

Town



# Borough Update

Your Maidstone Borough Council Newsletter



## Changing faces of Maidstone High Street

### Free bulky rubbish service

Most weekends Maidstone council refuse lorries collect bulky household rubbish from locations in your area. Take your refuse to the Saturday Freighter Service at the times shown:

#### Saturday 29 October

13:00 - 13:45 Penenden Heath. Heathfield Road/  
Heathfield Close

13:55 - 14:40 Penenden Heath. Woodcuts

#### Saturday 5 November

07:45 - 08:30 Ringlestone. Calder Road

08:40 - 09:15 Ringlestone. Moncktons Avenue

09:25 - 09:55 County Road

10:10 - 11:00 Penenden Heath. Park Avenue/  
Hatherall Road

14:15 - 14:55 Lower Road

15:05 - 15:45 South Park Road/York Road

#### Saturday 12 November

07:45 - 08:30 Fant. Hackney Road/Unicum Lane

08:40 - 09:30 Barming. Terminus Road

09:40 - 10:20 Barming. Abingdon Road

10:30 - 11:00 Barming. Springwood Road

12:00 - 12:55 Barming. Green Way/Cherry Orchard

13:05 - 13:55 Queens Road/Freshlands Road

14:05 - 14:55 Bower Mount Road/Cornwallis Road

15:05 - 15:45 Victoria Street allotments

#### Saturday 19 November

07:45 - 09:15 Allington. Newbury Drive

09:25 - 10:15 Allington. Trevor Drive

10:25 - 11:15 Buckland Road allotments

#### Saturday 26 November

07:45 - 08:25 Shepway. Westmorland Road

08:30 - 09:00 Northumberland Road/Cumberland Green

10:30 - 11:00 Park Wood. Bicknor Road car park

12:00 - 12:50 Park Wood. Lockham Farm Avenue

13:00 - 13:30 Park Wood. Bicknor Road/Wallis Avenue

13:40 - 14:15 Park Wood. Queen Elizabeth Square

14:25 - 15:05 Mangravel. Woodside Road

15:15 - 15:45 Tovil. Forest Hill/Courtenay Road

#### Saturday 3 December

14:30 - 15:45 Loose. Anglesey Avenue

#### Saturday 21 January

10:00 - 11:00 Loose. Broadoak Avenue

12:00 - 12:30 Loose. Old Loose Hill

#### Saturday 28 January

13:00 - 13:45 Penenden Heath. Heathfield Road

13:55 - 14:40 Penenden Heath. Woodcuts

We do not accept garden waste, very large bulky items and electrical or hazardous items. You can dispose of these items through our paid for bulky collection service or at the household waste recycling centre at Burial Ground Lane, Tovil, Maidstone. It is open Monday to Saturday, 8am to 4.30pm, and Sunday and Bank Holidays, 9am to 4pm. For more information about our bulky rubbish services, including paid for doorstep collections, visit [maidstone.gov.uk](http://maidstone.gov.uk) or call the cleansing hotline on 01622 602162.

### Food waste thank you



Eighty per cent of Maidstone residents are using our food waste collection service, sending more than 100 tonnes of food every week for composting. This has boosted Maidstone's recycling rate to 45% and reduced the rubbish sent for disposal by 37%. Thanks to everyone who is helping to make it such a success.

Home composting for certain types of kitchen and garden waste is even better. It reduces the amount of lorry movements needed and provides a nutritious fertilizer for the garden.

At home you can compost fruit and vegetable

peelings, tea bags, coffee grounds and egg shells.

You can also reduce the amount of food waste thrown away by measuring portions and using up leftovers. It is important to check dates on food purchased - 'Best Before' dates are for quality so there is no need to throw out food on the stated date (eggs being the exception). Food can also be eaten right up to the 'use-by' date, or frozen.

For more hints and tips on reducing food waste visit [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com)

#### Food waste facts!

- A third of the food we buy in the UK is thrown away.
- An average family throws away £50 worth of food shopping every month.

### Compost Bin Offer

Maidstone Borough Council, in partnership with Straights and the Waste Improvement Network, is pleased to offer compost bins [www.maidstone.getcomposting.com](http://www.maidstone.getcomposting.com) from £15 (plus delivery).

**Special offer - buy two and get the second half price**  
(Offer applies to 220L & 330L compost converters).

To order bins log onto

[www.maidstone.getcomposting.com](http://www.maidstone.getcomposting.com)

### Borough Update

This is your council newsletter, produced up to four times a year in the Downs Mail newspaper. It is written, edited and designed by the council's communications team, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. Email: [pr@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:pr@maidstone.gov.uk). Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. It is typeset by aw design and printed by Newbury News.

If you are visually impaired and would like the newsletter text in large print, please call us on 01622 602807, and we will be happy to send you a copy.



