

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL



EXECUTIVE SERVICES

Chief Executive
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NB - This agenda contains proposals, recommendations and options. These do not represent Council policy or decisions until they have received proper consideration through the full decision making process.

Contact: Democratic Services
committee.services@tmbc.gov.uk

19 May 2026

To: MEMBERS OF THE PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL
(Copies to all Members of the Council)

Dear Sir/Madam

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the Parish Partnership Panel to be held in the Council Chamber, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill on Thursday, 28th May, 2026 commencing at 7.30 pm.

Members of the Panel should attend in person wherever possible. Those Members of the Panel who cannot attend in person have the opportunity to participate online. Other Members of the Council are encouraged to participate online.

Information on how to observe the meeting will be published on the Council's website.

Yours faithfully

DAMIAN ROBERTS
Chief Executive

A G E N D A

1. Guidance on the Conduct of Meetings

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Part 1 - Public

2. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chairs
 - To confirm Borough Council appointments following the annual meeting of Council; and
 - To seek nominations for Vice-Chair from Parish/Town Council representatives.

3. Apologies for absence

4. Notification of Substitute Members 7 - 8

5. Minutes 9 - 14

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Partnership Panel held on 5 February 2026.

6. Update on action identified in the last Minutes

Matters raised in Advance of the meeting

Details of the matter to be raised should be provided in writing or by email to committee.services@tmbc.gov.uk at least 10 working days before the meeting. This is so that a response can be provided on the evening of the meeting. Only one question may be submitted by a parish council due to the time limitations.

7. Presentation from Safer Neighbourhood Team Verbal Report

The Panel to receive a presentation from a representative of the Borough Council's Safer Neighbourhood Team.

8. Update on Stansted Community Governance Review Verbal Report

The Panel to receive an update on the Community Governance Review for Stansted Parish Council.

9. Update on Planning Matters Verbal Report

The Panel to receive updates in respect of the Local Plan and Development Management matters.

10. Climate Change Update 15 - 20

The Panel to receive an update from the Cabinet Member for Housing, Environment and Economy and the Climate Change Officer on the Climate Change initiatives of the Borough Council.

11. Kent Police Update

Verbal Report

The Panel to receive an update from Kent Police in respect of addressing crime prevention issues within the borough.

12. Any Other Business

To consider any other issues raised at the meeting. Any answers, actions and/or outcomes may be provided at the next meeting of the Parish Partnership Panel.

DISTRIBUTION

Borough Council Representatives

Cllr R W Dalton (Chair)
Cllr Mrs M Tatton (Vice-Chair)
Cllr B Banks
Cllr Mrs S Bell
Cllr R P Betts
Cllr M D Boughton
Cllr P Boxall
Cllr L Chapman
Cllr S Crisp
Cllr S M Hammond
Cllr P M Hickmott
Cllr M Taylor
Cllr C J Williams

Parish and Town Council Representatives

Addington
Aylesford
Birling
Borough Green
Burham
Ditton
East Malling and Larkfield
East Peckham
Hadlow
Hildenborough
Ightham
Kings Hill
Leybourne
Mereworth
Offham
Platt
Plaxtol
Ryarsh (2nd Vice-Chair)
Shipbourne
Snodland
Stansted
Trottscliffe
Wateringbury
West Malling
West Peckham
Wouldham
Wrotham

County Councillors

Trudy Dean - KCC, Malling Central
Sarah Hudson - KCC, Malling Rural East
Andrew Kennedy - KCC, Malling North East
Harry Rayner - KCC, Malling West
Dodger Sian - KCC, Malling North

GUIDANCE ON HOW MEETINGS WILL BE CONDUCTED

- (1) All meetings of the Borough Council will be livestreamed to YouTube here, unless there is exempt or confidential business be discussed:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPp-IJISNgoF-ugSzxjAPfw/featured>
- (2) There are no fire drills planned during the time a meeting is being held. For the benefit of those in the meeting room, the fire alarm is a long continuous bell and the exits are via the doors used to enter the room. An officer on site will lead any evacuation.
- (3) Should you need this agenda or any of the reports in a different format, or have any other queries concerning the meeting, please contact Democratic Services on committee.services@tmbc.gov.uk in the first instance.

