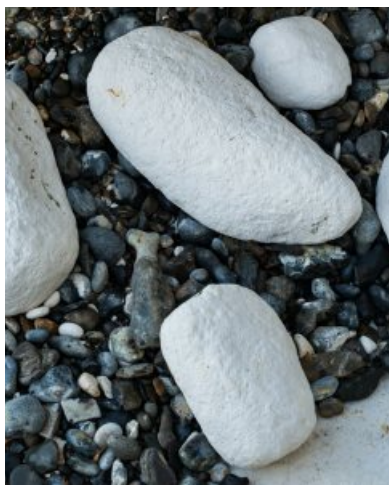


Newsletter

July 2023

HELLO
JULY




Themes This Month

- All our Training and Learning Events in One Place
- More of your Coronation Celebrations!
- News from Our Partners

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Helping local councils face their future with confidence.

Gallagher offers specialist insurance solutions for:

- Town and parish councils.
- Charities, not-for-profit and voluntary organisations.
- Community buildings and village halls.

We can provide cover for the council, its councillors, clerks and volunteers – building a policy that meets your needs. Gallagher is the most turned-to insurance broker across local government, and the only broker serving the town and parish council market that has the strength of a global broker behind them.

Would you like to talk?

T: 0800 0622 030

E: uk.community@ajg.com

ajg.com/uk



Gallagher

Insurance | Risk Management | Consulting

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Newsletter

Dates for Your Diary This Year



July

Plastic Free July

21st September

World Alzheimer's Day

10th October

World Mental Health Day (anxiety)

14–20th November

Road Safety Week

6–12th November

UK Parliament Week

November

Movember (men's mental health, suicide prevention, prostate cancer and testicular cancer)

13th November

World Kindness Day

14th November

Transport Planning Day

25th November

White Ribbon Day

27th Nov–5th Dec

National Tree Week

3rd December

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

4th December

Wildlife Conservation Day

5th December

International Volunteers' Day

Newsletter

DON'T FORGET...



**ONLINE CONFERENCE
17 JULY 2023**



**INTRODUCTION
TO PLANNING
HYTHE TOWN COUNCIL
20 JULY 2023**

**CLICK ON THE ICON FOR
MORE INFO...**

OUR SUMMER EVENTS AT A GLANCE!

SEE OUR WEBSITE
FOR
FULL DETAILS :

POST ELECTION DYNAMIC COUNCILLOR EVENTS:

- ONLINE AND VENUE BASED EVENTS
- ARRANGED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE
- CHOICE OF MORNING, AFTERNOON AND EVENING ONLINE EVENTS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE PARKINSON PARTNERSHIP FINANCE MODULES FOR LOCAL COUNCILS

FINANCE MODULES FOR

- COUNCILLORS
- CLERKS
- RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICERS (RFOs)

ALL SESSIONS ARE ONLINE AND ARE PRICED FROM £40 PLUS VAT

OUR BITESIZE COURSES

OUR SHORT COURSES ARE IDEAL FOR SUBJECTS THAT OUR MEMBERS NEED JUST ENOUGH INFORMATION FOR! NOT LIVE TRAINING SO CAN BE COMPLETED AT ANY TIME, AND COUNT TOWARDS YOUR CPD PORTFOLIO TOO.



HOW DO I BOOK?

Head over to our website here:
[https://www.kentalc.gov.uk/Training
and_Events_21677.aspx](https://www.kentalc.gov.uk/Training_and_Events_21677.aspx)

OR SCAN THIS QR CODE FOR
A DIRECT LINK TO ALL OUR EVENTS



POST ELECTION LEARNING EVENTS

JULY 2023 SCHEDULE

VENUE BASED SESSION

- 22 JULY 2023

**SATURDAY MORNING SESSION
FROM 10AM (REGISTRATION AT
9:30AM) AT STONE PARISH
COUNCIL**

5

**ONLINE SESSIONS (ALL EVENING
FROM 6:30PM FOR THREE
HOURS):**

- 13 JULY 2023
- 27 JULY 2023

**DELIVERED BY ZOOM
VIDEOCONFERENCING**

Your new role (or a role you have been carrying out for some time) is a very important part of being in your community. Being a local councillor is a valued post, but it also brings challenges to the newly elected Councillor - doing the best for your electorate is key.