# Maidstone councillors looking ahead

Electric cars such as the Mitsubishi i-MiEV are now on sale. There is a government grant of £5000 towards their purchase, they are exempt from road tax, and are currently tax free as company cars. Will they offer a greener, cheaper form of transport that improves air quality and decreases CO2 emission? Will their success mean our congestion issues just get worse?

A Maidstone council scrutiny committee is carrying out a review of traffic congestion in the borough. The committee will be making recommendations to reduce traffic congestion and the effects of it. The committee wants to:

- Identify how to unlock the congestion in Maidstone town.
- Identify opportunities to engage and support the business community.
- Investigate best practice for

incentivised traffic reduction.

- Examine best practice in established county towns.
- Investigate the consideration given to new developments by the planning authority in relation to traffic volume and road maintenance.

Committee Chairman, Cllr David Burton, said "It's still early days but I am convinced that we will be seeing many more electric cars on our roads soon. It looks like they offer a cost

effective solution in terms of both the cash in our pockets and the environment. Maidstone Borough Council needs to be looking at what this will mean to the amount of traffic on our roads and the parking that we will need to plan for."

Maidstone Borough Council is also working with Kent County Council to produce a transport strategy. The work by the committee will feed into this and support the core strategy.

## Businesses urged to back town's athletes

With more than 30 athletes now in the spotlight on the Maidstone's Dream website, businesses are being urged to put their sponsorship in place to help bring a medal home to Maidstone.



With the London Olympics less than 12 months away and with Maidstone the penultimate town to welcome the Olympic Torch Relay before it reaches London, there's no better way to get involved than to sponsor one of our promising athletes. The Maidstone's Dream website was set up in 2009 to help create a lasting legacy for the 2012 Olympics. Thirteen athletes have already been offered financial support from businesses and all athletes have been offered free gym memberships.

One athlete who is tipped for huge success is decathlete Martin Brockman. Last year he brought home a bronze medal from the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi.

If you'd like to sponsor an athlete you can visit [www.maidstonesdream.co.uk](http://www.maidstonesdream.co.uk) to browse the online profiles of the athletes.

It's time to recognise Maidstone's young sporting talent.



The Youth Sport Achievement Awards are the biggest celebration of sport in Maidstone. Family, friends, sport coaches and teachers have until December 30, 2011 to nominate individuals, teams and schools that have shown dedication, improvement and sporting success over the last year. The awards are not just about high level achievers but also those that have shown extraordinary effort and dedication throughout 2011.

There are a number of categories and nominations can be made online at [maidstone.gov.uk/sports](http://maidstone.gov.uk/sports). Forms can be picked up from the Maidstone Gateway in King Street, or by calling 01622 602222.

The ceremony will on Friday, January 27, 2012.

## Teenage parents supported by housing scheme

Maidstone's first supported housing scheme for teenage parents will be up and running by March.

Six apartments are being built at Armstrong Road, Maidstone in partnership with Golding Homes and Kent County Council's Supporting People Team. Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services, Cllr John A. Wilson, said: "The scheme is really important because it

means we will be able to support young parents at a time when they need it most".

Young people will be able to stay for up to two years and at the end of this time they will be helped to make the move into independent accommodation in Maidstone.

Affordable housing and private housing plots are also being built on the Armstrong Road site.

## Social Media

Follow us on Twitter @maidstonebc

Like us on Facebook – [www.facebook.com/maidstoneboroughcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/maidstoneboroughcouncil)

Watch us on YouTube – [www.youtube.com/user/maidstonecouncil](http://www.youtube.com/user/maidstonecouncil)

# High Street improvements – vision to be reality



Work has begun on Maidstone High Street's Public Realm Project.

In January 2009 the council launched a design competition which attracted both national and international entrants. Now, just over two years later the vision is being realised.

Cllr Malcolm Greer, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Transport said: "Work started on September 5 and by May next year we will have a new Town Square to be proud of. This space will be used for musical and cultural events.

"There will be new pedestrian zones and new trees, together with new street furniture. I'm delighted to be getting this project off the ground and can't wait to see the end product."

The project will improve how the High Street looks, feels and works. The scheme, which is to last 34 weeks, will see less space given over to vehicles and a new public space created in front of the Town Hall.

The project is in two phases. This first phase will have improvements to the surfaces and layout of the street from Mill Street up to The Mall.

It will be business as usual for retailers throughout the work,



Artist impressions of what the work will look like. The work is due to be complete by May 2012.

which will stop for two weeks over Christmas.

Cllr Greer added: "We apologise in advance for any inconvenience these works may cause and will, of course, try to keep any disruption to a minimum. We have had meetings with retailers and have discussed their individual requirements for delivery and access and have ensured pedestrian access to their premises at all times." Phase 1 is costing £2.2 million, of which KCC is contributing £600,000. Phase 2, the lower High Street, will be completed subject to funding.

