

MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL: Quality Gold Criteria 2(b)

Community Engagement influencing Council activity and priorities

Marden Parish Council (MPC) engages with the community through social media, hard copy newsletters and weekly e-newsletters along with posters and notices. The Council holds public consultation on specific projects and aims to have a presence at all village events.

MPC undertakes consultations for many aspects of the Council's work and this is done via online surveys, hard copies of questionnaires being made available and through open sessions. The most recent being held in March on the proposed refurbishment of the pavilion/changing rooms: [Changing Rooms Consultation - Marden Parish Council - Marden Parish Council, Marden, Tonbridge \(mardenkent-pc.gov.uk\)](https://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/consultations/changing-rooms-consultation).

An open morning was held in a central location offering residents the opportunity to view plans and discuss the proposals with Cllrs. Members of the public also had the opportunity to feedback via online forms.

Also on show was MPC's Infrastructure Spend Plan (ISP) (it's "wish list") for projects suggested by residents at previous sessions, consultations and comments raised through meetings and emails. This document is reviewed regularly and open for residents to comment. A feedback form was available to be completed for any suggestions/proposals for future projects. This feedback was also used to prioritise projects and to ascertain what funding could be achieved and how.

MPC's four-year financial business plan outlines projects from the ISP; the Highways Improvement Plan (HIP), again this is from comments raised by residents and prioritised with assistance from Kent County Council Highways Department; and for any capital expenditure required for the smooth running of the Parish Council.

The Clerks also attend the Village Café to raise awareness of events, issues in the parish along with being available to speak face to face with residents.

All Parish Council meetings are open to residents, who are given an opportunity to speak about items on the agenda, or at Full Council on any matter of concern.

See also MPC website:

Newsletters (also hand delivered to every household in the parish): [MPC Newsletters - Marden Parish Council Marden, Tonbridge, Kent - Marden Parish Council, Marden, Tonbridge \(mardenkent-pc.gov.uk\)](https://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/newsletters) and weekly e-newsletters.

Consultations: [Marden Parish Council Consultations - Marden Parish Council - Marden Parish Council, Marden, Tonbridge \(mardenkent-pc.gov.uk\)](https://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/consultations) and [Changing Rooms Consultation - Marden Parish Council - Marden Parish Council, Marden, Tonbridge \(mardenkent-pc.gov.uk\)](https://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/consultations/changing-rooms-consultation)

Annual Reports: [Annual Parish Meetings - Marden Parish Council - Marden Parish Council, Marden, Tonbridge \(mardenkent-pc.gov.uk\)](https://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/annual-reports)

Social Media: Facebook @MardenParish Council / Instagram @mardenparishcouncil / Twitter(X) @mardenkent-pc

MPC Policies: Communications Policy, Community Engagement Policy, Freedom of Information, Newsletter Policy, Public Participation Policy and Noticeboard Policy. These can be found at: [Council Policies and Procedures - Marden Parish Council - Marden Parish Council, Marden, Tonbridge \(mardenkent-pc.gov.uk\)](https://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/policies)