

News from Marden Parish Council



October 2018



www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

Letter from the Chairman of the Parish Council



Dear resident

Another year draws to a close and Christmas is nearly upon us. We have all the Christmas festivities to look forward to, please join us for Marden at Christmas on Saturday 8 December, you will find more information in the newsletter and enclosed flyer.

It has been a busy Summer in Marden. The Children's Summer play scheme was a resounding success, more of that in the newsletter. We were delighted that Marden in Bloom secured a silver gilt award, very well deserved with all the hard work that Bloomers put in to making our village look lovely. It would be wonderful if all residents continued to keep their gardens looking good so that the high standard can be maintained.

The Marden Neighbourhood Plan is moving on well and it was very pleasing to receive so much positive support from residents during the formal Regulation 14 consultation. Steering Group members are working hard to incorporate comments and we will keep you updated on progress.

Finally welcome to all new Marden residents. If you have not received a welcome pack, please contact Ali, our wonderful Parish Clerk, in the Parish Office, details on the back page.

May I be the first to wish all residents a very Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

Warm regards

Kate

Kate

Marden at Christmas

This is a much loved annual event organised by the Parish Council. This year it is being held on SATURDAY 8 DECEMBER. There's something for everybody from Father Christmas in his grotto to gin tasting in a local pub. There's an insert with the newsletter that explains what happens on the day. Do come and join us for some festive fun.

Planning Update:

You can check out planning applications on Marden Parish Council's website under 'Planning Tracker'.

Councillors are keen for residents to attend MPC planning meetings which are usually held twice a month on a Tuesday evening in the Parish Office. Please be aware that MPC is a statutory consultee and does not make the final decision on planning applications, this is done by Maidstone Borough Council.

Marden Neighbourhood Plan (MNP)

The formal consultation period (Regulation 14) for the final draft plan ended in July and we have received excellent feedback on the draft from residents and statutory bodies alike. Amendments have now been made

to the plan and once the MNP Group is happy with the updates, it will be submitted to Maidstone Borough Council for the next stage - Regulation 15.

Open Space

Playing Field

Our Caretaker, Chris Prince, spends a great deal of time litter-picking the field each morning, particularly at the far end. Chris also undertakes a lot of maintenance and mowing jobs not only in the playing field, but Rookery Path, Napoleon Drive play area and Southons Field. Hopefully the clearing of rubbish will reduce once new bins have been installed where bin liners can be used. Installation of a new Sports Wall will shortly

take place replacing the very noisy old one and a running path around the circumference of the field early in the Spring. Once this is complete, Adult Gym equipment will be positioned around the path to help residents with their keep fit campaigns!

Southons Field, Maidstone Road

We are sure most of you will have discovered this lovely open space owned by the Parish Council with a great play trail for all to use – it's a bit of a challenge for both children and adults! A football goal is now available there and many children and parents have been using it which is great to see. Parents and toddlers meet there regularly and enjoy the freedom of running around safely.



Marden is playing its part in remembering the sacrifice of millions of men and women by joining in the 'Battle's Over' on Sunday 11th November - a very poignant event. So please come along to mark the day 100 years ago when the guns fell silent at the end of WW1.

10.50am –

Remembrance Service at Marden Church

12noon to 12.25pm –

Music outside Marden Library

12.30pm – Sounding of the Air Raid Siren

Then from 6.30pm in Southons Field,

Maidstone Road (please bring torches with you) (no cars or dogs permitted) for the following:

6.30pm to 6.45pm –

The "Village Voices" will sing WW1 songs

6.45pm to 6.50pm – Tribute Poem to be read

6.55pm – "The Last Post" will be played by Mo Gillis-Coates

7pm – "Lighting of the Beacon"

7.05pm – "Ringing Out for Peace" –

the Church bells will ring out.

The Village club will be open for drinks from 7pm



Beacon with Brian & Avidity team

As you will see on the photo on the front page, we are proud to announce that a Village Beacon has now been erected in the field to use at special events such as the forthcoming 'The Battle is Over' event on the 11th November. A great new village asset and so many thanks to local resident Brian Stratton, who works for UK Power Networks, who sourced and arranged for the telegraph pole to be erected and the basket to be attached by their sub-contractor Avidity.