The Executive Committee of KALC strongly advises training of councillors and we have been rolling out a foundation course for that purpose for many years now.

**See our programme
below!**



**Booking now via our
website here:
Training & Events -
KALC (kentalc.gov.uk)**



SCAN ME TO BOOK

**Online Events priced
from £50 plus VAT
Venue Based Events priced
from £70 plus VAT**

Our Programme

Your new role (or a role you have been carrying out for some time) is a very important part of being in your community.

Being a local councillor is a valued post, but it also brings challenges to the newly elected Councillor – doing the best for your electorate is key.

Here is a brief outline of our three hour session (subject to minor changes):

- **Start & Welcome**
- **Topic 1 Roles & Responsibilities**
- **Topic 2 Powers & Duties [exercise]**

BREAK – halfway

- **Topic 3 Meetings & Procedures**
- **Topic 4 Community Development**
- **Topic 5 Councillors Development**
- **Formal close of workshop.**

KALC BITESIZE COURSES – READY TO BOOK!



KALC Bitesize Courses are designed to be short, informative workshops that you can complete at your own pace. Generally, they last around an hour and give the learner just enough information for subject they they want to know more about.

Our Bitesize Courses are rolled out in association with:



COST

Our courses are

- £16 plus VAT for our members
- £32 plus VAT for non members



HOW

All accessed online with a unique link via our booking system



WHEN

You purchase the course, and there is no limit as to when or where you complete the learning

WHAT'S THE ADVANTAGE?

- Very reasonably priced and there is no limit to when you complete the course as it is not "live"
- Just enough information to learn what you need.
- All the subjects give a foundation level so that you can go further if you would like
- Subjects that are relevant to our tier
- New courses are being added as they become available



SCAN ME TO BOOK

New subjects added!
Take a look at our webpage here and book your place:
Bitesize Training – KALC
(kentalc.gov.uk)

KALC BITESIZE COURSES – READY TO BOOK!



We've recently added new bitesize courses for you to take advantage of. These are loosely based around the subject of Civility and Respect – which has been a big part of NALC's work in recent months. With the Elections now finished, it's always a good idea for your Councillors to know and understand how their role fits into public life, and these short courses are an ideal way of beginning that journey.

Our Bitesize Courses are rolled out in association with:



- Standards in Public Life
- Respectful and Positive Social Media
- Leadership in Challenging Situations
- Personal Resilience for Councils and Councillors
- Introduction to Changing Behaviours

Our courses are

- £16 plus VAT for our members
- £32 plus VAT for non members



SCAN ME TO BOOK

New subjects added!
Take a look at our
webpage here and book
your place:
Bitesize Training – KALC
(kentalc.gov.uk)



BITESIZE TRAINING FOR THE NEW COUNCILLOR! START YOUR JOURNEY HERE...

Introduction to Planning
for Local Councils

Introduction to
Local Councils

Understanding the
Precept

Standards in Public Life

Respectful and Positive
Social Media

Further information and
booking here:
[https://www.kentalc.gov.uk/Bite
size_Training_31970.aspx](https://www.kentalc.gov.uk/Bite_size_Training_31970.aspx)



Serving Parish & Town
Councils in Kent

Kent Association of Local Councils
Dover District Council Offices
White Cliffs Business Park
Whitfield, Dover
CT16 3PJ
Tel 01304820173
kentalc.gov.uk
kalc@kentalc.gov.uk

Finance Webinars to Suit You!

