

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.

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

Planning Permission for KIG refused

Maidstone Borough Council led the fight against the Kent International Gateway application. The Secretary of State, having considered the advice of the Inspector and all of the evidence for and against KIG, listened to local people and Maidstone council and refused planning permission for the rail freight interchange at junction 8 of the M20, Bearsted.

It cost the council £1.4m and required considerable input from local communities, parish councils and many other agencies and interest groups.



Leader of the Council, Chris Garland says: "This is a great result for the borough. The council is keen to attract businesses to Maidstone, but we need to provide high quality jobs for local people and also protect the environment and our rural communities. A wide variety of individuals and groups have supported the council's position and I have been very grateful for their contribution. I hope that this will now draw a line under this application. The council's longer term planning for the borough can now move ahead."

More affordable houses

Maidstone is to get seven new affordable housing schemes. The Homes and Communities Agency has allocated £11.2m to provide 216 affordable homes for the people of Maidstone.

My Council – What Matters to Me road show

Maidstone residents can give their views on the massive savings that Maidstone council will have to make on its £23 million budget for services such as refuse collection, recycling and planning. The council has to save £2.7 million next year, and a total of £7 million over the next three years.

This year's consultation will include details of the cabinet's proposals for savings and the council's statutory and non statutory services. Residents will be asked to comment on the proposals, suggest ideas for savings and say which services matter most to them.

The consultation will be on the council's website – www.maidstone.gov.uk – with links from its Facebook and Twitter sites. Council Leader, Chris Garland, will be using his Twitter site to post his thoughts and respond to tweets.

The council will be going to meet people at shopping centres, supermarkets and other events in Maidstone Borough. Cabinet members and other councillors will be meeting residents throughout September and October at many events including – The Mall, Chequers on September 17, Maidstone Market on September 28, Morrisons, Sutton Road on October 7, Yalding Farmers Market on October 16 and Staplehurst Library on October 23.

Maidstone High Street

Maidstone's High Street Public Realm Project has been granted planning permission.



Maidstone Studios is helping to boost Maidstone's

economy. So far this year three big-named shows have been filmed at the studios including - Got to Dance presented by Davina McCall, The Door presented by Amanda Holden and Chris Tarrant, and currently showing on Five Don't Stop Believing presented by Spice Girl Emma Bunton. Since the beginning of 2010 these and other shows have led to 4,000 hotel room bookings in Maidstone.

The studios have also attracted in big audiences with about 40 shows so far this year pulling in at least 600 people each.

To apply for free tickets to shows at the studios log onto www.applausestore.com

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