**The project is expected to create 100 new jobs and bring more than £4 million of new spending to the town.**



Maidstone councillor Malcolm Greer with council Leader Chris Garland, Charmane Waggett, Public Liaison Officer from Eurovia, The Mayor of Maidstone, Cllr Brian Mortimer and David Brazier from KCC to mark the start of the work.

# The High Street in the 1920s



## Get in touch

If you have any questions or queries, or would like further information please contact the Eurovia Public Liaison Officer, Charmane Waggett, on 0845 408 2987 (24hr automated contact number) or email [maidstone@eurovia.co.uk](mailto:maidstone@eurovia.co.uk)

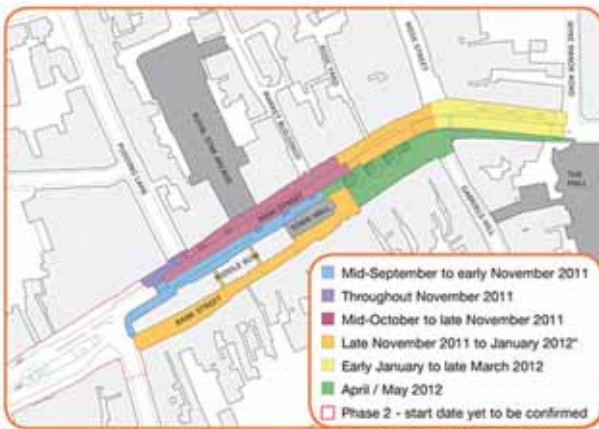
You can visit the site office at 40 King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1BS, <http://highstreet.maidstone.gov.uk> or you can view regular updates on [www.facebook.com/maidstoneboroughcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/maidstoneboroughcouncil)



Image courtesy of John Westthrop Kent Messenger

Above - The Bottom of the High street c.1920s

Right - The Top end of the High Street with the carriages gone all to be replaced by motorcars. C.1920's

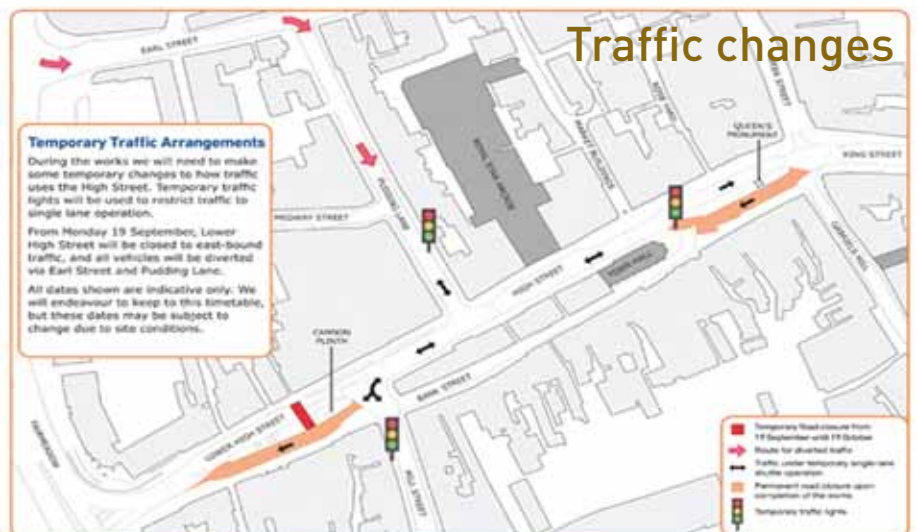


## What's happening, when?

- Mid-September to early November 2011 - The lower end of the High Street at Mill Street and one half of the High Street.
- Throughout November 2011 - the High Street by Pudding Lane.
- Mid-October to late November 2011 - The main part of the High Street.
- Late November 2011 to January 2012 - Bank Street
- Two week break at Christmas
- Early January to late March 2012 - King Street
- April/May 2012 - the top of the High Street by Week Street and Gabriels Hill and King Street
- Phase 2 - start date yet to be confirmed, subject to funding being available - Lower High Street and part of Mill Street

## Public Liaison Meetings

If you are a retailer or live in Maidstone and would like to be kept up-to-date with the High Street works then come along to the Public Liaison Meetings organised by Maidstone Town Centre Management. Dates of meetings can be found at <http://highstreet.maidstone.gov.uk>



## Traffic changes



## Canoe to showcase in new East Wing Extension

A canoe, which has been on a restoration journey is set to make its debut in Maidstone Museum's new East Wing Extension.

In November, visitors will be able to see the new East Wing entrance and visitor information point, the new shop and the first of the new displays which focus on the variety and quality of the collections.

The 9 metre Solomon Islands canoe will be displayed in the museum for the first time since it was acquired in 1863.