KALC has joined up with Parkinson Partnership to offer a diverse, relevant and informative programme of webinars that cover all aspects of Local Council Finance. These are being run throughout Spring and Summer 2023 and are all available for booking here:

In Association with
Parkinson Partnership LLP
Specialist Financial
Consultants

https://www.kentalc.gov.uk/Training__and__Events_21677.aspx



SCAN ME TO BOOK

SEE BELOW FOR
PROGRAMME OF
EVENTS



What's Involved?

A 90 minute webinar on a specific subject that is relevant to everyone who is working in Local Council Finance



How Does It Help?

Each webinar is tailored to a specific task or query, so it uses your time wisely and gets straight to the point



Pricing...

Member Council price: £40 plus VAT
Non Member Council price: £80 plus VAT

Parkinson Partnership Events Spring/Summer 2023

PROCUREMENT

- 11 July at 10am

FINANCE FOR COUNCILLORS

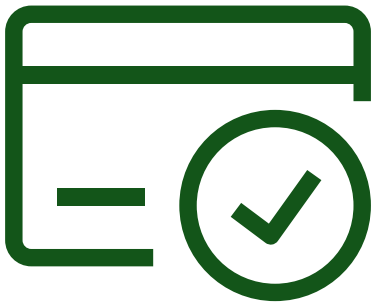
- 13 July at 10am

VAT FOR UNREGISTERED COUNCILS (VAT126)

- 18 July at 10am

Newsletter

What's Happening at KALC



KALC SUBSCRIPTIONS

The KALC subscriptions for the coming year have now been issued to all Councils. You will be aware that we do not send any by post and these are all issued electronically. We look forward to hearing from you accordingly. Many thanks for your co - operation.



WEBSITE ACCESS – KEEPING KALC UP TO DATE

Your elected councillors are allowed access to the member area of the KALC website, so if they are new, let us know so that we can provide them with a password. Equally, if you have councillors that did not get re-elected, it's important that they are removed from that universal access, so please inform us if this is the case at your Council.



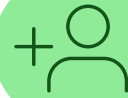
KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS COMMUNICATE WITH US!

1 FOLLOW US!

Social Media platforms are now the quickest way to find and give information.

If you have Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, you should follow KALC's pages:

- <https://www.facebook.com/kent.alc.3>
- <https://www.instagram.com/kentalc/>
- <https://twitter.com/KentLocCouncil>



2 REGISTER!

Register for access to our website! Current Councillors and Clerks are welcome to, and we encourage, access to our website. You'll get many answers to your questions there, as well as current updates for all things KALC

3 TELL US!

Tell us your updates. We want to know your latest email addresses, your progress and your stories.



4 LOOK US UP!

Make sure you continue to keep looking. Check our social media, read the KALC News, visit our website and make sure you email or call us if you need to for technical and legal advice



5 SHARE!

Clerks! Share our communications with your current councillors. Make sure that KALC News is distributed to your Council. Send our flyers or the information in them to those who might need a learning event. Encourage your councillors to follow us on social media.

MISSING FROM YOUR INBOX



Philip Mearns, the project officer at the Royal Forestry Society, was delighted to see the response from our parish councils regarding the recent workshops that the RFS has launched. These have proved very popular and are now full. However, Philip would like to hear from any of our parish and towns who are still interested in any of the further workshops that are being offered. His contact details are:

Philip.mearns@rfs.org.uk

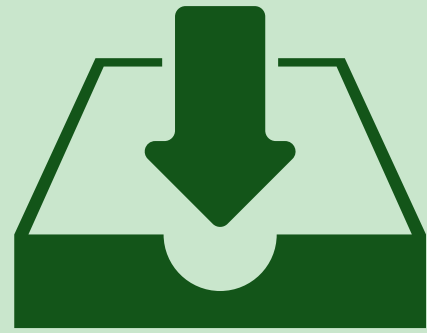
and you can find out more about what the Royal Forestry Society does by following this link:

<https://rfs.org.uk/>

Don't forget the work of the Open Spaces Society (OSS) that also looks after the green spaces that are so important to us all. The OSS makes a valuable contribution in representing local bodies that wish to protect their open spaces - rural and urban. You can find out what they do here:

<https://www.oss.org.uk/>

Remember that NALC has a new partnership with Worknest to provide advice and guidance related to employment, HR and Health and Safety. For related enquires, email Clive who will be able to pass your request onto Worknest.



