



**NOTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-GROUP MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 21ST JANUARY 2025 COMMENCING
AT 6.00PM IN THE PARISH OFFICE, GOUDHURST ROAD,
MARDEN**

- 56. Present:**
Cllrs Anne Boswell (AB), Adrian Rabot (AR) and Mike Summersgill (MS).
- 57. Apologies:**
Apologies were received from Cllr Andy Turner (AT) and SF and EP (members of the public).
- 58. Notes from Environmental Sub-Group held on Tuesday 19th November 2024**
The notes of the meeting held on 19th November 2025 were agreed.
- 59. Action List from Environmental Sub-Group**
The Clerk and Administrative Assistant had updated the action list and AB and AR will run through this with them prior to the next Environmental Group meeting.
- 60. Marden Plastic Free Campaign**
<https://plasticfree.org.uk/>
The Minutes of the first Steering Committee meeting held on 13th January had been circulated to attendees.
- 61. Earth Charter Principles**
AR and AB will arrange a separate meeting to run through the amended document.
- 62. Thermal Imaging Camera**
This was discussed at Finance Committee on 21st January where Cllrs agreed, following a verbal report given by AB, for the Environmental Sub-Group to look at costings for a thermal survey to be undertaken rather than the purchase of a camera.
- 63. Parish Council Open Morning Saturday 22nd March 2025**
Cllrs discussed what information could be displayed at the open morning. This could include a poster on what we are doing, MBC maps of where the green spaces are in the borough and Scenic Green Trail (although not in Marden), details of the Plastic Free Campaign, Earth Charter (SF unable to attend), photos of local ponds and shout out for a Pond Warden, possibly arrange a weed clearing day and South East Water audits.
- 64. The Great Big Green Week – 7th to 15th June 2025**
[The Great Big Green Week](#)

MS advised that MBC are holding a Maidstone Big Day Out festival across the whole borough aligned with the national Great Big Green Week and are hoping to co-ordinate venues across the borough to run their own event on **Saturday 14th June** to celebrate the work they do, encourage residents to join in the fun and to provide a stream of potential new volunteers and/or donors to those organisations taking part. People can sign up via email: Maidstone@bigdayout.info or visit <https://bigdayout.info>.

65. Parish Councils Environment Network (PCEN) Meeting

The next meeting was due to be held on 26th February at 7.00pm at Sutton Valence Parish Hall. AB, AR and MS to attend.

66. NALC Climate Emergency Network Session

The next session is to be held on 5th February 2025 at 12noon. AB hoping to attend.

67. Great Collaboration Banter Sessions

These are weekly sessions and AB attended one on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in November – notes circulated to all Cllrs.

68. Retrofits

SF has been contacted by KCC and has helped organise an event in Tunbridge Wells.

69. The Great Collaboration / Place Based Initiative

[The Great Collaboration - Environmental Commitments You Can Make](#)

100 actions local councils and residents could take to tackle climate change. AR has logged in as a resident to see how this initiative works.

70. MPC Climate Change Action Plan

MS advised that MBC will be asking MPC if they can provide one.

71. EV Charge Points

MS is pushing MBC for one to be installed in Marden car park and is talking to a new officer who is putting something together. KCC have secured a £12.081m grant from the Department of Transport to increase the number of EV charging points in the county. They have launched a new webtool to allow residents to suggest locations for new chargers.

72. KALC Carbon Footprint Calculator

Whilst one was undertaken for the parish as a whole, the Sub-Group to consider undertaking one just for MP.

73. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting is planned to be held on Tuesday 18th March at 6pm in the Parish Office.

74. Items to be Discussed at Future Meetings:

Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy – Let's Talk Kent – MS attending sessions on 3rd February and AB suggested it could be discussed at Full Council.

Climate Change with Trees & Woodland: Local Council Leadership Role – amend MPC Tree Policy and possibly set up a village group to map all the trees and hedgerows in the Parish

Pond Restoration – have something for MPC Open Morning. MS still trying to get information from the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership.