



NOTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-GROUP MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18TH MARCH 2025 COMMENCING AT 6.00PM IN THE PARISH OFFICE, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN

75. **Present:**
Cllrs Boswell, Rabot and Summersgill and Borough Cllr Grace Couch were present.
76. **Apologies:**
Cllrs Dobinson and Turner and two members of the public (SF and EP) gave their apologies.
77. **Notes from Environmental Sub-Group held on Tuesday 21st January 2025**
The notes of the meeting held on 21st January 2025 were agreed.
78. **Action List from Environmental Sub-Group**
The Administrative Assistant was currently updating the action list.
79. **Marden Plastic Free Campaign**
<http://plasticfree.org.uk/>
The Steering Committee meeting held on 10th March was primarily to discuss the plastic audit at the litter pick on Saturday 29th March. Cllr Boswell would email all village organisations again to see if they will be plastic free allies.
80. **Earth Charter Principles**
Cllrs Boswell and Rabot to arrange a meeting to run through the amended documents then circulate to SF.
81. **Parish Council Open Morning Saturday 22nd March**
Cllr Summersgill to provide some Perspex boards to display info and Cllr Rabot would put together a diagram showing what we have achieved so far and what we can do in the future. It was agreed to display posters of the Great Collaboration and the Plastic Free Marden campaign. It was also agreed to gauge residents interest on Retrofit sessions and Cllr Rabot would prepare a sign-up sheet.
82. **Pond Warden/Pond Restoration**
The Medway Valley Countryside Partnership is waiting to hear about further funding from the government. <http://kentdowns.org.uk/our-projects/heritage-ponds/>. Cllr Boswell to put another item in the Summer newsletter for a Pond Warden and Cllr Summersgill will monitor.
83. **Maidstone Big Day Out festival**
This is to be held on Saturday 14th June as part of the Great Big Green week. Maidstone Big Day out is a joint event with Maidstone CAN and MBC to

celebrate the natural beauty of Maidstone. Cllr Boswell to ask Marden Walking Group if they could lead a nature walk in the village maybe ending in Southons Field, liaise with Marden Medical Centre about the Nature Prescribing project and Marden Wildlife.

84. Big Green Week

This is being held from 7th to 15th June: [The Great Big Green Week](#). It was thought the Retrofit Session could be arranged for this week and the Plastic Free Marden campaign could maybe organise a 'Let's Talk Waste' session with MBC Waste Management Team. Cllr Boswell to liaise with EP.

85. Retrofit

SF has been liaising with KCC about arranging a retrofit event in Marden covering: why retrofit, building fabric and materials, heating/cooling and renewables, smart buildings, quick wins etc. Cllr Summersgill has already attended a session in Maidstone and the speaker was an independent professor from the University of Greenwich. Cllr Summersgill felt it was primarily focussed on old buildings and as Marden has a wide range of buildings both old and new, it would be more appropriate to see if the session could be adapted to local building stock. Golding Homes could be invited as they have recently received a government grant to improve their estate and invite local businesses such as the Little Green Energy Company to come along. As there is no funding to host this event, it was suggested it could be held in Marden Village Club and coincide with the Big Green Week. Borough Cllr Couch will contact KCC to see if the session can be adapted and ask the Village Club if they would be happy to host. Cllrs Boswell and Rabot will update Parish Cllrs at Amenities Committee on 25th March.

86. Let's Talk Waste

Borough Cllr Couch had circulated information from the MBC Waste Management Team to Cllr Boswell and EP to see if Marden was interested in having a presentation explaining the recycling and waste services provided across the borough. It was suggested that the Marden Plastic Free campaign consider this and maybe be part of the Big Green Week in early June.

87. Hedgerow Project

Cllr Boswell advised that Marden Wildlife had requested that an article be placed in the next newsletter about Marden Wildlife's hedgerow project as part of the Great British Hedgerow Survey – a method that assesses hedges for their value as a 'wildlife habitat' looking at biodiversity, connectivity and structure. Cllr Boswell to forward email and place an article in the Summer Newsletter.