A big Thank You to all our member councils who took part in the KALC Membership Survey. We had a very good response to the survey and this really does help us in planning what we do and how we can improve our service to you all.

NEWS FROM NALC



NALC HAS MOVED!

The National Association of Local Councils recently moved offices. They are now based in Holborn and their address is:

The Bloomsbury Building
10 Bloomsbury Way
Holborn
London
WC1A 2SL

Telephone: 020 7637 1865

Email: nalc@nalc.gov.uk

Opening times:

Monday - Friday (9 am - 5 pm)

Phone lines:

Monday - Friday (9.30 am - 4.30 pm)



KALC is also aware that some of the information that we send out to you is equally available from the NALC website and via their bulletins and newsletters. To avoid duplication and to reduce the emails that KALC send, we will no longer send the NALC Newsletters or Bulletins, but instead encourage members to sign up for latest news etc via their contact details so that you receive their most recent updates as quickly as possible. You can do this by following the link below:

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/contact-us>

NEWS FROM NALC



EVENTS FOR BOOKING

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has launched several online courses that are available to book via their Eventbrite platform. You can browse what is on offer presently by following this link:
<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-events/upcoming-events>

NALC PARTNERSHIP WITH WORKNEST...

Remember that NALC has a new partnership with Worknest to provide advice and guidance related to employment, HR and Health and Safety. For related enquires, email Clive who will be able to pass your request onto Worknest.



STAR COUNCIL AWARDS

SPONSORED BY BHIB COUNCILS INSURANCE

SUBMIT A NOMINATION TODAY!

WWW.NALC.GOV.UK/STARCOUNCILAWARDS

**29 NOVEMBER 2023, 15:30-17:00
HOUSE OF LORDS, LONDON SW1A 0PW**

NALC's Star Council Awards are the only awards in England that recognise local (parish and town) councils' contributions to their communities. The long-running awards celebrate local councils, councillors, young councillors, county associations and clerks' positive impact on their communities. The winners will be announced at a parliamentary reception in the House of Lords on 29 November 2023.

Nominations can be made up to and including 28 July 2023. There are plenty of categories to submit them to, and it might just put your Council on the national map!

Further details available here:

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/star-council-awards>



NEWS FROM NALC



Whitstable Town Council Campaign

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) showed its support to Whitstable's campaign for a new town council at the campaign's public launch on 7 June 2023.

The campaign to set up a town council in Whitstable, Kent is being led by CT5 People's Forum. The CT5 People's Forum recognised a need for a local (parish and town) council as they felt that the town was overshadowed by Canterbury City and that the city and town had different necessities. Thus, having a Whitstable Town Council would give the community a voice to make its own decisions.

NALC's chief executive, Jonathan Owen was among the speakers at the campaign launch. Other speakers included Charmaine Keatley, the chief executive of the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC), Louise Bareham, town clerk of Faversham Town Council, and members of CT5 People's Forum.

The development of a new local council in Whitstable, aligns with NALC's longstanding constitutional objective of having England fully parish. In recent years there has been over 40 newly created local councils.

The article on the left was published by NALC, and as mentioned, KALC's Chief Executive, Charmaine Keatley, attended the launch on 7 June 2023. KALC backs campaign for a town council for Whitstable

Charmaine was a speaker at the launch of the campaign to create a Town Council for Whitstable (including Seasalter, Swalecliff and Tankerton).

The CT5 People's Forum argue nearly every urban area has a Town Council leaving Whitstable at a disadvantage.

