

RYARSH PARISH COUNCIL

February Parish Council Meeting

- The Parish Council supports West Malling Parish Council's Green Belt Petition
- The Parish Council heard about provisional plans to celebrate the Kings' Coronation to be held at the Village Hall Recreation Ground on Sunday 7th May 2023
- There was a virtual meeting with Kent Highways to update the Highways Improvement Plan for the Village
- Residents said that there are still problems with noise from the Smart Motorway. The Parish Council had previously met with Tom Tugendhat MP and Highways England about this, and will pursue again for an update and action to be taken.
- It was reported that the footpath on Roughetts Road is covered in leaves and becoming overgrown with vegetation. The Clerk will pass this to TMBC.
- The streetlight on one of the traffic calming islands is not working. The contractor will be asked to repair this.

Kent County Council - County Councillor Sarah Hohler

- 9,000 potholes have been reported since 15th December 2022, compared with 2,000 the year before. KCC are trying to catch up with repairing those
- KCC have 65 gritters. They only cover A and B roads, as Kent has 5,500 miles of roads. A map on the KCC website shows the roads which are being gritted
- There are 3,000 salt bins in Kent and it costs £75,000 to fill them all up. They will not be automatically filled, but let KCC know if there is an empty bin that needs filling, or if there is a bin that is not used
- Over the Christmas period police made 249 arrests of drink and drug drivers
- The KCC budget has been very challenging. There is an online consultation until Mid March that residents can take part in
- There are proposals for Parish Councils to support a bus once a week for the villages. If this is not used the service will be lost

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council – Borough Councillor Piers Montague

- 400 fines have been issued for littering since a pilot scheme began in October. The vast majority are for cigarette ends
- TMBC have obtained an agreement to be supplied with 4 mobile CCTV cameras that can be used in hotspot areas, such as for fly tipping

Next Parish Council meeting

The next meeting which will be held in The Davison Room of Ryarsh Village Hall is **Monday 13th March 2023 at 8pm.**

You can contact the Clerk by email at clerk@ryarsh-pc.gov.uk. For more information, please go to our website www.ryarsh-pc.gov.uk

Green Belt Petition

As you may be aware, West Malling Parish Council and East Malling and Larkfield Parish Council have jointly launched a petition to extend the Green Belt to the East. The purpose is to press TMBC to include this proposal in the Draft Local Plan now in preparation.

[Petition · Extend the Green Belt between West Malling, East Malling and Kings Hill · Change.org](#)

The extension would:

1. Protect countryside which currently separates Kings Hill from our communities and the villages of Wateringbury, Offham and Leybourne in particular.
2. Prevent these communities merging into a single continuous suburban sprawl and
3. Safeguard the historic communities of East and West Malling as provided in NPPF.

We are supported by the Broadwater Action Group.



Proposed changes to the way we deliver community services



Children's Centres and Youth Hubs
(Open Access Services)



Public Health Services (Health Visiting Service and Children and Young People's Counselling Service)



Community Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities



Community, Learning and Skills
(Adult Education)



Gateways

Learn more about proposed changes in your area and have your say. Visit: kent.gov.uk/communityservicesconsultation





Sadly, a number of Nu-Venture bus services in rural parts of Maidstone and Malling are affected by the reduction in Kent County Council funding for some bus services, which takes effect from mid-February.

However, Nu-Venture has worked hard with affected Parish Councils and other bodies to give a partial reprieve for some of the withdrawn facilities.

Principal routes affected (full details at <http://www.nu-venture.co.uk>) are:

13 serving Hollingbourne/Leeds: the Saturdays service ceases after 11 February but the Mondays to Fridays service, though reduced, is extended on every trip to and from Maidstone Town Centre

58/558 serving East Malling, Trottiscliffe, Addington, Ryarsh: the service ceases after 11 February except for a shoppers' bus facility on Fridays, which will also serve Borough Green, Wrotham and Maidstone Town Centre

59 serving Grafty Green, Ulcombe, Kingswood, Chart Sutton and Boughton Monchelsea: the daytime service ceases after 11 February except for a shoppers' bus facility on Wednesdays, which will also serve Maidstone Town Centre. Schooltime buses in the area are NOT affected.

