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# IWADE PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE OF MEETING/SUMMONS

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30<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**To:** All members of Iwade Parish Council

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of **Iwade Parish Council** to be held:

**Date:** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Time:** 7.30pm in Iwade Barn, All Saints Close

**Venue:** Iwade Barn, 20 All Saints Close, Iwade, ME9 8FB

Yours sincerely

*Samantha Gray*

Parish Clerk

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## A G E N D A

**PLEASE NOTE THIS MEETING WILL BE AUDIO RECORDED**

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**1. WELCOME AND ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES**

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING(S)**

**4. VISITORS/ PUBLIC TIME**

1. Residents
2. County, Borough Councillors
3. Police Constable

**5. PLANNING:** applications are viewable on: Swale: <http://pa.midkent.gov.uk/online-applications>; KCC: <https://cloud2.atriumsoft.com/KCCePlanningOPS/searchPageLoad.do>

1. **Change of description - 26/500522/FULL:** 6 Elm Tree Avenue Iwade Kent ME9 8UD. Change of Use application from residential to mixed use residential and gym for personal training and wellness/fitness.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Iwade Community Building – Name/Postal Address

## **7. FINANCE**

1. Training Course – The Nuts and Bolts of Parish Councils
2. Training Course - Introduction to Planning
3. Training Course – Mastering Planning Application Responses
4. To authorise the cost of the KALC Annual Subscription 2026/27
5. Accounts and Cheques raised at this meeting

## **8. PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS**

1. To consider making a proposal to maintain the Country Park – see email from Emma Shaw 10.03.
2. To discuss the council's action plan following the Village survey results – see appendix A.
  - i) To discuss and agree the Highway Improvement Plan requests

## **9. ITEMS TO NOTE FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

**10. NEXT MEETING(S)** – Wednesday 13 May 2026, 7.30 p.m. at Iwade Barn in All Saints Close.

# **Appendix A**

## **Iwade Parish Council Action Plan 2026–2028**

### 1. Summary

Based on the recent village survey residents have given the Parish Council a clear mandate: focus on **traffic, safety, village maintenance**, and **protection of green spaces**, while strengthening community cohesion.

### 2. Strategic Priority Areas

#### **Priority 1 - Traffic, Congestion & Road Safety**

Residents' top concern.

##### **Key Issues**

- Congestion at School Lane, The Street, and key junctions
- Speeding and rat-running
- Unsafe parking and poor visibility
- Poor lighting, and unsafe crossing points

##### **Actions**

###### **Immediate (0–6 months)**

- Convene a Council meeting to update the HiP based on:
  - Residents concerns expressed in the village survey.
  - The discussions points from the meeting with KCC on February 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - Completion and results of the independent traffic survey.
- Run a village consultation for the proposed key changes to the HiP (such as removing pinch points/ traffic calming, traffic lights, junction re-designs)
- Revise the Hip based on the consultation results and submit to KCC backed up by any support from the consultation
- Request a KCC Highways site meeting and joint walk-through.
- Follow up on the Speed Indicator Device (SID) programme.

###### **Medium Term (6–18 months).**

- Work with the school on the **School's Travel Plan** to reduce peak-time congestion.
- Commission a parking audit around key junctions and the village centre.

###### **Long Term (18+ months)**

- Secure long-term commitments from KCC for agreed Highway improvements.

##### **Partners**

KCC Highways, Kent Police, local schools, Swale Borough Council.

#### **Priority 2 - Anti-Social Behaviour & Community Safety**

##### **Key Issues**

- Youth nuisance in village centre, Nisa, Orchard Park, older parts of the village
- Perception of low police visibility
- Desire for more CCTV, more lighting.

## **Actions**

### **Immediate**

- Request increased PCSO patrols in hotspot areas.
- Conduct a lighting audit and identify dark spots for improvement.
- CCTV working group to meet and make suggestion to optimise and make improvements to the current set up.

### **Medium Term**

- Establish a **Youth Engagement Working Group** (this group would comprise of residents, the police, youth services).
- Launch a “Safe Spaces” initiative with shops and community venues.
- Promote Neighbourhood Watch and community safety briefings.

### **Long Term**

- Secure funding for a youth worker or shared youth provision across nearby parishes.

## **Partners**

Kent Police, PCSOs, Youth Services, local businesses, community groups.

## **Priority 3 - Village Cleanliness, Maintenance & Appearance**

### **Key Issues**

- Litter, weeds, broken fencing, poor planters
- Mews Square car park issues
- Desire for improved gateways and village pride initiatives

## **Actions**

### **Immediate**

- Review contractor performance and maintenance schedules.
- Ask Omnicroft to increase the cleaning of Mews Square to weekly.
- Establish who own the broken fence at the back of the Square carpark and approach to repair/remove it.
- At the next council meeting establish a plan for the broken planters and ongoing maintenance / planting.

