



Parish Newsletter May 2026

New Maidstone Town Council Approved

A new Maidstone Town Council will be created to represent the town's currently unparished urban area, giving residents a stronger local voice and safeguarding the historic role of the Mayor.

The decision was approved by Maidstone Borough Council on 29 April 2026 following a Community Governance Review and public consultation, in which over 70% of respondents supported a single town-wide council.

The Town Council will have 22 councillors across 10 wards and will focus on local representation, community leadership and managing local services and assets. It will not replace borough or county services such as education, highways or waste collection.


If Local Government Reorganisation goes ahead, the Mayor of Maidstone is expected to transfer to the new council, preserving the town's civic traditions.

Preparations will begin with a shadow council, with the new authority formally launching on 1 April 2027 and elections for the new town council planned for May 2027. Initial responsibilities are expected to include local allotments, with future decisions on additional services to be made by the elected council.


Volunteer Day 1 June

Don't forget to celebrate National Volunteer Week with us on 1 June at Market Hall Lockmeadow.

Maidstone Borough Council is hosting a Volunteer Day and we are inviting all those interested in recruiting volunteers to take part, and those looking for volunteer opportunities to come along.

 Monday 1 June

 10am–2pm

 Market Hall, Lockmeadow, Maidstone ME16 8SF

If you're are looking for volunteer opportunities, just pop in on the day between 10am and 2pm. Grab the chance to win £100 shopping voucher by collecting stamps from stall holders on the day and entering our prize draw.

This event will bring together residents — particularly those facing barriers to employment or social isolation — with a wide range of volunteering opportunities that support confidence, wellbeing, skills development and pathways into work.

Why get involved?

- Promote your organisation and volunteering roles
- Recruit volunteers with diverse lived experience
- Strengthen relationships with other VCS organisations and the council
- Share learning around volunteer recruitment and retention

On the day, organisations are encouraged to have informal conversations with attendees, promote volunteering opportunities, and offer interactive or hands-on taster activities where possible. There will also be short spotlight talks from selected organisations.

What's happening on the day?

- Volunteer Passport prize draw
- Selfie board sharing volunteering ambitions
- Café open throughout the event

How to book:

There is still space for stall holders. To reserve a stall, please contact VCSliaison@maidstone.gov.uk

Attached is a promotional leaflet, please circulate and help us promote the event.

Consultations



Please take a look at the current consultations that are open and have your say on Maidstone issues.

Willington Street Pump Track – Closes: 14 June 2026

Maidstone Borough Council is inviting people to share their views on the proposal to develop a pump track on part of the former Willington Street Park & Ride site. It is proposed that the remainder of the site be used to create a natural open space focused on rewilding and biodiversity enhancements, with the opportunity for community activities and climate change engagement on site in the future.

Park Wood & Senacre – What would you change? (Pride in Place) –

Closes: 31 July 2026

Park Wood & Senacre has been selected as one of a small number of areas to benefit, with funding to be directed by a local Neighbourhood Board over the next 10 years. As part of this programme we are seeking feedback from local residents about what they would change in Park Wood & Senacre. This feedback will be used by the Neighbourhood Board to help shape investment priorities for the area.

Loose Valley & Tovil Conservation Management Plan – Closes 13 July 2026

We are seeking feedback on the draft Conservation Area Appraisal for Loose Valley & Tovil and the proposed extension to the conservation area ([map\(External link\)](#)) before a final version is adopted. We want to hear from as many people and organisations as possible; including residents, and individuals who work in or visit in the area. The final Management Plan for the Loose Valley and Tovil Conservation Area is due to be considered by the Planning and Healthier Stronger Communities Policy Advisory Committee in Autumn 2026.

Coming Soon

2026 Resident Survey

The Maidstone Resident Survey will launch in June 2026. Gathering feedback from residents is essential in helping the Council understand local priorities, assess satisfaction with services, and inform future decision-making. As in previous years, the survey will be supported by a programme of events and roadshows across the borough to encourage participation. We would be grateful for your support in promoting the survey through your communication channels once it goes live, helping to maximise engagement and ensure a wide range of resident views are captured.

Churches Count on Nature 2026

Let your Parish Churches know about Churches Count on Nature 2026.

The annual count focuses on the brilliant wildlife to be found in churchyards and chapel yards. It is a joint initiative promoted by Caring for God's Acre, the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha UK.

National Cemeteries Week is hosted by the National Federation of Cemetery Friends. It is a nationwide citizen science wildlife survey celebrating the

biodiversity of churchyards and burial grounds, inviting people to spot and record plants and animals in these special places.

Get involved by visiting a churchyard, recording wildlife you see (for example using the free iNaturalist app), or by organising a simple local event.