Two upper floor galleries will open in late November. These will feature a new display of the museum's collection of oil paintings and a display of our historic photographic collection in the Bentlif 2 gallery.

The two remaining upper floor galleries will be ready by March 2012.

When the East Wing is fully open it will be able to host the best touring exhibitions.

## Love Where You Live



Steven Page and his one year old son Tyler joined Cabinet Member Marion Ring on the 'Love Where You Live' litter pick.

Maidstone Borough Council and McDonald's got a Mcflurry of volunteers to litter pick rubbish during the national Keep Britain Tidy campaign - 'Love where you Live'.

The volunteers cleared up from Maidstone East Station, which is just a short walk from one of the McDonald's outlets in the town, to Buckland Hill. Cabinet Member for the Environment, Cllr Marion Ring, said: "We're proud of where we live and want to see it looking its best. The Love Where You Live campaign is all about finding positive ways to improve the environment."

Love Where You Live is a new campaign with the aim of inspiring everyone to think about their communities and take action to reduce litter in the locations where they live, the places they visit and the spaces that they use.

## 'Tankies' come to town...

Soldiers from the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment paraded through Maidstone on September 1 to mark their return from active duty in Afghanistan.

The march in the town centre was a homecoming for many of the 'Tankies', who come from the town and nearby Ashford. More than 300 soldiers took part.



## 36 Statue Appeal nears fundraising total

Money has been flooding in for the 36 Engineer Statue Appeal.

The donations will pay for a life-size bronze statue, to be mounted in Ragstone, in Brenchley Gardens.

The statue, which will commemorate the close

links Maidstone has with the 36 Royal Engineer Regiment, will be of a 6ft engineer in his battle fatigues returning to base after discovering an improvised bomb.

The statue will be unveiled on Tuesday, November 1, in time for Remembrance Day.

## A time for remembering

On Sunday, November 13 we will remember those who gave their lives for peace and freedom in the First World War and all conflicts since. The Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade will be held from 10.30am with the service taking place at the Cenotaph at 10.50am. Road closures will take place between 9.45am 12pm.





# Mote Park Improvement Project

Volunteering at Mote Park is a great way to get some exercise and feel part of the next phase in the park's history. Many people have already helped out. Here Maidstone council's, Karen Jeal, describes her experience.

I signed up for half a day's work in September. It was a sunny, but slightly crisp morning. But this wasn't to last once the hard work started.

I donned my wellies and had a spade, rake and wheelbarrow at the ready. I wanted to do my bit to restore the park and give something back to the community.

There were about eight of us altogether.

We met outside the café, then as a group headed to the natural play area by the Willington Street entrance. Along the way, Alan Frith, who heads up the volunteers, gave us all the information we could possibly want to know about the improvement works, how we can get involved in the future and what we were going to be helping with on the day.

When we arrived at the newly-built play area there were piles and piles of woodchip. Our job was to rake this out around the play equipment. We also helped create woodchip pathways.

It was not an easy job, but nonetheless felt really worthwhile, working as a team to get the job done. Once finished it was a great feeling to stand back and take in the difference we had made to the park. I will definitely be helping out again.



## Local firm wins contract

Gallagher, one of Kent's best known building contractors, is the main contractor for the Mote Park Regeneration Project.

The park is one of the largest in the South East of England, with the scale and character of a country park.

Its proximity to the centre of Maidstone makes it a very popular place for local people as well as others from much further away. The regeneration project has won funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) under their Parks for People scheme.

Improvements have or will include:



- Formalising inner and outer path circuits.
- Main car park improvements - marking and planting shrubs and trees.



- Improving the Boat House Area - installing a hard surface promenade area with new seating, tree planting and a new model boat platform.
- Refurbishing the refreshment kiosk.
- Restoring the 1840s waterfall.
- Restoring the neoclassical Volunteers Pavilion dating from the 1800s.
- Replacing the ramp and small bridge across the lake with a new 20m span timber and steel bridge.
- Improving access from Willington Street with car parking and a natural play area for teenagers, and from School Lane with improved parking, a separate pedestrian access and relocating the play area.

## Helping out in the park

Volunteers can help with all aspects of the Mote Park improvement project. There are lots of opportunities, including helping at community events, as park wardens, stewarding undertaking habitat surveys and running an arts and crafts stall. If you would like to join the volunteering team or if you would like

information on any activities in Mote Park, please contact Alan Frith on 01622 602119 or email [alanfrith@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:alanfrith@maidstone.gov.uk) Further details can also be found on the Mote Park Improvement Project website <http://motepark.maidstone.gov.uk>

## Water Sports Centre

### Opening times

April - September, 7 days a week from 9am to 7pm.

October - March 7 days a week from 9am - 5pm.

Mote Park has a new water sports centre for sailing, canoeing and rowing.