70 serving Borough Green, Offham and Leybourne: the service ceases after 10 February except for a shoppers' bus facility on Mondays, which will also serve Wrotham and East Malling as well as providing a first-ever daytime bus for the Leybourne Chase development.

88 linking Maidstone, Barming and Kings Hill was due to be withdrawn, but a reduced peak-time facility will continue.

Full timetables for all services are at our website and bus drivers also have printed timetables available.



Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council is launching an email newsletter to help keep residents and partner organisations up to date with important news from around the borough. The newsletter will cover things like:

- Local Plan updates and consultations
- Information about leisure, parks and open spaces
- Community events
- Finance and policy changes, including council tax

The sign up process is very quick and easy (we just ask for your name and email address) and you can unsubscribe at any time.

Residents wishing to register to receive the newsletter should visit <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/council/newsletter>

And a reminder that you can also get real time updates to your phone on issues with bin collections and other important news by signing up for our app and clicking yes to notifications.

Further details on the app here: <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/council/download-app>

Tonbridge & Malling Police Community Safety Newsletter

Ryarsh

Contacts

csu.tonbridge.and.malling@kent.police.uk Contact your local team

<https://www.kent.police.uk/> Report online, check statistics, information on your area.

<https://www.crashmap.co.uk/> Road Safety Information

2023

Information provided by: PCSO 59862 James Robinson Community Safety Unit

Crime Series or Crimes of Note

1 January – Vehicle crime. Attempt break into a car. Brooks Drive.

1 January – Vehicle crime. Vehicle broken into and tools taken. Quarry road.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

Items of good work:



**Kent
Police**

For more information about policing in your area,
visit www.kent.police.uk

To report a non-urgent crime online, visit
www.kent.police.uk/contactus

Tonbridge & Malling Police Community Safety Newsletter

Crime Prevention Information:

- Number plate theft is on the rise again. Please ensure you have tamper proof screws holding your number plate on to the vehicle.
 - The tips below can help to prevent you from becoming a victim of crime.
 - Install a shed alarm, with a notice displayed to warn thieves that it is not worth the effort of breaking in. The alarms are easy to install and can be purchased at most DIY stores.
 - Make sure the door is always securely locked.
 - Ensure all valuable property is marked with your postcode. Post coding property makes your belongings very unattractive to a thief by making items easily identifiable and difficult to sell.
 - Lock up pedal cycles. Use bike locks and chain them inside to other large items or to the shed.
 - Keep a record of the make, model and ID numbers of bicycles and all other equipment and take photographs of unusual items.
 - Check your household insurance policy to ensure that the value of things stored inside is covered by your contents' policy.
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- Please report non-emergency crimes online where possible.
 - The Community Support Unit can gain a better picture where reports have an official reference number so we can collate data effectively.



**Kent
Police**

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Tonbridge & Malling Police Community Safety Newsletter



Be the first to find out what's happening in **your area**

My Community Voice is a two way engagement tool brought to you by Kent Police.

Whether you live, work or socialise in Kent or Medway, My Community Voice provides real-time messages directly from our police officers, staff and volunteers, about matters that may affect you or your community.

Your voice is important to us and we want to hear what concerns or views you may have in the area that is important to you. You can also share messages with others or reply to our alerts if you have information to share.

From crime prevention advice, to the latest updates on scams, appeals or events – you control what information you receive and how you receive it, by email, text or voice message.



Sign up today or to find out more visit www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk

Report a crime

Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact

In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service 18000. Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.

www.kent.police.uk   



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Police**

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KCC have recently launched a consultation on their new draft Home to School Transport Policy for children and young people aged 4 to 16, to come into effect from the 2024-25 academic year, and their Post 16 Transport Policy Statements for 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic years.

Here is a link to the press release:

[Consultation opens on KCC's Home to School Transport Policy - News & Features - Kent County Council](#)

Have Your Say on Home to School and Post 16 Transport for Mainstream and SEND Pupils

Kent County Council are currently consulting on:

- a Home to School Transport Policy for children and young people aged 4 to 16 to come into effect from the 2024-25 academic year, and
- Post 16 Transport Policy Statements for 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic years.

The Home to School Transport Policy brings together information on how procedures work making it clearer for parents and carers when securing transport for their children.

For post-16 students, no changes are planned for 2023-24, but KCC is required by the Department for Education to consult each year, regardless of any changes, to ensure the Policy provides a full picture of the available transport and support.

The Post 16 Statement for 2024-25, which includes support for 19+ learners with an Education, Health and Care Plan proposes a number of changes and they want parents and students to be able to consider these and tell them their views.

If you are interested in the consultation, please visit www.kent.gov.uk/schooltransportpolicy to find out more and have your say!



Public Consultation

Home to School and Post 16 Transport for Mainstream and SEND Pupils

Consultation closes 21 March 2023

MEDWAY VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PARTNERSHIP (MVCP)



In this issue:

• Advantages of a Newsletter

• Add Value to Your Newsletter

Jan 2023

Updates and Opportunities

Volunteering Opportunities

Do you have some spare time in the week, want to get outdoors in the fresh air, be active and meet new people? Join our award winning Thursday Action Group team of volunteers and help Medway Valley Countryside Partnership with our practical habitat management and access works. Tasks are seasonal and include such things as tree planting, hedge laying, apple picking, path and platform construction and more. Call Derek on 03000 414812 or email derek.whitehead@kent.gov.uk



Wellbeing Walks

Join the MVCP on one of many Wellbeing Walks. At a variety of locations across the area, these short walks are designed for those over 55 or with long term health conditions and are gentle and beneficial for your overall wellbeing. Call 03000 422997 or email medwayvalley@kent.gov.uk for more info. Alternatively, search for us on Eventbrite to find all our walks and reserve a space. These walks are free and sponsored by Involve Kent. Participants will need to complete a short questionnaire for our funders.

Pond Creation and Restoration

Would you like a wildlife pond on your property or land? Do you already have a pond which is in need of restoration?



Along with the other Kent Countryside Management Partnerships, MVCP can create or restore ponds as part of a Natural England funded project, which aims to create more habitat for Great Crested Newts.

Specifically we are looking to currently create or restore ponds in the borough of Tonbridge and Malling (though do contact us about other areas too). If you are interested please get in touch with either andrea.griffiths@kent.gov.uk or sarah.harrington-james@kent.gov.uk

As part of this project, MVCP will continue to monitor the pond into the future.