The CT5 People's Forum have launched a petition to trigger a Community Governance Review and urge anyone who thinks the need for a Town Council for Whitstable should be investigated to sign it:

<https://democracy.canterbury.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?id=1145>



members of CT5 People's Forum along with Charmaine Keatley, Louise Bareham and Jonathan Owen, CEO of NALC

NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS



CONSULTATIONS – GET INVOLVED...

Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 – Further proposed changes

The Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30 (KMWLP) was adopted in July 2016 with some limited changes adopted in September 2020 as part of the Early Partial Review. A Kent Mineral Sites Plan which allocates three areas of land suitable for development associated with the extraction of sands and gravel was also adopted in 2020. Together these documents form part of the Development Plan which represents the planning policy framework for minerals and waste development in Kent.

We are inviting comments on the further proposed changes which are set out in the [draft Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 – Further proposed changes](#) document.

There are three areas of the Local Plan which are proposed for further changes. These are summarised as follows:

- 1.Changes to Policy CSM 2, and associated supporting text, relating to the quantity of aggregate mineral to be planned for
- 2.Deletion of Policy CSW 5 that allocates land for an extension to Norwood Quarry, Isle of Sheppey for subsequent filling with hazardous flue ash
- 3.Deletion of paragraph 6.3.3 (and associated sub-title) which concerns making specific provision within Kent for the management of residual non-hazardous waste by landfill or energy recovery that arises in London

The consultation is now open and will close on 25 July 2023.

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/kent-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-2024-2039>



Kent Police – New Community Interactive 2 Way Messaging Service



Kent Police

My Community Voice is a new and exciting two-way messaging service that helps Kent and Medway residents, businesses, and community groups to keep in touch with their local policing teams. The service sends updates about your local area directly from the police officers themselves.

My Community Voice is more than just a messaging service; it allows you to reply to the alerts sent by Kent Police, share information and most importantly, it allows you to tell the police about issues that are affecting you.

You will be able to play an active part in police appeals as well as being kept up to date with what is happening in your local area.

Unlike social media, My Community Voice is a secure and personal messaging system that allows you to determine what type of alerts you receive and how.

If you are passionate about your neighbourhood and want to have your voice heard, then sign up to My Community Voice via the QR code below.



Kent Police – New Community Interactive 2 Way Messaging Service



Kent Police

My Community Voice allows you to comment by clicking the 'reply' link within a message. This will be sent back to the person that posted the alert. All emails are read and actioned. This service should not be used as a crime reporting tool. Please use www.kent.police.uk/report or in an emergency, if a crime is in progress or life is in danger, call 999.



Sign up today to start getting alerts about the matters that mean the most to you such as community safety, anti-social behaviour, including speeding and many others. Kent Police are committed to engaging with communities, understanding what's important to them, increasing trust and confidence and helping to protect people from harm. Police, partners, and the public working together can build resilient and safe communities, and both reduce and prevent crime. Sign up to My Community Voice now to keep up to date with what is really happening in your area. www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk

NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS



Kent Fire &
Rescue Service



KENT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE "SAFE AND WELL" VISITS – WELL WORTH IT!

I contacted Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) recently to see if our family was eligible for a Home Fire Safety Visit. We have just moved to a new property that suits the needs of my wheelchair user husband, and I was very keen that our new home was safe and secure from any potential fire risks.

Our circumstances meant that we were eligible for the service, and we were duly booked in for a visit. We had Ru come to our home and he was brilliant! His cheery and professional disposition really helped matters along. He did a thorough check of our appliances and made sure there was no reported "recalls" on any of our White Goods and made sure that as a family we had a good plan in place for an evacuation if a fire should arise.

Likewise, he checked that we knew what a potential hazard was and what we might want to change to avoid them. We were provided with new smoke alarms, which were expertly fitted by Ru, and left with leaflets for any further help we might need. In short, if someone in your community is eligible for such a visit, encourage them to take it up. It won't last longer than around an hour and may well save you from a fire in the future.