It offers one-off days out, courses, taster sessions, one-to-one tuition, birthday parties and youth and school group bookings.

All the activities are suitable for eight year olds and over.

Water sports enthusiasts can hire or use their own equipment.

There is an extensive youth programme for ages 8 to 16, including school holiday programs and youth nights.

## Timeline of events

<b>2007</b> - Heritage Lottery Fund gives a grant of £50,000 for the council to prepare the first stage of the lottery bid.	<b>September 2008</b> - Stage one of the application submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People Scheme.	<b>July 2009</b> - A grant of £124,900 awarded.	<b>July 2010</b> - A second stage application submitted following consultation with parks users and potential users.	<b>September 2010</b> - A grant of £1,897,680 awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The total project cost is set at £2,672,331 including a 25% contribution from the council.	<b>October 2010</b> - Tender documents produced for forestry and main contracts.	<b>November 2010</b> - Alan Frith, Audience Development Manager, appointed.	<b>Autumn 2011</b> - Work begins in Mote Park, including construction of paths and the causeway over the lake.	<b>Winter 2011</b> - Main car park construction, Volunteers Pavilion, kiosk refurbishment, lake overflow remodeling, boat house boulevard improvements, improvement to café area and new School Lane and Willington Street visitor centres.	<b>Spring 2012</b> - Restoration of historic waterfall, installation of new bins, benches, signage and cycle stands, and tree planting	<b>Summer 2012</b> - Work due to be completed.
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### Maidstone Mela in pictures

The sun shone on thousands of people at Maidstone's ninth multi cultural Mela.

The Mela weekend in Mote Park, delighted crowds with music, stalls, food and all things cultural.

On the Saturday night Sukshinder Shinda and the Counterfeit Beatles took to the stage to entertain the crowds. A fireworks display rounded off the evening.

On the Sunday there was a full line-up of stage events, stalls and food from all over the World. Over the last three years the attendance for the free event has been in excess of 10,000 people.

The Mela was organised in partnership by Maidstone Borough Council, Kent Equality Cohesion Council and Cohesion Plus Kent. It was part funded by Arts Council England.



Thousands came out during September to celebrate all things cultural at this year's Maidstone Mela.



Pictures: Courtesy of Cohesion Plus.

### Crackdown on litter louts proving successful

Maidstone Borough Council is committed to keeping the borough clean.

Figures from the litter enforcement team show that between July 2010 and July 2011 more than four thousand people were handed fines for littering.

The money from each penalty notice is put back into the service and has bought extra bins and helps campaigns to combat litter and other environmental issues.

Cllr Marion Ring, Cabinet Member for the Environment, said: "We have been tackling the issue head on. Every year millions of pounds are spent on street cleansing and clearing our roads of rubbish such as cigarette butts, chewing gum, sweet wrappers and fast food containers. That's a lot of money to keep our borough clean and looking great. My message is – please don't drop litter but if you do, you are likely to get a fixed penalty notice." Maidstone council was the first in Kent to take such an approach to littering.

People caught flouting the law will be offered the chance to pay a £75 fine within 14 days. If they fail to pay up they will be taken to court and risk a fine of up to £2,500, costs, and a criminal record. The council has successfully prosecuted many people who have refused to pay.

Maidstone has four dedicated litter enforcement officers working in the borough. They have all recently been

equipped with body worn video cameras. Cllr Ring said: "This was a bold but important approach to the work because it allows us to monitor the service to ensure safety and fairness for all concerned. The camera equipment will record the conversations between the patrollers and the people who they talk to about dropping litter."



The enforcement activity is not only about punishing those in the wrong. It's about rewarding those using the town's bins through 'bin it to win it'.

People who use litter bins can be in with a chance of winning shopping vouchers through a monthly prize draw. The competition is organised by Maidstone council, The Mall, Chequers and Maidstone Town Centre Management.

Council enforcement officers carry the reward cards and issue them to members of the public seen using bins in the borough. If you get given a postcard make sure you post it in the box provided at the Gateway in King Street to be entered in the monthly draw.

If you are aware of a litter hotspot please call 01622 602162. If you see it, report it.

### Maidstone keeps hold of prestigious Green Flag Awards

Green flags will be flying high for another year after two of Maidstone's parks were voted among some of the best in the country.

Clare Park and Whatman Park have retained the prestigious Green Flag Awards for another year.

Whatman Park, which is part of the Millennium River Park, has been awarded the green flag for the second time and Clare Park on Tonbridge Road is keeping its green flag status for a fourth year.

Both parks will have the flags hoisted high for a year before being re-assessed.



## Time to get active

Do you want to get in shape but you're finding it hard to stay motivated? Well, Maidstone council, might be able to help.

We are providing a number of programmes to help people obtain that healthy weight they've always wanted in a way that best suits them. That might be exercising as a family, receiving weekly weigh-ins with diet and nutritional advice or attending a gym or swimming sessions. For more information call 01622 602222.

## Youngsters to Youths

A new activity club, called Youngsters to Youths, is starting in the Shepway area for 8 to 12 year olds.

The club, which is run by The Groundwork Trust on behalf of Maidstone council with funding from NHS West Kent to support children through the transition to secondary school and to help them build self-esteem, confidence and team working. It is a pilot project with numbers restricted to approximately five children per school in the Shepway area. If the club is successful and further funding found, it may be extended. If you have a child that would be interested in attending please contact your school or Maidstone Council's Community Development Team on 01622 602222.

## Illegal taxi trading leads to suspensions

Maidstone council has put the brakes on three private hire drivers after they were caught illegally plying for trade.

All three were given strong warnings about their future conduct and two

were suspended - one for six weeks and one for four weeks.

Private hire vehicles can only pick up passengers who have pre-booked by phone or at an office. Hackney carriages - 'black cab' taxis' - can pick

up off the street in the area for which they are licensed.

The council carries out regular checks to ensure that the taxi trade operate to the rules which protect the trade and the passengers.

## Prioritise projects for Park Wood

If you live in Park Wood or the surrounding areas what improvements would you like to see?

Projects already being considered include:

- CCTV at the parade of shops.
- Improving areas next to the parade.
- A mini-ball park to the rear of the shops.
- A dog-free picnic area at Heather House Community Centre.
- Motorcycle barriers to the park.

In November 2010 a Park Wood action plan was put into place to develop the area resulting in:

- Improved estate cleaning.
- Streamlined measures to tackle noisy neighbours.
- A job shop and training programme for young people.

■ Additional activities for children and young people. Further work has been carried out to explore some of the underlying issues in the area with workshops on health, teenage pregnancy, unemployment, education and skills. New actions have been developed. Now, thanks to £50,000 funding which has been secured by the council, more improvements can be made.

Additional funding is expected next year from nearby housing developments for a new skate and BMX park.

All the projects will provide training and volunteering opportunities for local residents and young people. Residents are being asked to list their top priorities. Please contact the Community Development Team on 01622 602222.

## Improving our online services

We're trying to improve our website and what you are able to do online.

Tell us what you want to do on the council's website, how you found the information and how easy or difficult it was to find.

Your views matter to us, because it will help shape our website for the future. Please help us by completing the questionnaire online at [www.maidstone.gov.uk/onlinesurvey](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/onlinesurvey) or complete the following survey:

### What do you want to do online?

### How did you find what you were looking for?

Google  Direct.gov  (please tick box)

Maidstone.gov.uk homepage

### How easy was it to find the following on our website?

Rate the service from 1 to 5 (1-Very easy, 2-fairly easy, 3-neither, 4- fairly difficult, 5-very difficult)

- A planning application ( )
- Your rubbish collection dates for Christmas ( )
- To order a new bin ( )
- How much your Council Tax is ( )
- How busy the car parks in Maidstone are ( )

### Thank you!

Please return it to us Freepost to the address below:

Communications  
FREEPOST RRXT-HRHX-LKAS  
Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House  
King Street, Maidstone Kent ME15 6JQ  
Or email [pr@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:pr@maidstone.gov.uk)

## More memorials for Crematorium

Vinters Park Crematorium has introduced several new styles of memorials including granite plaques, illustrated inscriptions and photo plaques.

A granite planter, for inscribed plaques, has been added to the centre of the chapel burial lawn, and several new roses have been planted.

Near to the newly refurbished woodside walk, a striking granite book has been added with a choice of plaques spread across its open pages, along with several granite mushrooms which can be inscribed.

Information and prices are available on request from Bereavement Services on 01622 602656, [bereavementservices@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:bereavementservices@maidstone.gov.uk) or [www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk)

## Putting football at the heart of the community

Work on Maidstone United's new ground at James Whatman Way will start this autumn but ahead of the return to the county town in August 2012, the club has been building one of most impressive community set-ups in the country.

Men, women, boys and girls are donning the club's famous amber and black kit to take part in fun or competitive football.



lot of time and effort in developing football for girls and ladies, and people with a disability.

Maidstone United Ladies play in the South East League and there are teams at under 10 and under 16 level. More girls' teams will be added in the coming seasons.

The club's award-winning disability section makes 'the beautiful game' accessible to children and adults with physical or learning disabilities. The six disability teams take part in a variety of tournaments throughout the season. There are also two teams for deaf players – one for juniors and another for adults.

Maidstone United is recognised as one of the leading deaf-friendly football clubs in England.

In addition to the many teams, the club provides after-school coaching, a development centre for children in the last year of primary school before they move on to 11-a-side football, and this September the Maidstone United Football Academy opened their doors for the first time. The academy provides an exciting opportunity for footballers to continue in full-time education, after completing their GCSEs, and combine it with the sport they love.