This was part of UK Power Network's 'helping the community' initiative. Thanks also to Grant, Phillip and Andy of Epic Engineering who made the excellent basket.

A new noticeboard has also been installed setting out the rules and opening times of the field and grasscrete at the entrance. The field is dog-free (apart from guide dogs) and open during daylight hours. Village events such as the 'Big Music Picnic' and PTA Firework Display are held there and residents and village groups are welcome to hire the field. Please email clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk or call 01622 832305 for details.

Marden Cemetery

If you haven't visited our lovely cemetery owned by the Parish Council and maintained by Ian Jones, you can take the pathway running alongside Maidstone Road which starts opposite the sharp bend by Marden Turf. We will be erecting a wooden direction sign at the beginning and end of the path. It looks particularly beautiful in the Spring and is such a peaceful place.

Highways and Transport:

Parish Councillors hold regular meetings with our Borough Councillor, David Burton and County Councillor Eric Hotson who help to move issues along.

School Parking

We have received reports of, and some of us have witnessed, very poor driving and total disregard for safety from some parents at School drop off and pick up times. It beggars belief that the people you would expect to be most concerned about child safety are the ones putting their own and other people's children at risk.

Mira, our Community Warden, has been trying to address the situation by standing in the zigzagged area wearing a high-viz vest

to help prevent irresponsible parking.

If you are concerned about road safety, and we all should be, then please park considerately, take care of your children when crossing the road and do not reverse or turn in the road. We do not want an accident serious or otherwise outside Marden Primary School because of irresponsible driving.

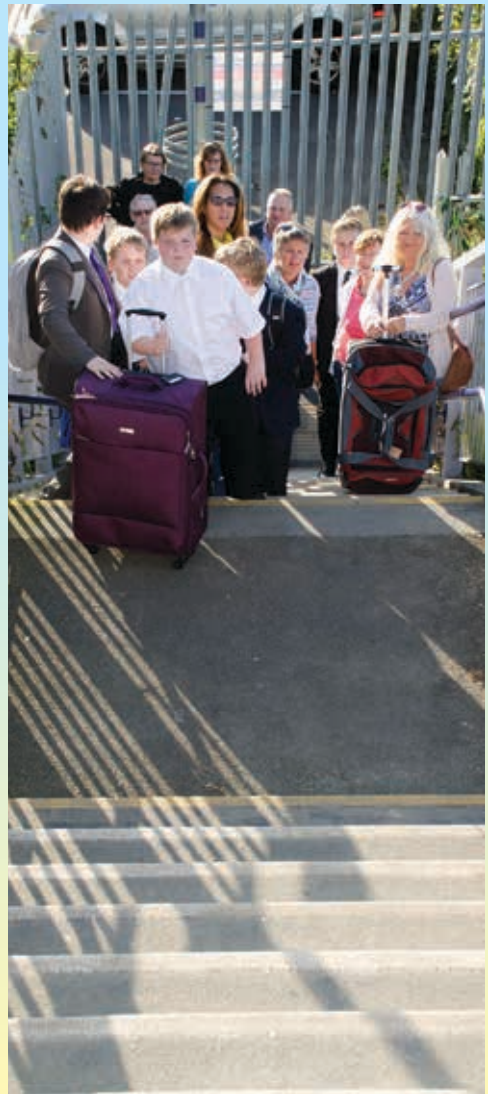
Marden Station - Step Free Access Campaign

As you are aware, South Eastern Railway has asked for stations to be nominated to benefit from £300m government cash funding to enhance step-free access at railway stations – that means Lifts! All residents in the Parish should have received a letter from our MP Helen Grant asking you to support the campaign for step-free access at Marden Station and many thanks to those of you who completed the survey. Hopefully Marden will be successful if South Eastern received enough public support.

The Parish Council arranged a photo-shoot at the station (see photo right) as evidence which was attended by Helen and one of our Borough Councillors, David Burton, complete with his bike! Thanks to those residents who came along with buggies, suitcases etc to prove how difficult it is to cross the bridge.

