



## **Parish Newsletter**

### **July 2025 Round Up**

Welcome to the Parish Council Newsletter.

We have put together some current news which we hope will be of interest. Including the exceptional opportunity for residents to have their say on the Community Governance Review, so please do share far and wide!

Also you will find information to share on the current grant scheme for rural businesses.

The next newsletter will be at the beginning of September and at the beginning of each month thereafter.

If you have news you would like us to share on your behalf, do get in touch.

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### **Unique Opportunity For Maidstone Residents To Help Shape Their Communities**

Maidstone Borough is inviting residents to take up a once-in-a-generation opportunity to share their views and help shape the areas they live in.

The Council is conducting a Community Governance Review (CGR) to find out if new parish or town councils should be created to represent the unparished areas in the borough and give the chance for residents in Grove Green and Bearsted Park to share their views on the community governance in their area.

Community Governance refers to the way in which a local area is run, how its residents are represented and how they can have a say in how decisions affect them.

A CGR can form, change, or alter parish and town councils in the area under review, as well as consider other arrangements for community governance. MBC conducted a CGR of the whole borough in 2022/23 and is now focusing on the unparished part of the borough in Maidstone Town, and the neighbouring area of Grove Green and the adjacent parish ward of Thurnham West. This includes Bearsted Park and the area between Weaving Street and Ware Street.

MBC wants to know from residents in these areas what options they would like to see taken forward to the next stage of the review. This could include having one or more parish or town councils, having particular areas of the Town identified as distinct communities, or taking forward the whole of the unparished area as a Maidstone Town Council. Grove Green and Bearsted Park could be part of those arrangements or have their own; either remaining as part of their existing parishes (Boxley and Thurnham) or changing entirely. This could include forming their own parishes or joining with another neighbouring parish.

There are a range of benefits that being in a parish brings, including community representation, access to community funding, local project delivery, and greater local accountability. Access to these benefits is funded through a precept determined by the parish council and is added to council tax bills. If introduced, this precept would be paid by the residents living in these areas. MBC wants to know from residents which options are right for their communities.

Maidstone Town has seen growth and change over the years, and the area under review currently has an electorate of around 64,000 people, and this review will consider the projected growth in the area up to 2030. The CGR also incorporates the potential impacts of upcoming Local Government Reorganisation, including keeping a Mayor for Maidstone and establishing the identity of the Town and the areas surrounding it. Given the potential scale of change, it is even more important for residents be involved and to help shape their communities.

The Community Governance Review Stage 1 consultation is now open and closes **Tuesday 30 September 2025**.

Residents can share their views using the [Let's Talk Maidstone platform](#). The Council will be holding several engagement events in the town centre and Grove Green during the consultation period to reach as many people as possible and give them the opportunity to share their views in person. The details of these events will be shared on [Let's Talk Maidstone](#).

Once the Stage 1 consultation has closed, this will inform the proposals presented at Stage 2, in which MBC will invite residents to comment on these, directly. The outcome of the review will be decided by Full Council in April 2026.

Check your parish using the [information on the MBC website](#).

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## Other Consultations



### Budget Survey 2026

Have your say about the Councils Spending Priorities.

[Click here to find out more on the project page.](#)

**Survey closes: Sunday 14 September 2025**

[Click here to start the Budget Survey 2026](#)

Visit [Lets Talk Maidstone](#) to find information on other consultation currently running.

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## Rural Investment Grant Scheme Launched to Boost Local Economy

**Rural businesses, are being encouraged to apply to Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) to bid for a funding boost.**

MBC has unveiled a brand-new Rural Investment Grant Scheme, offering up to £15,000 in funding to support capital investment projects for rural businesses across the borough.

Funded through the [Rural England Prosperity Fund](#), the scheme is designed to help both new and existing rural enterprises grow, innovate, and diversify, particularly those looking to develop new products or facilities that benefit the wider local economy. This includes support for farm businesses seeking to expand into new income streams.

Grants ranging from £500 to £15,000 are available, with a minimum 20% match funding required from applicants. The scheme is open to all eligible rural businesses as defined by DEFRA, with a particular focus on, local economy-boosting initiatives, green and environmentally conscious businesses, food and drink producers and hospitality and tourism enterprises.

To help prospective applicants understand the scheme and how to apply, MBC's Economic Development Team will host an information session at **Headcorn Village Hall on Thursday 31 July, from 10am to 12pm**. The session will also provide an opportunity for any rural business to meet with MBC's business advisor, providing free 1-2-1 support.

**Businesses are invited to review the application guidance here -**

<https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/community-support/tier-2-additional-areas/shared-prosperity-fund/repf-guidance>

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## It has been a busy few months for the Waste Team

MBC waste Team have been encouraging residents to compost their food waste by using the black and orange food caddy. Our contractor has delivered over 3,500 food caddies and over 1,000 caddy bundles to local residents in Maidstone.

As part of the drive to compost more, those purchasing a £10 caddy package (23 L, 5 L and roll of bags) get entered into a monthly competition with chance of winning £50.

The caddy bundle offer found can be found on the MBC website

[Join in, order your package here](#)

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## **School Holiday Activities at Maidstone Museum**

Whether it's the half-term breaks or the full summer holiday, keeping children occupied during school holidays is essential. Maidstone Museum offer a varied selection of fun and rewarding activities that provide children across a range of ages with the chance to [learn](#) and get involved with workshops and activities.

The themed activities – which range from dinosaurs to explorers and much more – run on selected days throughout the school holidays, with the experienced Learning Team conducting fun and welcoming events.

[CLICK HERE](#) to find out about the museum's current holiday activities

For further information or Parish related queries, you can contact

[Parishliaison@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:Parishliaison@maidstone.gov.uk)