



NOTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-GROUP MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26TH JULY 2025 COMMENCING AT 6.00PM IN THE PARISH OFFICE, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN

1. Present:

Cllrs Boswell (taking notes), Dobinson, Rabot and Summersgill were in attendance. One member of the public was also in attendance (SF)

2. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Cllr Turner and Borough Cllr Couch.

3. Notes from Environmental Sub-Group held on Tuesday 18th March 2025

Notes of the meeting held on 18th March were agreed.

4. Action List from Environmental Sub-Group

The action list would be updated following the meeting and circulated to Cllrs.

5. Marden Parish Council – Estate Management Plan

The Clerk had amended the above document and circulated to Cllrs. Cllrs requested that the plan included the addition of the three plastic free single use items (such as no sweet/biscuit wrappers at events). With this addition Cllrs agreed to submit to the next Amenities Committee meeting.

6. Marden Plastic Free Campaign

<https://plasticfree.org.uk/>

An update was given including possibly information leaflets being handed out to residents at the Marden Dog Show, holding a Halloween Shop Swap and a Lantern Free workshop on the day of the Scarecrow Safari. Cllr Boswell had emailed village organisations asking them if they could participate in the campaign but had only received responses from three village organisations and whilst Marden Primary Academy were happy to support the campaign, they were unable to reduce three plastic free items from their operations.

7. Idling outside Marden Primary Academy

Cllr Summersgill is chasing Marden Primary Academy about the No-Idling posters, and it was noted that idling is endemic in the village. Suggestions were made that children could 'issue' fake parking tickets to place on cars.

8. Parish Councils Environment Network (PCEN) Meeting

The next meeting is due to be held on 30th July at Hunton Village Club. Cllrs Rabot and Summersgill to attend.

9. Maidstone Borough Council (MBC)

Cllr Summersgill gave an update on:

Carbon Literacy Training

MBC was looking at rolling out another series of training for parish councillors when details have been finalised in November.

Biodiversity & Climate Change Action Plan

This 5-year plan was adopted in June, but the actions have not gone public yet. One of the actions is to provide water butts to deprived neighbourhoods to help to prevent surface water runoff.

Nature Recovery Fund

MBC has been awarded £500,000 for communities to try to improve areas e.g. pond restoration projects. This will go live in Sept/October.

Eco-Hub3

Next Maidstone Ecohub event was being held from 11th to 25th October in the Mall. They are unable to come out to parishes.

Latest Funding sources

Central Government have pushed this out to DEFRA etc. and Cllr Summersgill understands that central government are going to provide funding to Park Wood to improve this area.

10. Hedge Planting at back of Marden Cemetery

MBC are providing free saplings to parishes, businesses etc.

11. Earth Charter Principles

MPC have endorsed in principle how they can be involved in the Earth Charter Principles.

12. Retrofit Session

KCC cancelled the planned session on 30th June as the speaker was no longer available.

13. MPC Dog Bag Station

It was noted that MPC already use 100% compostable dog waste bags in the Dog Bag Station at Marden Playing Field.

14. MPC Climate Change Action Plan

Cllr Summersgill advised that MBC have not yet devised a template for parish councils to complete and is a non-urgent item.

15. Pond Warden/Pond Restoration

Cllr Summersgill advised that there is no funding available for the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership. However, the Heritage of Kent Ponds project is still going ahead in the northern part of the borough.

16. The Great Collaboration/Place Based Initiative

<https://greatcollaboration.uk/>

Cllr Rabot has completed two actions but the project is not very active. Cllr Summersgill advised that MBC were not participating.

17. Repair Cafés in Yalding and Tovil

Tovil has run a Repair Café twice and Cllr Rabot had taken the police cadets to help at an event. Yalding to run another event in October but it is not possible for them to run an event in Marden.

18. NALC Climate Emergency Network Session 22nd July

Unfortunately, Cllr Boswell was unable to attend.

The next session was Friday 10th October at 12noon.

19. EV Charge Points

Borough Cllr Couch was going to check out the KCC online mapping tool. NALC have called on the government to empower parish and town councils to take the lead on small-scale renewable energy and electric vehicle (EV) initiatives. They are urging ministers to make it easier for parish and town councils to install solar canopies on new car parks and develop electric vehicle charging infrastructure particularly where councils are managing or developing their car parks. Improvements are needed with both financial support and investment in local electricity networks helping parish and town councils to contribute more effectively to the UK's clean energy transition. They also highlighted the need to update planning laws and guidance to align with the country's net zero ambitions and recommended that energy-saving and carbon-neutral measures should be a requirement in all relevant planning applications and building control decisions. [NALC champions local solar energy and EV projects](#)

20. Thermal Imaging Camera

Cllr Summersgill advised that MBC have now purchased two cameras to go out to social housing at Park Wood and Ringlestone. They cost approx. £300 and are used on mobile phones but currently not leasing out to parishes. Bearsted CAN have also purchased one and are renting out to residents for £10.

21. NALC Carbon Footprint Calculator

NALC has produced a user guide and overview of online carbon calculators which includes calculators for businesses, travellers, personal emissions, farms and an impact carbon emissions tool for parishes and communities which Cllr Boswell will circulate.

22. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 4th November at 6pm in the Parish Office.