

Keep your writing concise and to the point, but keep to whole sentences, good grammar and effective punctuation.

Try to keep to no more than 2 sides of a4 paper. Make effective use of Appendices for any supplementary information.

Write for your audience – you want them to read, understand and be informed.)

AMENITIES OUTSTANDING ISSUES LIST

Action No.	Minute Item No	Action	Allocated to	Status	Date Completed
A1/23		Chase Golding Homes regarding the CCTV on the Playing Field.	Alison Hooker	The Clerk continues to chase Golding Homes for an update. Any new updates will be put in the Deputy Clerk Report.	
	80/23	Bollards at the Cemetery	Rachel Weeks	The memorial has been installed and the Clerks are speaking with a supplier to supply. An order has been placed with the supplier and the Caretaker will collect these in the PC Van. The Caretaker will be installing these shortly.	

	130/24	Noticeboard for Marden Playing Field	Rachel Weeks	<p>The Clerks have contacted MBC regarding a grant. Quote from the company used before was used for the amount. Response from MBC is that we have secured a grant at £500. Full Council agreed to fund the rest. The noticeboard has been ordered and the signaged agreed. We await notice of a delivery date.</p>	
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	027/24	Memorial Safety Stakes	Rachel Weeks	Following Cllrs decision to purchase wooden stakes and strapping. The Deputy Clerk has ordered the stakes from a contractor and is awaiting delivery date. The strapping tool has been ordered and is also awaiting delivery. Once delivered, a working party will be installing the stakes on unsafe memorials that are not laying down. A spreadsheet has been created by the Deputy Clerk and circulated to Cllrs. The wooden stakes have been installed in Section 1 and 2. The rest of the wooden stakes will be installed in Section 3 on Monday 25th November.	
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	April 2024 Site Meeting	Quotes for Soil Waste Removal	Rachel Weeks and Ali Hooker	The soil waste was viewed at the Site Meeting in April 2024 with a view to removal in Spring/Summer 2025. The Clerks are seeking quotes from contractors.	
	057/24	Litter Bin Survey	Rachel Weeks	A litter bin survey was carried out by the Admin Assistant and the Deputy Clerk. Cllrs decided at the Amenities Committee Meeting on 1st October to request two more bins from MBC in areas that needed them at the end of the High Street/Stanleys. The Deputy Clerk contacted MBC. When a response has been received, the Deputy Clerk will add to the Amenities Committee Meeting Agenda.	

Re: Litter Bin Review - Marden

From John Edwards <JohnEdwards@maidstone.gov.uk>
Date Tue 29/10/2024 12:42
To Rachel Weeks <deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk>

Afternoon Rachel,

I need to be careful about producing more work for the team, as generally, all the extra housing in the borough has increased work demands, and no additional funding/resourcing has been provided.

I believe 29 litter bins for a village the size of Marden is too many, and I wouldn't wish to add to this number, but I am happy to relocate some of the current provision.

When I joined the Council 18 years ago, Parishes provided their litter bins to enhance the Council's provision, and I fear we may need to go back to this arrangement.

I'm sorry I was not very positive.

John

From: Rachel Weeks <deputyclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 12:10 PM
To: John Edwards <JohnEdwards@maidstone.gov.uk>
Subject: Litter Bin Review - Marden

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear John,

The Parish Councillors have asked me to email you with a request to review the litter bins in Marden with a view to adding a couple more to the High Street area due to litter being caused from takeaway food.

We carried out our own Litter Bin Survey and I attach an image showing all the current litter bins (as red triangles) in the village centre (some owned by MBC, some by Parish Council and some by shops). You can see where there is a gap near the end of the High Street towards Howland Road and Albion Road by Marden Pharmacy (the right side of the map). Opposite The Unicorn pub there is The Old Post Office Coffee House and towards the Marden Pharmacy, there is the Marden Bakery. Both of these sell takeaway food and it has been commented on by residents the amount of litter around this area.