

## **MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL: Quality Gold Criteria 2(b)**

### **Community Engagement influencing Council activity and priorities**

Marden Parish Council (MPC) engages with the community through social media, hard copy newsletters and weekly e-newsletters along with posters and notices. The Council holds public consultation on specific projects and aims to have a presence at all village events.

MPC undertakes consultations for many aspects of the Council's work and this is done via online surveys, hard copies of questionnaires being made available and through open sessions. The most recent being held in March on the proposed refurbishment of the pavilion/changing rooms: [Changing Rooms Consultation - Marden Parish Council - Marden Parish Council, Marden, Tonbridge \(mardenkent-pc.gov.uk\)](https://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk).

An open morning was held in a central location offering residents the opportunity to view plans and discuss the proposals with Cllrs. Members of the public also had the opportunity to feedback via on line forms using Microsoft and Google Forms. These platforms have also been used to obtain feedback on other consultations etc such as parking; how S106/CIL money should be spent; future village events and applications for Summer Play Scheme.

Also on show was MPC's Infrastructure Spend Plan (ISP) (it's "wish list") for projects suggested by residents at previous sessions, consultations and comments raised through meetings and emails. This document is reviewed regularly and open for residents to comment. A feedback form was available to be completed for any suggestions/proposals for future projects. This feedback was also used to prioritise projects and to ascertain what funding could be achieved and how.

QR Codes are available in notice boards to direct residents to the website to view MPC Minutes etc, at the Cemetery to direct visitors to the rules and regulations, to enable anyone to register for the weekly e-newsletters. QR Codes are also used for consultations and at times when the Parish Council wishes to obtain residents views.

MPC's four-year financial business plan outlines projects from the ISP; the Highways Improvement Plan (HIP), again this is from comments raised by residents and prioritised with assistance from Kent County Council Highways Department; and for any capital expenditure required for the smooth running of the Parish Council.

Two Cllrs attended Marden Primary Academy to talk to Year 3 pupils in regard to planning and development in the village. This encouraged the children to write letters of concern, plan a housing development and to discuss how large developments impact on village life; Cllrs are involved with many of the village organisations, some sitting on Committees, and are able to feedback to the Parish Council issues and questions raised ([Council Participation - Marden Parish Council - Marden Parish Council, Marden, Tonbridge \(mardenkent-pc.gov.uk\)](https://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk)). There is also a regular Community Forum call attended by the Parish Council and local organisations such as the Parish Church, Marden Primary Academy, Pre-School, Marden Medical Centre, Marden Dementia Group, Involve (local social prescribing service), etc who share local information amongst each other so that all work together well.

The Clerks also attend the Village Café to raise awareness of events, issues in the parish along with being available to speak face to face with residents. The Clerks also strive to walk around the village when putting up notices etc to enable them to meet with residents whilst out within the parish.

All Parish Council meetings are open to residents, who are given an opportunity to speak about items on the agenda, or at Full Council on any matter of concern.

*See also MPC website:*

*Newsletters (also hand delivered to every household in the parish):* [MPC Newsletters - Marden Parish Council Marden, Tonbridge, Kent - Marden Parish Council, Marden, Tonbridge \(mardenkent-pc.gov.uk\)](https://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk) and weekly e-newsletters.

*Consultations:* [Marden Parish Council Consultations - Marden Parish Council - Marden Parish Council, Marden, Tonbridge \(mardenkent-pc.gov.uk\)](https://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk) and [Changing Rooms Consultation - Marden Parish Council - Marden Parish Council, Marden, Tonbridge \(mardenkent-pc.gov.uk\)](https://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk)

*Annual Reports:* [Annual Parish Meetings - Marden Parish Council - Marden Parish Council, Marden, Tonbridge \(mardenkent-pc.gov.uk\)](https://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk)

*Social Media:* Facebook @MardenParish Council / Instagram @mardenparishcouncil / Twitter(X) @mardenkent-pc

*MPC Policies: Communications Policy, Community Engagement Policy, Freedom of Information, Newsletter Policy, Public Participation Policy and Noticeboard Policy. These can be found at:* [Council Policies and Procedures - Marden Parish Council - Marden Parish Council, Marden, Tonbridge \(mardenkent-pc.gov.uk\)](https://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk)