

## **RYARSH PARISH COUNCIL**

### **July Parish Council Meeting**

The Picnic bench is with Trinity, waiting to be installed in Ryarth Park.

The new Notice Board for Birling Road outside the Village Hall has arrived. It will be fitted when the contractor is available.

### **TMBC**

Cllr Bill Banks reported that:

- The TMBC Regulation 18 public consultation of the draft Local Plan sites has been postponed following the General Election and a change in emphasis on planning. Cllrs Banks and Boxall will continue to press for the sites put forward to be published so they are in the public domain.
- He has spoken to Bob Macdonald, Chair of the PPG about the Anima training session in Ryarth today. Bob is delighted and understands the Parish Council is as well. A lot of people attended and it was very worthwhile.
- There is possible GP strike action, but he hasn't heard of anything affecting West Malling Group Practice.
- TMBC are moving into new buildings. So many staff work from home and it has brought up new opportunities. It will help TMBC work towards their carbon neutral target.



### **TMBC**

TMBC has appointed a new Chief Executive – Damian Roberts.

### **West Malling Group Practice – New ANIMA appointment training – 29<sup>th</sup> July 2024**



This was a successful event and very well attended. The Parish Council thanks Bob, Jackie and Andy who ran the session, and to everyone who came along. Hopefully you were helped, although some people still had some issues to resolve.

Bob and Jackie who ran the session do not work for the NHS. They are both retired and are patients just like those they hope to help with the Anima sessions. They both volunteer for the local West Malling Group Practice Patient Participation Group (WMGP PPG), which is a volunteer organisation designed to be the voice of, and to represent patients, registered at the WMGP.

Bob chairs the WMGP PPG and Jackie co-ordinates events. They offered to put on these events “off their own backs” to offer what help they can to help anyone who is not comfortable with technology.

Andy who also attended works for NHS Digital, who have a more in depth technical understanding of the system, which has been very helpful at the sessions.

If you have any further questions, please contact the surgery. Handouts were provided on the day. If you would like a copy please contact the Parish Council Clerk – [clerk@ryarsh-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ryarsh-pc.gov.uk).



### **Village Hall and Land Registry Documents**

The Parish Council is very grateful to Louis F for his support dealing with some Land Registry documentation relating to the village hall.

### **Next Parish Council meeting**

The date of the September meeting has also been moved and will be held on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024** at 7.30pm in **Ryarsh Church Hall**.

You can contact the Clerk by email at [clerk@ryarsh-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ryarsh-pc.gov.uk), by telephone on 07563 606572 or by writing to Box 503, West Malling, ME6 9NN. For more information, please go to our website [www.ryarsh-pc.gov.uk](http://www.ryarsh-pc.gov.uk).

The Parish Council Clerk works 12 hours a week, Monday to Thursday, and aims to respond to emails and phone calls within 5 working days

## SGN - Temporary Road Closure - Woodgate Road, West Malling - 19th August 2024 (Tonbridge and Malling District)

Due to works planned to be undertaken by **SGN**, it will be necessary to close part of Woodgate Road, West Malling, from 19th August 2024 with estimated completion by 2nd September 2024.

Woodgate Road, West Malling, will be closed between the junctions of East Street and The Paddocks. To the extent indicated by signs and barriers on site.

The alternative route for any through traffic is via Woodgate Road, Trottscliffe Road, A20 London Road, Roughetts Road, Woodgate Road and vice versa.

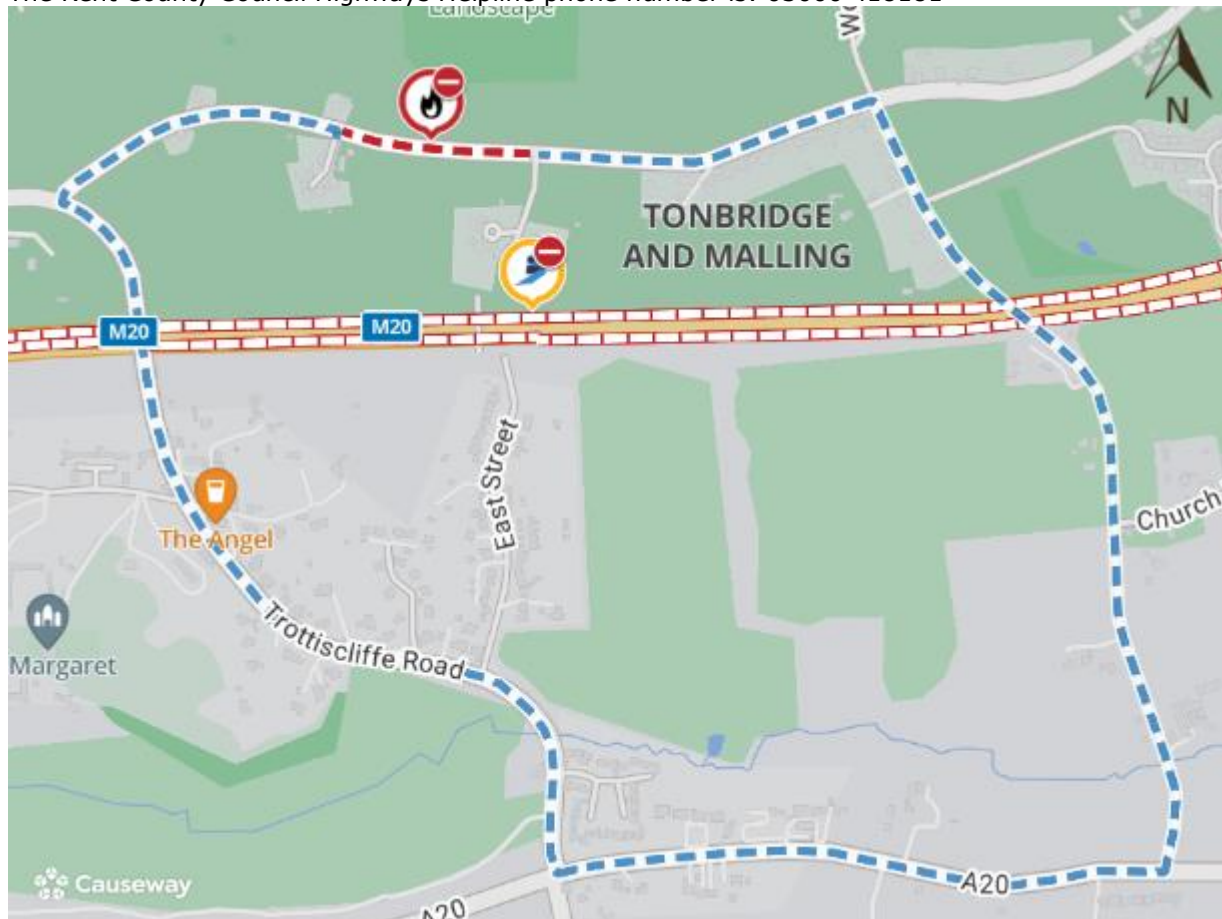
Pedestrian access will be maintained during the works.

The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce to allow gas main replacement works to be carried out, works are undertaken by SGN.

For the most up to date information on these works please visit: <https://one.network/?tm=138811660>

For information regarding this closure please contact SGN on 0800 111 999, who will be able to assist with the scope of these works.

The Kent County Council Highways Helpline phone number is: 03000 418181



# Do you heat your home with LPG, oil, electric, wood or coal?



e-on

If you don't use a gas central heating system to heat your home you could qualify for free

- Loft insulation
- Wall insulation
- Air source heat pump
- Solar panels

## Check if you qualify today

You can find out more and apply online at:  
[eonenergy.com/hug](http://eonenergy.com/hug)

Or scan our QR code



**E.ON and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council are working together to be improve homes across the area, so check if you could benefit today.**

To be eligible you'll need to:

- Own your home or rent your home from a private landlord
- Use oil, LPG, electricity, coal or wood to heat your home
- Have a combined gross household income of less than £36,000 a year OR someone in your home receives a means tested benefit
- Have an Energy Performance Certificate Rating of D, E, F or G (if you don't know that's fine, we can help)

# Local Transport Plan

## Public Consultation

### Have your say!

We have a new ambition for the future of travel in Kent. Over £400 million was invested in transport to deliver our previous Local Transport Plan. Help us understand your priorities for where we invest in the future.

Find out more and have your say at

[kent.gov.uk/ltp5](https://kent.gov.uk/ltp5)

**Consultation closes 8 October 2024**

For queries or to request hard copies of the consultation material, please email [ltp5@kent.gov.uk](mailto:ltp5@kent.gov.uk) or phone 03000 416595.

For any alternative formats, email [alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk](mailto:alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk) or call 03000 421553 (text relay service number 18001 03000 421553). This number goes to an answering machine, which is monitored during office hours.



SCAN ME!



