

MAKE IT MAIDSTONE

FIGHT THE CREDIT CRUNCH

www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk



Maidstone Borough Council is working to fight the effects of the credit crunch. 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 is considering to stimulate the local economy.

Useful numbers

Citizens Advice Bureau –
01622 752420 or 01622 757882

Council tax advice – 01622
602003

Housing benefit and general
housing advice – 01622 602557

National debtline –
freephone 0808 808 4000

In Touch Home Improvement
agency - 01622 765496.

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

Mote Park gets lottery boost

Mote Park has received a massive boost from the national lottery's parks for people programme.

Maidstone Borough Council has been given the go ahead from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the BIG Lottery Fund to work on the a £2.5m scheme.

Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture, Cllr Brian Moss, said: "This is exciting news. The park is a real jewel in the heart of Maidstone used by thousands of people each year. Now Maidstone's people can look forward to better access and better recreational facilities and we'll protect its unique features."

The proposals to improve the park include repair and conservation works to the lake and grounds. The early 19th



century waterfall and its header pond will be included in the plans along with a scheme to plant 400 new trees.

Modern visitor facilities will include two new centres in the northeast and southeast of the park providing play areas, toilets, parking and catering. Vehicle access will be regulated. Footpaths will be repaired and extended, around the lake. A new viewing and seating terrace will be created over the lake by the café.

Streets ahead



The winner of the High Street Design Competition will be announced on May 21 at the Cabinet meeting at the Town Hall.

The shortlisted architects were chosen in March. Residents then commented on the designs at an exhibition in the Maidstone Gateway.

The five shortlisted architects were Conran & Partners Ltd, Douglas and King Architects, Letts Wheeler Architects,

Terence O'Rourke Ltd and Townshend Landscape Architects.

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Cllr Malcolm Greer (pictured) said: "We have had a fantastic response and the quality has been very high with some stunning designs."

The competition is managed by the Royal Institute of British Architects. The judging panel included Malcolm Greer, John Farmer from Kent County Council; Laurence Wood from the University of the Creative Arts; Robert Sakula, architectural advisor and Alison Broom, Maidstone council's Director of Prosperity and Regeneration.

For further information visit <http://highstreet.digitalmaidstone.co.uk> or to sign up to the e-newsletter email highstreet@maidstone.gov.uk



Maidstone Museum

Our museum has an offer of a £2m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Maidstone Trust and the Museum's fund-raising team are working hard to raise funds for the East wing extension project.

A network of 150th Anniversary Appeal Vice-Patrons has been created to offer financial support, advice and to contact potential donors. More than 50 Vice-Patrons have been recruited so far. They include Richard Oldfield, the High Sheriff of Kent, Ann Widdecombe MP, Damian Green MP, Edwin Boorman OBE, Sir Robert Worcester, Jeremy Leigh-Pemberton CBE, Amanda Cottrell, Chairman of Visit Kent and KCC Leader Paul Carter.

Maidstone clinic to start work

This month work is due to start on Maidstone's new state-of-the-art clinic.

The clinic, which will be built at Newnham Court, will be one of the top teaching hospitals for cardiac surgery. It will provide private and NHS care and has been supported by surgeons from all over the world. The work is likely to take about 18 months.

Tel: 01622 602000 email: customer-care@maidstone.gov.uk www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk

 Maidstone Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone ME15 6JQ