Find out more about KFRS' free home fire safety checks by visiting [Home fire safety visits | Kent Fire and Rescue Service \(fire-uk.org\)](https://www.fire-uk.org).

Tricia Casey-Green, Communications Officer, KALC



Kent Fire &
Rescue Service

together

Newsletter

NEWS FROM YOU



YOUR CORONATION CELEBRATIONS!

This year, our Parish and Town Councils "pushed the boat out" for the Coronation of King Charles III. We asked you to send in your stories and pictures of your events, and you didn't disappoint!



The Acol Coronation Celebration Committee

arranged a Coronation Afternoon Tea Party on a limited budget that took into account the changeable weather on the day! They used the "Acol Dome" for an indoor event at short notice that was promoted by social media and phone calls, and the Parish Council made sure that the Hall was suitably decorated. With plenty of food and drink available for everyone - it added up to a successful community afternoon. Even the Teddy Bears turned up for a cuppa!



Chart Sutton residents are still talking about the hugely successful Coronation Party

that the Parish Council managed to arrange at short notice and with limited funding. The council was fortunate to attract Lottery Community Funding, and local donations along with local people giving their support and time to make it happen. Some 20 plus residents came forward to help in February and 20 plus people helped put up and take down the bunting. The party attracted 200 residents and they were treated to a big barbeque. An ABBA Tribute band, plus music from local talent, donated strawberries and a souvenir bag all added up to five hours of fun!



Newsletter

NEWS FROM YOU



YOUR CORONATION CELEBRATIONS!



Edenbridge Town Council celebrated in style on Sunday 7 May with a Big Coronation Lunch to mark the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. The local community was invited to come along to the Recreation Ground from 1-7pm for free live music, entertainment and children’s activities. There was also a crown competition as well as a royal quiz and prizes for the best dress -up! Lots of people set up for the day and enjoyed picnics and food from the several food trucks and stalls.



High Halden held a Coronation event on Monday 8 May on the village green. The event was packed and attendees were entertained with a dog show, live dancing, live band and lots of stands. Tea, coffee and delicious cakes were donated and served by the Parish Council. High Halden has a village events committee and most Councillors sit on this committee . A scarecrow competition was organised and residents erected scarecrows of Charles and/or Camila in their front gardens. The results were announced at the fete and the winning scarecrows were displayed.



Newsletter

NEWS FROM YOU



YOUR CORONATION CELEBRATIONS!

Capel-le-Ferne Parish Council, and other community bodies in the village, hosted an event on Sunday 7 May 2023 in the Village Hall to celebrate King Charles III Coronation. 200 Members of the Community attended.

Refreshments were served in the Village Hall, the Women's Institute made a Coronation Cake and the Kent Police Cadets attended to give assistance with an inflatable pirate ship.

Adding to the fun a King Charles and Queen Camilla life size cut out were available for photos! These were auctioned off at the end, with the toppers from the cake and donations from vendors. Funds raised to be sent to one of the King's Charities.



Temple Ewell Parish Council organised a Street Party on the Sunday afternoon with around 150 parishioners attending the 4 hours event which featured mini-golf and several other games to help keep the children entertained. A local resident provided live music from his garden.

On the preceding Friday, the Parish Clerk & Chairman visited Temple Ewell Primary School and presented each child with a special coronation mug. Other children living within the village that attend other schools were invited to request a mug, and these have been delivered in the last few days.

The Parish Council also planted a Flowering Cherry Tree at the Playing Field adjoining the school in celebration of the life of the late Queen Elizabeth II. The addition of a plaque and dedication were completed in the presence of the school children who sang the National Anthem in honour of the late Queen.