Bill Williams added: "Everyone at the club is looking forward to returning to Maidstone and playing an active role in the local community. The new ground will be used by the club's Ryman League team, our 30+

community teams, as well as other local clubs, businesses, community groups and schools. It's a facility we want the whole borough to be part of and proud of."

For more information about Maidstone United Football Club, log on to [www.maidstoneunited.co.uk](http://www.maidstoneunited.co.uk)



It all starts with children aged between four and seven who head up to the Astor Sports Centre at Oakwood Park every Saturday morning for The Pebbles Club. The club has youth teams starting from under 7s up to under 18s. There are mixed teams in the lower age groups and separate boys and girls teams from the time children reach the age of 10. Teams play in the Kent or Maidstone youth leagues.

At under 18 level, the club competes in the Ryman Youth League, an elite standard of youth football. From there players move into the reserve team, with some making it into the first team.

Club chief executive Bill Williams said: "Maidstone United has a fantastic community section. We are blessed with talented players and devoted volunteer coaching staff.



Our aim is to bring locally-based players through from the age of seven and hopefully see the pick of the bunch going on to play in the first team. It's all about nurturing and supporting young players to enjoy sport and be the best they can be."

In recent years the club has invested a

## Christmas at the council

Maidstone Borough Council will be open as usual until noon on Friday, December 23. The offices will then be closed for Christmas, opening again at 8.30am on Thursday, December 29. The offices will also be closed on Bank Holiday Monday, January 2. Council information is available 24/7 365 days a year on our website – [www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk).

A 24-hour payment hotline is available on 01622 602544. For any Maidstone council emergencies over Christmas and the New Year, please telephone 01622 602000.

## Christmas Waste Collections

Please look out for your new recycling calendar, including details of your Christmas refuse and recycling collections, being sent out soon.

Visit [www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk) for more information about your refuse, recycling and food waste services

## Snow



As we approach the winter season, there is a risk of snow affecting the waste and recycling services. If we get bad weather, we will try our best to maintain normal services so please leave your bins out and we will empty them as soon as possible. Regular updates will be available online – [www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk) @maidstonebc on our twitter site or [www.facebook.com/maidstoneboroughcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/maidstoneboroughcouncil).

# MAKE IT MAIDSTONE

MAKE IT PROSPEROUS

[www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk)



Maidstone Borough Council is working to fight the effects of the recession and bring prosperity to the borough. We help residents with housing and council tax benefits, heating and insulation grants, home improvement grants, free bus travel and by support for organisations which offer money advice.

## Useful numbers

Citizens Advice Bureau –  
01622 752420 or 01622 757882

Council tax – 01622 602003

Housing benefit and general  
housing advice – 01622 602557

National debtline –  
freephone 0800 808 4000

Heating and insulation grants -  
01622 602470

First time buyers' grants -  
01622 602470

Energy Saving Trust -  
0800 512 012

Concessionary Travel -  
08458 247802

Jobcentre Plus – 01622 702700

## Tourism app launched in Maidstone



Maidstone has become more app-ealling to visitors after the town's first tourism app was launched.

Maidstone is the first destination in the south east to have its own visitor guide app.

The Maidstone app, which is the official visitor guide to the town, is available for the iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch. The app provides an interactive guide to the town and its surrounding areas.

The free app is suitable for visitors and residents and provides lots of information on what's on, where to eat and drink, what to see and do, where to stay, and where to shop.

The app is frequently updated with only quality assured accommodation. It is available from iTunes or the App Store by searching for 'Maidstone'.



To find out more, or to get your business an enhanced profile on the app and the website, contact the Visitor Economy Business Unit on 01622 602748 or email [tourism@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@maidstone.gov.uk)

## The council as a business

Turning the town hall into a wedding venue, hot air balloon rides in Mote Park,



generating electricity to sell to the grid or having a text service to pay for parking tickets – these are just some of the ideas being looked at by one of the council's scrutiny committees.

The Corporate Services committee is asking the people of Maidstone to think out of the box and send in money-saving and income-generating ideas.

It is part of its latest review 'the council as a business?' The committee is looking for ideas that will help the council make money, which will reduce the need for savings and it will help keep money in taxpayers' pockets. The committee will look at every idea to see if it is possible to make them a reality.

More than 50 responses have already come in. Please send your ideas to - [www.maidstone.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/scrutiny), email [osc@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:osc@maidstone.gov.uk) or Orla Sweeney on 01622 602524.

## Work Hubs

Maidstone Borough Council has worked with Kent County Council to host a knowledge sharing event on homeworking, live/work and work hubs.

The seminar, which was led by Tim Dwelly, director of Live/Work Network and leading work hub specialist, was assisted by a team of experts.