Speeding and Speedwatch

To help control speeding through the village a moveable Speed Indicator Device (SID) will be installed by Kent Highways and paid for by Redrow. We have sent a list of suggested locations for the mounting posts to Kent Highways, but most importantly on entry to the village on Goudhurst Road, to help with the speed of vehicles there. We do not have an installation date as yet but are awaiting to hear from Kent Highways. To further help deter speeding in the village,



the Parish Council are appealing for Speedwatch volunteers to get this scheme off the ground. We have all the equipment and after initial training, it would only take an hour or two of your time per session. Please note you need to have an email address and access to a computer to take part. Contact the Parish Office on 01622 832305 or email Erika in the Parish Office at assistantclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk if you

think you can help. If you are concerned about speeding then please sign up, Speedwatch will only be effective if you join in. Come on Marden, we need you!

Work on the pedestrian crossing at Church Green, near Chantry Road/Station Approach junction will commence in November. This has been paid for by Redrow and Millwood. Hopefully this will also help deter speeding in that area.

An extended 40 MPH speed limit has now been implemented in Chainhurst following a campaign by residents and supported by the Parish Council. This was funded by Eric Hotson, our County Councillor.

Police & Crime Update:

Police resources are limited, and they can only provide extra support where they have evidence of an issue. So it's so important that if you witness any incidents, you report them directly to the police. Please call 101 – if it's not reported, it isn't investigated. Alternatively, you can report an incident online: <https://www.kent.police.uk/> Then click on Services/Report a Crime.

Country Eye App – Helping to Keep the Kent Countryside Safe

It is worth downloading the Country Eye app on your phone which is free and is available for both Android and iPhones. It can be used to report a number of rural crimes, including fly tipping. There are 5 different rural categories covering the majority of incidents that occur in the countryside. You can snap a photo of any suspicious behaviour, issues or concerns, tell them where you are or use your phone's built in GPS location and receive updates and alerts on the incidents you submit. Please check out: <https://countryeye.co.uk/>.

Frauds/Scams: For a very comprehensive

site listing information regarding all types of fraud and scams visit www.actionfraud.police.uk/a-z_of_fraud.

If you're worried about home security Maidstone Neighbourhood Watch recommend a Guard Cam a complete all-in-one PIR floodlight, camera, speaker and DVR system. Simply connect to mains power, fix to wall and the built in DVR will record straight to the SD card supplied for complete peace of mind. Available for £87 for more information contact help@maidstonenhw.co.uk

Health & Welfare:

Sure Start Children's Centre

Please don't forget to support the Children's Centre, an important community centre in the School House next to the Primary School in Goudhurst Road operated by Kent County Council, which supports babies, pre-school children and their families.

Mondays - they run sessions for babies and toddlers such as discovery play, sing & sign and a Child Health Clinic

Tuesdays - Golding Homes run a Job Club and a Musical Menagerie Group where each week children have a chance to meet a new animal, sing and do some crafts – pre-booking essential

Thursdays - there is a Stay & Play for 0-5s, an IASK Drop In – a special educational needs and disabilities service for children, young people and their parents. Also from 12.30-2.30pm a breastfeeding drop-in run by qualified NHS staff.

Fridays - there is Baby Massage and Save a Baby's Life sessions.

For more info, please call 01622 831503 or email: mardenchildrenscentre@kent.gov.uk

Clampdown on Dog Mess

Most dog owners are very responsible and considerate in removing dog poo when

exercising their pets. However, as we all know, there are exceptions to the rule. Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) recently undertook a survey seeking residents' views on specific measures they could consider introducing to combat the behaviour of irresponsible dog owners. They are proposing to introduce Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) and make the following offences under the "Anti-Social Behaviour Crime & Policing Act 2014". This would mean an increase in penalty fines:

- failing to put a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer
- failing to pick up after your dog
- failing to exclude dogs from children's play areas and crematorium grounds
- failing to keep dogs on leads at the cemetery

Anonymised research data will be published in due course on <http://www.maidstone.gov.uk>

On a separate note, we would like to thank Mia Gillis-Coates who took part in a Life Skills initiative in year 6 at Marden Primary School. Mia chose picking up dog poo around Marden Playing Field as her "Raise Awareness of a Local Issue".