Newsletter

NEWS FROM YOU



Sevenoaks Town Council becomes a Town Of Sanctuary

City of Sanctuary is a vast network of ordinary people around the country stepping up to support people seeking sanctuary in our communities. From community groups to schools and universities, local councils to libraries and theatres, City of Sanctuary works with individuals, groups, and organisations in every area and in every sector to encourage inclusivity, solidarity, and compassion for people from a forced displacement background. The Sanctuary Awards programme recognises and celebrates the organisations and institutions going above and beyond to create welcome, compassion and empowering opportunities for people seeking sanctuary. The City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network is a movement of local councils who are working to create a culture of welcome, inclusion and empowerment for people seeking sanctuary. City of Sanctuary status is normally accredited to principal councils e.g., Districts and County Councils.

Sevenoaks Town Council and Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees is delighted to have been accredited with the first Town of Sanctuary award for the town of Sevenoaks.

"I am delighted that Sevenoaks has been recognised by the City of Sanctuary programme. Through Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees and through the individual actions of Sevenoaks people opening their homes and lending their time and skills, I believe we extend a warm welcome to those who arrive here in very difficult circumstances. I am so glad that, as a Town Council, we have worked with Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees to achieve this status and to weave care for refugees into the fabric of all we do',

Cllr Claire Shea, Mayor of Sevenoaks



Newsletter

NEWS FROM YOU



Everyone living in Kent has felt the reality of climate change, with increasingly hot summers, hosepipe bans, high winds, extreme rainfall and flooding. In 2022 West Malling Parish Council declared a Climate Emergency, following the lead of the UK government, Kent County Council and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

(https://www.westmallingspc.org/uploads/8/1/8/3/81839336/climate_change_paper_for_fc__jan_2022.pdf)

By declaring an emergency WMPC acknowledged the urgent need to act on the causes and impacts of climate change, and committed to:

- Establishing a Climate Change and Biodiversity Action Group.
- Mapping WMPC's carbon footprint using the tool developed by KALC. (LINK?)
- Working towards making WMPC activities net-zero carbon by 2030.
- Achieving 100% clean energy use for all activities as soon as possible.
- Embedding climate emergency considerations in all work areas and decision-making.
- Reviewing the Local Plan / Neighbourhood Plan ensuring it is "green to the core".

West Malling Climate Change and Biodiversity Action Group

Once established the CC & BAG wrote an environmental policy

(https://www.westmallingspc.org/uploads/8/1/8/3/81839336/environmental_policy.pdf).

setting out the following aims for WMPC:

- to promote the value of a quality environment and support residents to enjoy it.
- to work towards environmental sustainability, i.e. protecting and enhancing natural assets e.g. access to green space, local biodiversity, and air quality.
- to work efficiently and minimise adverse impact on our environment.
- to promote the development of a circular economy (minimising waste through sharing, reusing, repairing and recycling).

After a year...

We have measured our carbon footprint. In the year 2021-2022 the direct activities of WMPC emitted 8.9 tonnes of CO2. 76.41% came from the electricity we use to light the streetlamps.

Newsletter

NEWS FROM YOU



- We have written to contractors asking them for information on fossil fuel use so that we can calculate the impact of our wider activities eg hedge cutting.
- We have investigated possibilities for installing Electric Vehicle Charging points on WMPC land and applied for a grant for two EV chargers at the Village Hall.
- We held a 'Greener West Malling' event. A public meeting bringing together local green initiatives including speakers from **Communigrow, Kent Wildlife Trust 'Wild about Gardens' project, the Repair Café, the Kings Hill Refill Hub,** and a local resident who had invested in reducing the carbon footprint of her home.



West Malling PC – Work in Action!

West Malling Climate Change and Biodiversity Action Group

The future...

We are urgently looking at switching to 100% renewable energy.

We plan to widen the scope of our measurement of the WMPC carbon footprint to include the indirect impact of PC activities through contractors.