88. The Great Collaboration/Place Based Initiative

<http://greatcollaboration.uk/>. Cllrs Boswell and Rabot will put out some info on this project at the MPC Open Morning. Residents can sign up and make personal commitments such as giving up red meat and MPC can sign up (Cllr Rabot has done this) and receive a report on who has signed up in Marden. Cllr Rabot will take to an Amenities Committee meeting and Cllr Boswell will

promote in Summer Newsletter. Cllr Summersgill and Borough Cllr Couch will check if MBC participating.

89. Parish Councils Environment Network (PCEN) Meeting

This was held on 26th February. MBC are running more Carbon Literacy training and will roll out to parish councils in the Autumn and the Scenic Green Trail now has permission to place stickers along the route through the public rights of way. Cllrs Boswell and Rabot gave an update on the Marden Plastic Free campaign and Yalding and Tovil Repair Cafes (see below) and Cllr Summersgill gave an update on MBC activities.

90. Repair Cafés in Yalding and Tovil

Cllr Rabot attended the Tovil event with the Police Cadets and Cllr Summersgill attended Yalding which is being held monthly. They were very well supported and approximately 15 different people undertook the repairs. It was felt there would not be a suitable venue to run one in Marden because of the lack of parking. Cllr Summersgill would enquire if there was any possibility of Yalding hosting a mobile event in Marden.

91. Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation – Let's Talk Kent

[Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy | Let's talk Kent](#). Cllrs Boswell and Rabot responded to a consultation and this was taken to Full Council on 11th March. Cllr Summersgill had received comments from a resident who would like to include more extensive information on the Low Weald within the strategy and this will be circulated.

92. MPC Climate Change Action Plan

MBC will be asking Marden Parish Council if they can provide one in due course once they have devised a template for parish councils.

93. NALC Climate Emergency Network Session

This was held 5th February and Cllr Boswell attended but nothing of significance to report. Next session Friday 9th May.

94. Great Collaboration Banter Sessions

These are weekly sessions and Cllr Boswell had attended one on Biodiversity Net Gain in November. Details from this would be forwarded to Cllrs Rabot and Summersgill and Borough Cllr Couch.

95. EV Charge (EVC) Points

Cllr Summersgill mentioned KCC's new initiative on EV chargers as they have received funding from the DoT. The charge points are to help residents without access to off-street parking and there is a webtool for residents to suggest locations for new chargers. Marden Parish Council had previously asked MBC if an EVC could be installed in Marden Car Park (which MBC own) which Cllr Summersgill was following up with MBC. Borough Cllr Couch to check out the online mapping tool and Cllr Boswell to mention in next newsletter.

96. Thermal Imaging Camera

Cllr Summersgill reported that Bearsted CAN have purchased a camera for £400 and are hiring it out for £10. Tonbridge & Malling rent a camera out to parishes for a month. It was suggested that this could be mentioned at the Retrofit session and ask attendees if they would be interested in borrowing one. Cllr Summersgill would speak to Tonbridge & Malling BC to see if Maidstone could set up a similar scheme possibly using libraries to hire out.

97. Ancient Woodlands

Cllr Summersgill had circulated an MBC document on Ancient Woodland which had not been updated for some years. Cllr Adam had created a map of ancient woodlands in the parish to include in the revised Marden Neighbourhood Plan (MNP). Cllr Boswell raised at the Planning Committee meeting whether Ancient Orchards could be included as well. Cllr Boswell will circulate the document and raise if a link can be included in the MNP.

98. KALC Carbon Footprint Calculator

Whilst one was undertaken for the whole parish, it was suggested that a calculator be undertaken just for Marden Parish Council to look at fuel and heating usage and creating a plan going forward. Cllr Rabot to recirculate the KALC Carbon Footprint Calculator.

99. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 10th June at 6pm in the Parish Office.