Living Memories

Living Memories are here to help those living with memory loss but everyone is welcome. They pick a theme and expand it with memories, photos, memorabilia and music. Future dates are 6th November - My Car; 20th November - Celebrations; 11th December - Christmas. If you know someone who would benefit, please contact Rachel on 01622 831941 or email: livingmemories@mardenchurch.org.uk. See posters on Parish noticeboards, Facebook and MPC website for more details.

Helpful Services:

Age UK offer a variety of services and advice including befriending, day care and

property maintenance (some services are chargeable) - www.ageuk.co.uk/maidstone/our-services/ or call 01622 753618 or email: info@ageukmaidstone.org.uk

Involve Kent offer a variety of services and advice including befriending (some services are chargeable) - www.involvekent.org.uk/services or call 01622 677337 or email: office@involvekent.org.uk

Citizens Advice take calls on behalf of Trading Standards and they advise on all sorts of consumer queries. The consumer helpline will assess your problem and pass it on to Trading Standards if it is appropriate. www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/ or call (consumer helpline) 03454 040506. Outreach sessions are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Old School Room, Marden Memorial Hall from 2pm to 4pm. No booking is necessary.

Youth Provision:

The Parish Council is looking at ways we can increase activities in the village for teenagers. There is a limited bus service out of the village and trains are expensive.

Whilst a Youth Club runs on Wednesday evenings at the John Bank's Hall, KCC has little, if any, funding for additional youth provision. However, it would be of benefit if more physical activity events could be run such as a Self Defence Club or Boot Camps. We are liaising with Natalie Penfold, the Youth Leader, to seek her thoughts. If there are residents who would be willing to help run a club or activity, that would be great.

Golding Vision funded Kent Sports (part of KCC) to run Archery, Football and Cricket sessions in the summer at The Cockpit Green and this could be another possibility for the future if we can get some funding to have more activities.

Skate Park - A petition has been handed to the Parish Council by a young resident about the possibility of installing a Skate Park in the village which we acknowledge would be an excellent facility. As a first step, Councillors have formed a sub-committee to discuss the initiative. However, not only would a large amount of funding need to be raised, but also finding a suitable location away from housing within walking distance of the village. Watch this space.....

SH Youth Café runs on Fridays from 4.30pm-5.30pm in the Vestry Hall for Year 7's and over with drinks, snacks and games (term time only).

Drainage & Water:

With Winter approaching and possibly another long wet period, please check out Marden Parish Council's website if any problems occur regarding drainage and flooding where you can find the Highways Drainage and Flooding guide and the Environment Agency Flood Action Plan. <http://www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk/> then add community/marden-parish-council-13394/drainage--flooding/

Middle Medway Flood Resilience Scheme

The Environment Agency, Kent County Council and Maidstone Borough Council are working together to deliver the Middle Medway Flood Resilience scheme. For more info and latest updates, check out: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/middle-medway-flood-resilience-scheme>

Improving the River Beult SSSI for people and wildlife – Published reports

The Environment Agency and Natural England recently undertook a consultation to develop an improvement strategy for the River Beult. They have compiled the feedback from the consultation to develop

an improvement strategy for the river which is tailored to the local needs of people and wildlife.

You can find a Non-Technical Summary and the full Technical Report on the Medway Flood Partnership webpages at www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-river-medway-partnership-objectives-members-and-action-plan

Roads & Footpaths:

Marden Walking Group

The surrounding countryside in Marden has many footpaths and is beautiful in the Autumn. Why not join in some of the walks led by Marden Walking Group:

Wednesdays at 9.45am – meet outside Library – return 11.00-11.30am

Saturdays at 2pm –

Group A - meet outside Library – Stroll & Chat for half an hour followed by tea.

Group B – meet outside Library - Walk & Talk - approx. 1.5 hours – get to know the local paths.

You can purchase walking guides from the Library.

Tree Charter – the Woodland Trust are holding a Tree Charter Day on Saturday 24th November and the Walking Group will be arranging some tree walks around the Parish. Details will be published on posters shortly by the Walking Group and you can check out the Tree Charter on: www.treecharter.uk/sign.

Trees deserve to be celebrated!

Potholes/Drainage/Gullies

Once again can we reiterate if you spot either a pothole, flooded drain or gully, please report it either by calling 08458 247800 or online at www.kent.gov.uk. It won't get fixed if it isn't reported!