We want to measure the carbon storage available to WMPC (eg the heritage orchard and the cricket pitch) to offset against unavoidable emissions. We also want to achieve maximum ecological benefit from managing these assets. We want to focus on reducing the use of poisons on WMPC land.

The planning committee intends to engage with e.g Historic England to look for ways to make restrictions on listed buildings compatible with comfortable, affordable, modern living.

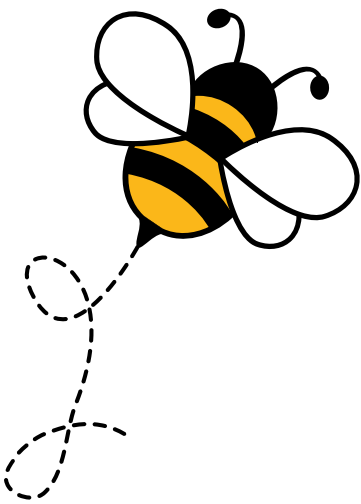
We want to engage with the community. We welcome the public to our meetings and invite outside speakers. We plan another community event focused on gardening for wildlife and climate change.

Newsletter

NEWS FROM YOU



Busy Bees at Swanscombe call for co-operation!

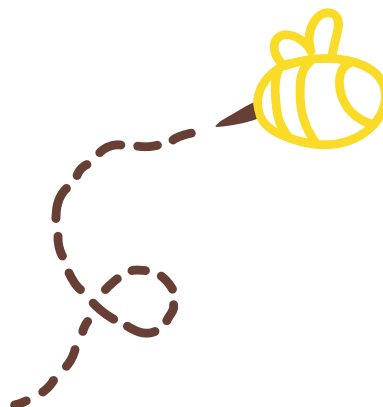


Our communities are brilliant when it comes to looking after bees and encouraging them to stay, but sometimes we need to think about the safety of others when they decide to congregate in places that others use on a daily basis.

Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council had this issue when there was a bee nest in the grounds of the council offices, which is used by children at the local pre-school.

Graham Blew, the Town Clerk, was rightly concerned about it and had to think "out of the box" for a good solution to the problem. So, he contacted someone who knew what to do – none other than another Local Council Clerk! Jan Beckett, clerk at **Bean Parish Council**, which borders Swanscombe and Greenhithe, is a member of Gravesend Beekeepers Association, and she was the perfect choice for advice and help. The bees were expertly removed and rehomed, making sure that they have the best environment to live in, and at the same time making the Council offices safe for everyone that use them.

Graham and Jan looked absolutely fabulous in their protective clothing!



Newsletter

D DAY COMMEMORATIONS 2024



The 80th year Commemorations of D Day, or Operation Overload, will take place on 6 June 2024. This will be a momentous occasion for many reasons and so parishes and towns are being encouraged to mark it in a suitable way.

Operations Overlord and Neptune are now considered to be the most audacious campaigns of the Second World War. They made way for the liberation of mainland Europe and set the wheels in motion for VE Day in May 1945.

Consequently, the United Kingdom will be marking the day and, as we have seen on previous similar occasions, there will be several ways in which this can be done.

The official website for the series of events can be found by following this link:

<https://www.day80beacons.co.uk/>

Parish and Town Councils will have a role to play in this commemoration so it makes sense to start the preparation now. Many of our communities already possess beacons that have been purchased for previous events, but this is also a good time to consider whether you should have one in your area.

The event is being endorsed by the Prime Minister and heads of the Armed Forces, so it looks to be a poignant and timely reminder of those who fought in the closing stages of the last World War.

Contact Us...



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Call: 01304 820173

- Dial 1 – to speak to the Chief Executive (Charmaine Keatley)
- Dial 2 – to speak to the Local Councils Adviser (Clive Powell)
- Dial 3 – to speak to the Finance and Administration Manager (Laura Dyer)
- Dial 4 – to speak to the Communications Officer (Tricia Casey-Green)
- Dial 5 – to speak to the Training and Partnerships Officer (Veronica Lawrence)