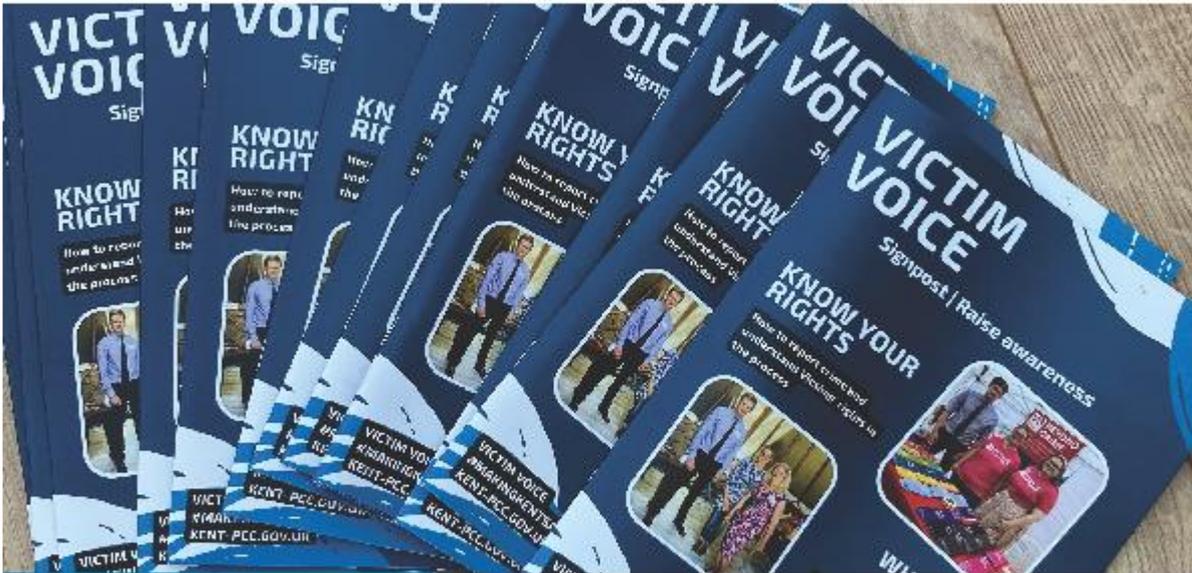


Please note, not all locations are suitable and not all existing ponds will qualify but we will happily check out the details and come out to see your pond or the location where you'd like one and advise and set the project in motion if the pond/location meets the project criteria. Minimum size for pond creations is 150m²—so these are not suitable as small garden ponds.

Follow us on Social Media: @MedwayValley   [medway.valley.c.p](https://www.facebook.com/medway.valley.c.p) 

KENT PCC NEWS

Victim Voice Special edition



Matthew Scott launches his Victim Voice initiative

Have you been a victim of a crime?

Learn what rights you have.

Learn about available support and how to access it.

Scan the QR code to find out more about Victim Voice.



The Police & Crime Commissioner wants to encourage people to be aware of victims' rights.

It's one of the recommendations that came out of his work into Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

You can download the pamphlet, which includes advice and contact details for victims here via the QR code

Matthew Scott said,

"I have decided to create this Victim Voice Initiative to collate the information in one place, and to raise awareness about victims' rights.

Victims have repeatedly told me they feel their voice is not heard and that they feel reporting a crime does not lead to appropriate action by the criminal justice system.

I want people to feel confident that when they report crime, they get the information and support they deserve, and are legally entitled to."

If you would like to do more to support victims, this pamphlet will help you understand the process and provide you with useful information.

contactyourpcc@kent.police.uk

kent-pcc.gov.uk



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INTERESTED IN INCREASING ENGAGEMENT IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

It's Election Year! Have you considered becoming a Local Councillor?

Join one of our online info sessions

KALC is running two identical online events that last for one hour each and will give potential candidates an idea of the rewarding nature of the role of Councillor in a Parish or Town Council.

- 21 February 2023
- 21 March 2023

Both at 7pm and totally free!

**Head over to our website:
Training & Events – KALC
(kentalc.gov.uk)**



More contact info:

Kent Association of Local Councils,
Dover District Council Offices, White
Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover
CT16 3PJ
01304 820173
www.kentalc.gov.uk
kalc@kentalc.gov.uk



Guided group walks – March 2023



Our friendly group is one of 13 Ramblers groups in Kent and part of the national Ramblers walking organisation.

We explore the beautiful countryside of Tonbridge and Malling and surrounding areas.

You don't have to be a Ramblers member to try a couple of walks with us, to help you decide if you'd like to join. If you're new to our walks, it's a good idea to contact the walk leader beforehand to check that their walk will suit you.

For details of all our mid-week and Sunday walks, and walk leader contacts, see www.tonbridgeandmallingsramblers.org.uk.

Sunday 5 March	Circular walk from Sevenoaks Weald across fields and lanes and passing Bore Place. Moderate difficulty.	5.5 miles
Wednesday 8 March	Figure of 8 walk from Shipbourne towards Underriver and climbing 100m to the Greensand Way. Coffee stop at Ightham Mote before returning to Shipbourne and continuing to Dunks Green. Moderate difficulty. The shorter option will finish before the Dunks Green loop.	7.5/4.5 miles
Wednesday 15 March	A leisurely walk around Capel parish, taking in Capel and Tudeley churches, Amhurst Bank, Kent College and Knowles Bank. We will use tracks, fields, woods, orchards and some quiet lanes. Some hills and stiles.	5 miles
Sunday 19 March	A leisurely walk from Tonbridge Castle towards Leigh, along the Medway Valley and Wealdway paths.	6.2 / 4.5 miles
Sunday 26 March	Circular walk from Plaxtol. Moderate difficulty.	5 miles
Thursday 30 March	Circular walk from Kemsing through the St Clere estate and up a steep slope to the Pilgrim's Way. May be slippery if wet: bring walking poles if you need them. Moderate difficulty.	5 miles
Walks usually start mid-morning. There's a short break half-way through the walk (bring refreshments) and we usually finish near a pub.		