Anyone can take part and free resources available for spotting wildlife and for organising an event.

Full details on their website [Love your Burial Ground Week & Churches Count on Nature – FAQs – Caring For God's Acre – the conservation charity for burial grounds across the UK](#)

Please let us know if you are planning a counting event for this year and when this will be. MBC are interested in ways we might support any planned counting events that you are organising.

Contact: ClimateandBiodiversity@Maidstone.gov.uk

Shake it Out!



MBC are now putting "Shake it Out" stickers on household recycling bins.

The stickers have a QR code which links to the Councils Recycling pages, giving residents further information about recycling.

The labels encourage residents to place their dry mixed recycling loose in the recycling bin, with no plastic bags at all.

When materials are loose they fall naturally onto the conveyor belt, and are therefore easier to sort before baling, transport and reprocessing.

To watch how your recycling is sorted and the technology used, visit here:

[N+P Crayford Sorting](#)

Pride in Place Update

Park Wood and Senacre

Pride in Place is a government neighbourhood investment programme coming to the Park Wood and Senacre area of Maidstone (including parts of Mangravet,

Shepway, and Loose and Linton), bringing funding and support to help communities shape improvements where they live.

Neighbourhood Board - expressions of interest open now

The programme is looking for residents, community groups and local organisations with a connection to Park Wood or Senacre to join the Neighbourhood Board. Board members will play a central role in developing the Pride in Place plan for the area. Expressions of interest are open until 19 June — visit [Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board - Maidstone Borough Council](#) to find out more and register your interest.

Deliberative engagement - coming soon

Residents will also have the opportunity to take part in a deliberative engagement process, where community members work together to help shape the programme's priorities. More details will be shared soon - keep an eye on our website and social media channels for updates.

For more information about Pride in Place in Maidstone, visit [Pride in Place - Maidstone Borough Council](#)

Community Energy Webinar

To follow up on those interested in learning more after our recent Community Energy Survey, Maidstone Borough Council is hosting an upcoming webinar on community energy in partnership with the Net Zero Hub South East.

The webinar will take place via Teams on 9 June 10am

Those Parish Council that expressed an interest via the survey should have received a Teams link to join the webinar. If you have not received the invitation but would like to attend, please contact parishliaison@maidstone.gov.uk

We would be grateful if you could kindly share with all parish councillors to ensure they are aware of this opportunity.

The session is designed as an informative introduction for those interested in learning more about community energy, including the potential benefits for local areas and how parish councils may wish to engage in future activity.

We hope this will be a useful session for councillors who are curious about energy resilience, local generation, and reducing energy costs in their communities.

Thank you very much for your support in circulating this invitation.

No Mow May

No Mow May is an annual campaign, led by [Plantlife](#), encouraging gardeners to



avoid mowing their lawns during May to support biodiversity. This often leads to more people maintaining part of their garden as a permanent wildflower area.

Key benefits include providing vital nectar for pollinators such as bees and butterflies, creating habitats for wildlife, increasing carbon capture in the soil, and strengthening grass root systems to improve resilience to drought.

MBC encourages residents to take part. Across its own land, the Council supports this approach to grounds maintenance and has wider policies in place to enhance biodiversity and create habitats for wildlife. These include:

- Retaining wood from essential tree works within park areas
- Dedicating up to 20% of land to wildflower growth
- Planting hundreds of trees each year

Community Groups and Recycling Talks

Do you know a coffee group, lunch club or other community group in your Parish?

Our Maidstone Borough Council Waste Management Team would be happy to visit and explain how recycling works in the borough, while answering your questions about waste services.

We are now taking bookings from September.

Contact: recycling@maidstone.gov.uk

Please do pass on any information on to relevant communities.

Visit Maidstone Photography Competition

We're thrilled to announce that our brand-new photography competition is now live, celebrating the 2026 English Tourism Week theme: Local Stories.

From stunning landscapes to the people, places, and experiences that make our borough so special, this is your chance to capture what makes Maidstone unique.

Our last competition showcased incredible outdoor spaces and even featured winning images on our website... and this year promises to be even bigger!

Tourism plays a huge role in Maidstone, supporting thousands of jobs, local businesses, and contributing over £304 million to the economy. Now it's your turn to help us shine a spotlight on the stories behind it all.

🌟 Cash prizes

📷 A chance to showcase your talent

💙 Celebrate your local area

Showcase Maidstone through your photography 

Visit Maidstone Photography
Competition 2026

Closing date: 30 June 2026

Prizes 1st prize: £250 | Category winners: £50



If you have news or information to share via our monthly newsletter, please let us know at Parishliaison@maidstone.gov.uk