



Parish Newsletter March 2026

Health Innovation Fund Open to Applications

We're pleased to let you know that the Maidstone Healthy Alliance Partnership has now launched its Health Innovation Fund and is accepting applications.

This funding offers grants of up to £15,000 per organisation to support new or adapted community projects that addresses the following local health priorities:

1) Food Insecurity

Target Group: Residents of Maidstone Borough aged 18+

2) Children and Young People's Mental Health

Target Group: Ages 4-25 years old in Maidstone Borough

Applications open now, closes 10th April 2026

Please note: we are only accepting applications through the Social Impact Gateway. The link to sign up to this free platform is here:

<https://app.plinth.org.uk/application/q8dJJILEbThnyrw0dWvG>

Property Disposals

Interest has been expressed in the future ownership of Maidstone Borough Council property in light of local government reorganisation.

A briefing on the subject was provided at the Parish Conference in November 2025.

In summary, the default position is that MBC assets will transfer to a new Unitary Authority on the vesting date (assumed to be 01.04.2028). The new Unitary Authority will have authority to dispose of assets from that date. Future asset management strategy will depend on the new authority's decisions but existing strategy and policies will not necessarily change on day one.

The MBC asset disposal policy was refreshed in September 2025 and can be found at [Appendix 2 Revised Property Disposal Policy.pdf](#). It sets out various criteria for determining whether an asset should be retained or disposed of. The Council will consider applications from parish councils to acquire MBC assets located in their parishes. The key points to bear in mind are as follows:

- Applications should address the policy criteria and relevant issues for the asset in question
- The transferee will bear legal and any other transaction costs
- There will be Council Policy Advisory Committee and Cabinet oversight in the interests of transparency.

For more information contact Mark Green, Director of Finance and Resources – markgreen@maidstone.gov.uk.

Simpler Recycling



You may have heard about '**Simpler Recycling**' on the news, on the radio or even on social media.

This government-led scheme is an initiative to standardise waste collection across England to improve recycling rates and reduce confusion over what you can and can't put into your bins.

The 'Simpler Recycling' changes will be implemented on **31 March 2026**, but in Maidstone, we have already made a lot of these changes, including weekly collections of food waste. Under the new scheme, we will be adding more items you can put in your recycling bin!

Here is some guidance from Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) to address some common points and questions that have been raised by our residents and readers:

Will the new system will be easy to use?

Yes, the new system will be easy to use because it is largely staying the same for our residents. There will be no changes to your waste collection cycles.

Will 'Simpler Recycling' change what we can recycle?

Yes, in addition to the current list of recyclable materials, you will also be able to add

Tetra Pak cartons to your dry mix recycling. Like all recycling, make sure the cartons are empty and place them loose in the recycling bin.

[Take a look at what you can recycle in Maidstone here](#)

Maidstone Borough Council takes Gold!



We are proud to announce that the efforts of Maidstone Borough Council have been recognised with a Gold Award from Kent Wildlife Trust!

The Wilder Kent Awards, run by Kent Wildlife Trust, celebrate and reward the positive actions taken by organisations across the county to help create a *#WilderKent*. The programme recognises efforts made by schools, businesses, community groups, and towns to restore nature, strengthen climate resilience, and improve habitats for wildlife. By taking these positive actions, participants help protect local ecosystems while also contributing to global environmental challenges.

Winning a **Gold Award** places the council among the top-performing organisations committed to protecting wildlife, reducing environmental impact, and encouraging people to connect with nature. The awards assess work across key areas including protecting wildlife, sustainability and carbon reduction, and engagement with nature, with Gold signifying outstanding achievement across all categories.

This recognition highlights the council's dedication to improving biodiversity, supporting climate action, and ensuring that nature and people can thrive together across Maidstone.

Great British Spring Clean

13 – 29 March 2026



There is still time to be part of the Great British Spring Clean, the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign from Keep Britain Tidy. Each year, more than 400,000 volunteers clear litter from UK streets, parks and beaches.

[Pledge as an individual, a group or a Keep Britain Tidy, volunteer today!](#)

Maidstone Borough Council is extremely grateful for the many wonderful volunteer litter pickers who help keep our borough tidy. If you would like to become a litter picking hero, you can request free litter picking equipment and arrange for bag collections via the link below.

[Get your volunteer litter-picking equipment here](#)

Invitation to Free Drive Electric Event

Maidstone Borough Council is inviting residents, businesses, students and community stakeholders to Drive Electric, a free, interactive event showcasing the future of low carbon transportation. The event will take place on Friday 17 April 2026, from 10:00am to 2:00pm, at the MidKent College Maidstone Campus.

Delivered in partnership with Mid Kent College Training and Drive Electric, the event will offer hands-on opportunities to explore the latest electric vehicles, learn about charging and energy infrastructure, and speak with experts on sustainable transport options; an immersive day of EV exploration.

Attendees will be able to:

- Test-drive a wide range of electric cars, commercial vehicles and mobility solutions including e-bikes.

- Explore indoor and outdoor exhibitions featuring local businesses showcasing EV-related technologies and energy-saving innovations.
- Learn from specialists in the industry, council representatives and college experts about the latest developments in EV technology, charging networks, finance options, and regional transport initiatives.
- Attend a series of presentations and a panel Q&A covering emerging vehicle trends, local energy and charging plans, and cost-saving grants to support greener transport choices.

Refreshments will be available throughout the day at the newly opened Sustainability Training Centre on the MidKent College campus.

As part of the event, attendees can discover how MidKent College is pioneering the use of renewable technologies, including solar PV, ground-source heat pumps, and air-source heat pumps - to power its campuses and train the region's future green workforce.

To register visit: [Eventbrite – Drive Electric](#)

Armed Forces Day Funding

Are you planning an event for Armed Forces Day?

Armed Forces Day will take place on 27 June 2026 and if you are planning an event to celebrate this, two weeks either side, there is still time to apply for funding to help.

The deadline for applications is 31 March 2026.

Further details can be found at [Event Funding – Armed Forces Day](#)

The Easyfundraising Impact Fund

The Easyfundraising Impact Fund is offering 20 unrestricted grants of £500 to UK not-for-profit organisations. The grant is unrestricted, so it can be used wherever the money is needed most to support your work.

The fund is open to UK based:

- Registered charities
- Other not-for-profit organisations
- Sports clubs and teams
- Schools and educational settings
- Social enterprises and CICs

- After school and youth groups
- Churches and religious organisations

Funding is open from 23 February to 5 April. Details via below link

[Apply for an unrestricted £500 grant | Impact Fund | easyfundraising](#)

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