# HELPING TONBRIDGE & MALLING GET DIGITAL

You could be eligible to access free:

- Gifted 2-in-1 laptop
- Digital skills sessions
- One to one digital support

This is available for **Tonbridge & Malling residents** over the age of 16 and digitally excluded, that meet one of the following criteria:

- In or at-risk of financial hardship,
- Not in education, employment or training, or
- Looking to develop skills to support employment or career development.

Full eligibility details and how to apply are available at [www.digitalkent.uk](http://www.digitalkent.uk) or call 03000 410 950.



Funded by  
UK Government



## **Kent County Council's Fostering Service joins forces with other South East local authorities to recruit more foster carers**

Councils from across the South East have come together to create the country's largest local authority fostering partnership, in a bid to increase the number of foster carers across the region.

With over 11,000 children in care across the South East, and fewer than 3,000 local authority approved foster carers, there is an urgent need to recruit more people to provide safe, loving and local homes for vulnerable children.

Launching today (8 July), Local Authority Fostering South East is a new virtual fostering hub bringing together the expertise of 20 councils, of which Kent is one, from across the region. The new hub will ensure prospective foster carers have access to a centralised platform for their initial enquiries about fostering and will see local authorities work collaboratively to provide the best support, right from the start of a carer's fostering journey.

The new regional hub will be running marketing campaigns to raise awareness of this unique role and encourage more people to take the next step and become a foster carer with their local council. In doing so they will benefit from comprehensive local training, generous financial assistance, and ongoing support from a non-profit organisation, who are the corporate parents for the children needing foster care.

**Natasha Sampson, South East Regional Strategic Lead**, said: "This is a really exciting time for fostering. For the first time in the South East, we are leveraging the collective skills, knowledge, resources and support of 20 local authorities to ensure children and young people have a stable home, in a loving family, which they all deserve.

"The new hub will make this possible by increasing the number of local foster carers and making sure they are well supported through their recruitment journey and beyond.

"I would urge anyone interested in fostering to get in touch with us to find out more about becoming a foster carer with your local authority."

Kent County Council (KCC) is a proud partner of this national Department for Education (DfE) funded project, with Local Authority Fostering South East being the largest of nine regions taking part in this pilot programme.

**Sue Chandler, KCC Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services**, said: "There is an urgent need to recruit a diverse range of new foster carers for children and young people in Kent who can offer them a safe and loving home in their own local communities when they need it most.

"I am delighted that anyone considering fostering can now benefit from such a wide range of combined experience and support every step of the way from this new regional partnership hub. I hope this collaboration will help to dispel some of the myths about who can foster and encourage people to take the step to apply for this generous and rewarding role with the Local Authority."

Prospective foster carers will also benefit from a new fostering ambassador scheme, enabling them to speak to an existing carer to find out what this life-changing role is really like.

More information on becoming a foster carer can be found on the new regional website ([LafosteringSE.org.uk](https://LafosteringSE.org.uk)) and by following Local Authority Fostering South East on Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter).

Those interested in fostering can also contact the regional hub directly to speak to a member of the recruitment team by calling 0300 131 2797.

- Visit [www.kentfostering.co.uk](https://www.kentfostering.co.uk) for more information about Kent Fostering.



## Guided group walks – September 2024



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 up to three 'taster' walks with us. If you're new to our walks, please contact the walk leader to check that their walk will suit you.

*Apple orchards in late summer – 15 September walk*

**For details of all upcoming walks and walk leaders, see [Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers Facebook page](#) or visit [www.tonbridgeandmallinghamblers.org.uk](http://www.tonbridgeandmallinghamblers.org.uk).**

Sunday 1 September	Circular walk from Westerham through Crockham Hill Common to be rewarded by views to the North and South Downs. Some climbing in order to gain these views from open meadows after some shaded walking in the woods. Moderate difficulty.	5 miles
Sunday 8 September	Up the Downs to Stansted: steep climb from Wrotham at the start for good views to the south. Spot the war memorials to crashed WW2 aircraft. Moderate difficulty.	5.5 miles
Thursday 12 September	A waterside walk from Lower Upnor following the River Medway as it joins the Thames estuary. The walk climbs through woodland and along the higher ground to Hoo St Werburgh, giving commanding views of the estuary before returning along the shoreline. Moderate difficulty.	4.5 miles
Sunday 15 September	Leisurely, late summer stroll through Brenchley's many orchards and woods, with plenty of shady sections, lakes and ponds. Some stiles, some slopes and a little road walking.	5.3 miles



Wednesday 25 September	Circular Medway Valley walk from Yalding to Teston; moderate difficulty.	5.5 miles
Walks usually start mid-morning. There's a short half-way break (bring refreshments) and we usually finish near a pub. Most walks are dog-friendly (see website).		