Attendance:

- Meetings of the Panel will alternate between 'in person' or online meetings. Please check the agenda as this will set out the meeting venue.
- Members of the Panel should attend in person wherever possible those meetings that are to be held in person.
- Those Members of the Panel who cannot attend in person have the opportunity to participate online.
- Other Members of the Council are encouraged to participate online.
- Officers can participate in person or online.

Before formal proceedings start there will be a sound check of Members/Officers in the room. This is to ensure that those participating online can hear those in the meeting room and confirms attendance.

Ground Rules:

The meeting will operate under the following ground rules:

- Members in the Chamber should indicate to speak in the usual way and use the fixed microphones in front of them. These need to be switched on when

speaking or comments will not be heard by those participating online. Please switch off microphones when not speaking.

- If there any technical issues the meeting will be adjourned to try and rectify them. If this is not possible there are a number of options that can be taken to enable the meeting to continue. These will be explained if it becomes necessary.

For those Members participating online:

- please request to speak using the 'chat or hand raised function';
- please turn off cameras and microphones when not speaking;
- please do not use the 'chat function' for other matters as comments can be seen by all;
- Members may wish to blur the background on their camera using the facility on Microsoft teams.
- Please avoid distractions and general chat if not addressing the meeting
- Please remember to turn off or silence mobile phones

Parish Partnership Panel					
	Conservative	Liberal Democratic	Green	Ind. Kent Alliance	Labour
1	Robert Cannon		Kath Barton		Angus Bennison
2	Martin Coffin		Anna Cope		
3	James Lark		Mark Hood		
4	Alex McDermott		Robert Oliver		
5	Kim Tanner		Stacey Pilgrim		

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TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

MINUTES

Thursday, 5th February, 2026

Present: Cllr R W Dalton (Chair), Cllr Mrs M Tatton (Vice-Chair),
Cllr Mrs S Bell, Cllr R P Betts, Cllr M D Boughton,
Cllr P M Hickmott and Cllr M Taylor

Together with representatives of Aylesford*, Birling, Borough Green, Burham, Ditton*, East Malling and Larkfield, East Peckham, Hadlow, Hildenborough, Ightham, Kings Hill*, Leybourne*, Platt, Ryarsh (Vice-Chair)*, Shipbourne, Stansted, Wateringbury*, West Malling and Wrotham Parish Councils, County Cllr S Hudson*, County Cllr H Rayner and Chair of Kent Association of Local Councils (Tonbridge and Malling) (Parish Cllr S Barker)*

(*participated via MS Teams)

In attendance: Councillors A G Bennison, M A J Hood*, D Keers* and M R Rhodes* were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

(*participated via MS Teams)

Apologies for absence were received from Borough Councillors B Banks, P Boxall**, L Chapman**, M A Coffin, S Crisp**, and S M Hammond, Plaxtol and Wouldham Parish Councils, County Councillors Mrs T Dean, A Kennedy and D Sian.

(**apologies submitted for in-person attendance and participated via MS Teams)

PART 1 - PUBLIC

PPP 26/1 NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

There were no substitute members.

PPP 26/2 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

PPP 26/3 UPDATE ON ACTION IDENTIFIED IN THE LAST MINUTES

There were no matters required to be updated.

PPP 26/4 UPDATE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Leader of the Council (Cllr M Boughton) and the Chief Executive (Mr D Roberts) provided the Panel with a comprehensive presentation on the Government's newly launched consultation on the proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Kent and Medway. The consultation started on 5 February 2026 and would run for seven weeks, closing on 26 March 2026. Online submission was available at [Consultation on the Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Kent and Medway - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - Citizen Space](#) and responses could also be submitted via email or by post.

A decision on the geographies for the new Unitary Councils across Kent and Medway was expected to be announced by the Government in the Summer, potentially in July, with new Unitary Councils becoming operational from April 2028.