Other Parish Information:

Summer Play Scheme – photo below

The Summer Play Scheme was again a very successful event and many thanks go to Jordan Manley and all the staff who made it such a good scheme as well as our wonderful Parish Clerk Alison Hooker for organising everything. Many thanks also to our County Councillor Eric Hotson for his grant towards the trip and the visit from Animal Encounters. We've had great feedback from parents with all the imaginative activities and such a wide variety of things to do.



Marden In Bloom

by Anne Boswell, Chairman

We were delighted and proud to receive a 'Silver Gilt' award in the small town category at the South & South East Awards in September – one step up from the Silver we attained in 2016. We are slowly making progress but a long way to go before we achieve Gold – we would need a lot more help and sponsorship. Many thanks to all the Bloomers, residents, Parish Council, village groups and businesses who have helped out and supported us along the way.

The planters have been replaced with pansies and bulbs thanks to various businesses who have sponsored us and for the bulbs which we are hoping to plant in various locations around the parish – c5,000 daffs and snowdrops!

We have received some wonderful photos showcasing our Parish and the winners of the "Wildlife in Marden" competition are: 1st: Malcolm Bryant of a Sparrowhawk : 2nd Matt Nye with a Little Owl; 3rd Lynne Fromings of toads and runner up Steve Nye of a Nuthatch. The "Best Back Garden" winners were: 1st Charlie Edwards; 2nd Sharon May; 3rd Brian Rayner and "Best Business" entry The West End Tavern. We hope to display all the entries at the Heritage Centre.

Please also come and support us at the Wreath Making Workshops on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 13th December at 7.30pm in the Vestry Hall – details below.

Please email: mardeninbloom@outlook.com if you can help us out or call 01622 833351 – we really need some extra hands, even if you can only spare an hour or two.

Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Community Awards

The Parish Council are participating again in the 2019 KALC Community Awards. The

scheme is to give acknowledgement and recognition to those that have made a significant contribution to the local community. So if you would like to nominate somebody in Marden who has served the Parish for many years and you feel merits an Award, please let Alison in the Parish Office know by the 4th January 2019. The winner will receive a Certificate signed by the High Sheriff of Kent, the Chairmen of KCC and KALC and presented at the Annual Parish meeting. Long-standing Parish Councillor and Chairman Dorothy Read deservedly received the award earlier this year.

An Appeal from Marden History Group

Whether you are new to the village or a long-term resident, what better way to meet friends and learn more about Marden than to spend a few hours a week at the High Street library supporting your award-winning Heritage Centre?

Call in during any normal library hours and speak to one of our friendly volunteers. You could soon join them!

There are so many aspects to our activities and there is bound to be at least one that meets your skills. Please check our website to see what we get up to: www.mardenhistory.org.uk If you would like to help, please email: colin.whittle9@gmail.com

Royal British Legion Marden Branch

Sadly because of dwindling numbers, Marden's Royal British Legion branch may have to close. The current Vice Chairman Colin Fry, who is shortly to retire from the position, held an emergency recruitment drive at the beginning of October. Hopefully this has helped to boost numbers. If you are interested in becoming a member please call 0808 802 8080 or email: colinfry@brookdecorations.co.uk

Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide

Our local resident Dr Roger Eltringham is the internationally awarded founder of Marden based charity Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide which has already donated £200,000 to medical centres in less fortunate countries. As you may know, Roger invented a self-contained anaesthetic machine and associated equipment – such a clever man. However, there are still an estimated 5 billion people in the world unable to access safe anaesthesia who could be helped by our local charity.

The trustees of the charity have come up with a great idea to give to friends/family as a Christmas present by making a gift donation to the charity. Please email: colin.whittle9@gmail.com and he will send you a leaflet explaining fully how the scheme works and showing the various card designs from which you can choose.

Memorial Bench for Ken Rhodes

A bench is shortly to be installed outside the Library in memory of local window cleaner Ken Rhodes, a great character always cycling around the village replete with ladder and bucket. The bench has been inscribed with Ken's favourite saying: "Nice weather for ducks"! Bless his heart. This will replace the old bench there. Marden in Bloom will tidy up the area and place a half planter at the front of the Library in the Spring – Ken loved his flowers.

