

MAKE IT MAIDSTONE

MAKE IT PROSPEROUS

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. In this issue of Make it Maidstone we look at some of the things the council and the borough are doing to prepare for the future.

£4,500,000 spending boost for Maidstone



The new square between the Town Hall and Queen's Monument will have three meeting places for people to take time to chat and enjoy the surroundings.

Maidstone's High Street regeneration project will stimulate extra spending in Maidstone totalling £4,500,000 a year and about 100 new jobs.

The figures are contained in an independent economic impact assessment by leading transport planning, planning, urban design and economics consultancy, Colin Buchanan and partners.

The practice, founded by Sir Colin Buchanan in 1964, offers impartial and objective advice and excellent design solutions to a wide variety of clients. Recently it received a joint special award for an outstanding work in design development for the redesign of Parliament Square, London W1.

The Maidstone report looks at the existing and improved pedestrian environments to calculate the likely increase in footfall, visitor expenditure, increases in rental and property value and employment.

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 0808 808 4000

Heating and insulation grants -
01622 602470

First time buyers' grants -
01622 602470

Energy Saving Trust -
0800 512 012

Concessionary Travel -
01622 602334

Jobcentre Plus – 01622 702700

Web company academy gets the thumbs up

A web management and design company based in Caring Lane, Maidstone has been given planning permission to expand its business and provide an academy to provide work experience and opportunities for students to train in an industry environment.

This opportunity is expected to interest students from the New Line Learning Academies, Kent Works, and the University for the Creative Arts. The plans have been backed by Media Tree, the creative and media industries working in Maidstone.

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Cllr Malcolm Greer, said: "Maidstone is committed and serious about growing the media sector and importantly, is keen to see local people benefit from the opportunity of honing the skills taught by schools, further and higher education in an industry which will make them far more employable and attractive in the labour market."

Junction 7 proposal for hotel

Interest in Maidstone and the Eclipse Park remains strong despite the recession. Planning permission has been agreed for a new hotel on the business park, off Sittingbourne Road, near junction 7 of the M20.

The outline application is for 150 bedrooms with 173 parking spaces.

The hotel, which will serve the business market, will have a function room, a small gym and two smaller meeting rooms and a bar/restaurant area.

Formal planning permission is subject to final approval by the Government Office for the South East.



You said you wanted more jobs

The Eclipse Park at junction 7, M20 is providing new jobs in the financial and legal services.

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