The event enabled people to understand how to:

- Find out what home-based businesses in Maidstone Borough are doing, their value to present/future economy and what they need.
- Set up low cost work hubs within existing organisations' buildings.
- Get the right planning policies to promote effective homeworking and genuine live/work property.
- Link work hubs with public sector staff working from home.
- Link to a lower carbon economy and fast broadband.
- Support tenants starting businesses from home.
- Create sustainable live/work business clusters.

For more information visit [www.locateinmaidstone.com](http://www.locateinmaidstone.com)

01622 602000 [customercare@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:customercare@maidstone.gov.uk) [www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk)  
Maidstone Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone ME15 6JQ

**Christmas is coming!**



Whilst Christmas should be a happy time for everyone it so often brings difficulties too – especially financial problems according to Kent Savers. Chief Officer, John Fowler explains: "It is very much a time when folks get into debt and that causes real difficulties and distress for ages afterwards."

Kent Savers is a credit union – a not-for-profit organisation providing financial services for the people of Kent.

Mr Fowler says: "We are owned by our members, we deliver genuinely safe and reasonable services and we are not trying to make a profit - because we are not allowed to!"

Visit [www.kentsavers.co.uk](http://www.kentsavers.co.uk)  
or call **0333 321 9050** to find  
out more about how to save or borrow.



The Hazlitt Youth Theatre Presents  
**THE GREAT SANTA KIDNAP**  
By Roy Chatfield in association with Samuel French Ltd  
Directed by Martin Cleverley  
The Exchange Studio  
Monday 19 - Wednesday 21 December 5pm  
Thursday 22 December 3pm  
Friday 23 & Saturday 24 December 2pm & 5pm

Tickets £6 - £8  
Box Office: 01622 758 611  
[www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk](http://www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk)

Hazlitt Arts Centre and Blue Genie Entertainment Present  
**Jeremy Edwards** Hotby City & Dancing On Ice  
**Gary Damer** Lenny from Cbbc's Hotel Trubble  
**Sapphire Elia** Mia Macey from Emmerdale

**Aladdin**  
3<sup>rd</sup> December 2011 - 15<sup>th</sup> January 2012  
Hazlitt Theatre Maidstone

**Box Office 01622 758611**  
or Book Online: [www.maidstonepanto.co.uk](http://www.maidstonepanto.co.uk)

**December**

Sat 3	11.00	2.00	6.00
Sun 4		1.30	4.30
Mon 5	No performances		
Tues 6	10.30	1.30	7.00
Weds 7	10.30	1.30	
Thurs 8	10.30		7.00
Fri 9	10.30		7.00
Sat 10	11.00	2.00	6.00
Sun 11		1.30	4.30
Mon 12	No performances		
Tues 13	10.30	1.30	
Weds 14	10.30	1.30	7.00
Thurs 15	10.30		7.00
Fri 16	10.30		7.00
Sat 17	11.00	2.00	6.00
Sun 18		1.30	4.30
Mon 19	No performances		
Tues 20	11.00	2.00	6.00
Weds 21	11.00	2.00	6.00
Thurs 22	11.00	2.00	6.00
Fri 23	11.00	2.00	6.00
Sat 24	11.00	2.00	6.00
Sun 25	No performances		
Mon 26	11.00	2.00	6.00
Tues 27	11.00	2.00	6.00
Weds 28		2.00	6.00
Thurs 29	11.00	2.00	6.00
Fri 30		2.00	6.00
Sat 31	11.00	2.00	

**January**

Sun 1	No performances		
Mon 2		1.30	4.30
Tues 3	No performances		
Weds 4		1.30	7.00
Thurs 5		1.30	7.00
Fri 6		1.30	7.00
Sat 7	11.00	2.00	6.00
Sun 8		1.30	4.30
Mon 9	No performances		
Tues 10	No performances		
Weds 11		1.30	7.00
Thurs 12		1.30	7.00
Fri 13		1.30	7.00
Sat 14	11.00	2.00	6.00
Sun 15		1.30	4.30

**Ticket Prices**

	Off Peak	Peak
Adults	£13.50	£14.50
Children / OAPs	£12.50	£13.50
Groups 10+	£11.50	£12.50
Groups 20+	£10.50	£11.50
3 Family Tickets	£36.75	£39.75
4 Family Tickets	£48.00	£52.00
5 Family Tickets	£59.00	£64.00
6 Family Tickets	£70.50	£76.50
School Shows	£ 8.95 (Teachers Free)	
Senior Citizen Special	£ 7.95 (Tea & Cakes Provided)	
Family Special All Seats	£ 10.00	

**£1 OFF every Ticker after 10.00!**

To book tickets go online at [www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk](http://www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk) or ring the Box Office 01622 758611.

Follow us on [twitter](https://twitter.com/maidstonebc) – [www.twitter.com/maidstonebc](http://www.twitter.com/maidstonebc)