Scam Mail

Royal Mail never knowingly delivers scam mail and they understand the distress it can cause when received. This type of mail is illegal and targets the most vulnerable in society. They are committed to do everything within their powers to protect us by trying to put a stop to it. Scam mail typically involves professional fraudsters sending convincing letters that are designed

to trick people out of money or other valuables including bogus competitions and fake prize draws. This mail mostly originates from overseas and is hard to detect.

Royal Mail have introduced a number of measures including a new industry-wide code of practice and a new clause in Royal Mail's bulk mail contracts. They are also working with other postal operators in the UK and around the world to share intelligence and take steps to prevent it entering the UK. They continue to work with our postmen and women across the UK who are the 'eyes and ears' in the local community, industry partners and law enforcement agencies including National Trading Standards to tackle this issue more vigorously.

If you are concerned you are in receipt of scam mail, please make contact either in writing at Freepost Scam Mail enclosing any items that you feel is suspicious, calling the Scam Helpline on 0800 0113466 or emailing scam.mail@royalmail.com

Parish Council Autumn Clean Up

Unfortunately this event was cancelled on the 20th October as it was felt the verges and ditches were too overgrown to be able to litter pick successfully and safely. We will arrange another session in March before new growth emerges. Let's hope next time the weather will be kind to us.

What's Going on in Marden?

There is always so much going on in our village, not only numerous community groups but great sporting facilities too. If you are new to the village, you can find all the details in the 'Welcome Pack' that the Parish Council provides to new residents.

As ever there's lots going on this Autumn and Winter and any group, organisation

or business who are arranging an event, please let Erika know via email: assistantclerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk or call 01622 832305 and also on our Facebook page. If you would like to include your village group event in the Newsletter, please let anne.boswell@ymail.com know. You can also check out events on [www.mardenchurch.org.uk/special events.htm](http://www.mardenchurch.org.uk/special%20events.htm) 'Let's Keep Marden Connected'

The Battle's Over – Sunday 11th November – see page 3

Marden Parish Church Christmas Market – Friday 23rd November 6.30pm-9.30pm and Saturday 24th November 9.30am-noon at the Vestry Hall

West End Stores Carol Singing with the Salvation Army - Friday 7th December at 7.30pm

Marden at Christmas – Saturday 8th December – see separate leaflet for details

Wreath Making Workshops - Wednesday 5th and Thursday 13th December at 7.30pm in the Vestry Hall. £25 to include a glass of wine. Please come and support Marden in Bloom. Tickets will be available at the West End Stores & Crowhurst & Tompsett or email mardeninbloom@outlook.com - restricted to 30 people per session.

STOP PRESS! Parking

As we've reported in previous newsletters we have been working closely with both Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) and Kent Highways to review the current parking restrictions along with what you have told us both in the questionnaire in 2016 and the more recent consultation in February of this year.

The good news is that changes have been agreed in principle although all the details are not yet available. However we can say that the plan includes double yellow lines

for the top of Pattenden Lane, changes to some of the no parking times to standardise them across the village and some additional single yellow lines.

The process to gain new parking restrictions or to change existing ones is a long one and it could take up to a year before the changes are in place. Early next year MBC will start the formal consultation process, they do not contact every household instead public notices will be displayed around the village and in local newspapers. The Parish Council will endeavour to publicise this, through the newsletter if the timing is right, and through our Facebook page and website. As this is the formal consultation everything you have told us in the past will not be taken into consideration so it is very important that if you agree with the changes that you send your comments to MBC when the consultation starts. Full details will be in the consultation notice. Once the 6 week consultation period is over the responses are reviewed, by MBC, and the formal legal process can start. It is not until this finishes that the changes are put into place.

Parish Council Contact details & other useful Contact numbers

Chairman Cllr Kate Tippen 832305
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Vice-Chairman Cllr Richard Adam 831673
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Cllr Tom Stevens 832305
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www.facebook.com/MardenParishCouncil

Office opening times: Monday, Tuesday, Friday - 10.00am to 12noon

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David Burton 07590 229910
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Steve McLoughlin 01622 820551
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County Councillor

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