### **Medium Term**

- Develop a “**Proud of our village**” initiative.(Maybe a prize for best kept road/street or similar).
- Look at increasing the community litter-pick to quarterly and actively promote.
- Develop a “Village Appearance Improvement Plan” including signage, gateways, and planting.
- Audit all bins and dog bins; increase provision where needed.

### **Long Term**

- Explore sponsorship for planters, gateways, and green-space enhancements.
- Create a rolling maintenance programme with clear KPIs.

## **Partners**

Swale Borough Council, contractors, volunteer groups, local businesses.

## **Priority 4 - Wildlife, Green Spaces & Environmental Protection**

### **Key Issues**

- Desire for more planting, trees, and biodiversity
- Protection of green spaces from development
- Requests for recreational improvements (MUGA, benches, walking routes)

## **Actions**

### **Immediate**

- Publish a statement reaffirming commitment to protecting green spaces.
- Now the Solar Farm Community Benefit money is confirmed contact Swale B.C. to commence the tree planting programme and a three-year maintenance plan (watering in the summer months) discussed March 2025.

### **Medium Term**

- Develop a **Green Spaces Improvement Plan** including:
  - Tree-planting programme
  - Wildflower corridors
  - Improved signage and walking routes
- Explore feasibility of a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA).

### **Long Term**

- Secure external funding for biodiversity and recreational projects.
- Take on ownership/maintenance of existing greenspaces.
- Establish a “**Friends of the Green Spaces**” volunteer group.

## **Partners**

Environmental charities, Swale Borough Council, local schools, volunteer groups.

## **Priority 5 - Youth Provision**

### **Key Issues**

- Need for structured activities and safe meeting spaces
- Desire for sports facilities and skills-based programmes
- Link between lack of provision and ASB

## **Actions**

### **Immediate**

- Map existing youth provision and identify gaps.
- Begin discussions with youth services and local schools.

### **Medium Term**

- Establish a **Youth Engagement Working Group** (this group would comprise of residents, the police, youth services).

### **Long Term**

- Develop a sustainable youth programme with multi-agency support.
- Deliver a MUGA or similar facility if feasible.

## **Partners**

Youth Services, sports clubs, community groups.

## **Priority 6 - Support for Older Residents**

Clear appetite for more social and wellbeing activities.

## **Actions**

### **Immediate**

- Audit existing provision and identify gaps.

### **Medium Term**

- Look to better communicate existing activities through newsletters, village website, social media, and noticeboards.
- Partner with health providers for information sessions.

## **3. Cross-Cutting Themes**

### **A. Communication & Transparency**

- Publish quarterly progress updates on this Action Plan.
- Share Highways and Police engagement outcomes with residents.
- Provide clear updates on development proposals and planning matters using the Parish Council website / FaceBook page and the Iwade Village website

### **B. Partnership Working**

- Strengthen relationships with KCC, Borough Council, Police, and service providers. (Neither of our two SBC councillors has attended a Parish Council meeting for over 20 months).
- Formalise regular liaison meetings.

### **C. Evidence-Based Decision Making.**

- Use survey data to prioritise budget allocation.
- Repeat the survey every 24 months to track changes.

## **4. Implementation Timeline (Summary)**

### **Timeframe Key Deliverables**

**0–6 months** Highways escalation, PCSO engagement, maintenance review, biodiversity audit, youth mapping.

**6–18 months** Traffic improvement proposals, CCTV improvements, MUGA feasibility, green-spaces plan, establish a Youth Engagement Working Group.

**18+ months** Major infrastructure improvements, environmental enhancements.

## **5. Success Measures (KPIs)**

- Reduction in ASB reports in hotspot areas
- Improved resident satisfaction in surveys
- Delivery of Highways commitments (measured via KCC responses)
- Increased participation in litter pick events
- Visible improvements in village cleanliness and maintenance
- Biodiversity indicators (tree planting, wildflower areas, green-space usage)

### **Long-Term Actions (18+ months)**

- Advocate for junction redesigns and major infrastructure improvements.
- Deliver long-term youth provision and recreational facilities (e.g., MUGA).
- Implement environmental enhancements and biodiversity projects.

- Sustain expanded events programme.

#### **4. Cross-Cutting Themes**

- **Communication & Transparency:** Quarterly updates to residents.
- **Partnership Working:** Strengthen relationships with KCC, Borough Council, Police, and service providers.
- **Evidence-Based Decision Making:** Use survey data to guide budget and priorities; repeat survey every 24 months.

#### **5. Success Measures (KPIs)**

- Reduction in ASB reports.
- Improved resident satisfaction in future surveys.
- Delivery of Highways commitments.
- Increased participation in community events.
- Visible improvements in maintenance and village appearance.
- Growth in youth and older-resident programme attendance.
- Biodiversity improvements and enhanced green-space usage.