Among the five options which were under the current consultation, the three-unitary model was preferred by the Borough Council, which was based on balanced populations, respected local identities and existing boundaries, aligned closely with existing partnership geographies, and represented evidence-based 'value for money' of all the multi-unitary options. This option also had the support of the greatest number of Boroughs and Districts within Kent and Medway – Folkestone & Hythe, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells. The other options, either risking splitting parish boundaries or creating overly large or small authorities compromising local democracy or ability to withstand financial shocks, were therefore not recommended by the Borough Council.

While there was concern raised on the relatively higher costs of multi-unitary models compared to a single unitary model with potential implications for setting council tax, it was acknowledged that large unitary council(s) were likely to risk loss of local democracy and responsiveness, however, the three-unitary model could effectively balance local representation with overall efficiency, achieving 'best value for money' for the residents.

In closing, both the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council encouraged all Parish and Town Councils to respond to the consultation, explaining the structure of the survey, emphasising the importance of providing feedback on all proposal options under consultation, and promoting recognition of the valuable role of Parish and Town Councils within the Local Government Reorganisation process.

PPP 26/5 PLANNING UPDATE

Following the recent Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan consultation run by the Borough Council, the Cabinet Member for Planning (Cllr M Taylor) was pleased to report that over 2,000 responses and 6,000 comments had been received and these were in the process of being analysed by the Planning Service, with the next milestone being the Regulation 19 Draft Local Plan, due for submission to the Planning Inspectorate by the end of this year.

In response to a query about the continuity of the Local Plan with Local Government Reorganisation on the horizon and transition to a new Unitary Council, the Leader (Cllr M Boughton) emphasised the importance of progressing and adopting a Local Plan at pace given potential policy implications for the new unitary authority.

Furthermore, the Planning Development Manager (Mr I Williams) provided an update on the Borough Council's successful application to secure a Digital Planning Improvement Fund of £50,000, which would be utilised to help publish standardised planning data, improve digital maturity through the submission of a Digital Planning Maturity Assessment and the creation of an action plan to boost digital skills, and provide opportunity to access open-source planning software. This initiative was expected to enhance data accessibility for the general public.

PPP 26/6 CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE

The Climate Change Officer (Ms L Stewart) and the Cabinet Member for Housing, Environment and Economy (Cllr R Betts) presented updates on the Borough Council's recent climate change and sustainability actions and initiatives, including training for staff and Members, food waste recycling improvements, energy efficiency projects, and community engagements, with particular reference made to a recently launched 'Green Business Grants Scheme'. Details of the scheme were available on the Council's website at [Apply for a Green Business Grant – Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council](#).

Furthermore, upcoming local initiatives were promoted and participation from communities were encouraged. Information regarding these events were included in the quarterly Climate Change Bulletin, published as part of the agenda for this meeting.

Positive comments were made on the recent site visits to the Allington Household Waste Recycling Centre and the Blaise Farm Composting Facility, which highlighted the benefits of closed-loop composting and opportunities for Parishes to obtain compost for allotments at low cost. An update on the operation of the anaerobic digester plant producing biogas from food waste would be provided in due course.

During discussion, the Cabinet Member for Housing, Environment and Economy drew attention to the Blue Bell Hill low-carbon modular home development that would be used by the Borough Council as temporary accommodation to support addressing homelessness in the north of the borough, explaining its significance as the first of its kind in the area.

Finally, a query was raised on whether the Climate Change e-learning training package could be made available to Parish councillors, which the Climate Change Officer undertook to investigate.

PPP 26/7 KENT POLICE UPDATE

Inspector Z McKinley provided the Panel with a detailed update on anti-social behaviour (ASB) trends in the borough, with comparative data set out for neighbouring districts, highlighting major issues such as motor vehicle nuisance, rowdy or nuisance gatherings in public, and drunken and rowdy behaviour.

Particular reference was made to several key hotspots identified for vehicle related anti-social behaviour and the effectiveness of camera technology to assist in investigation. As explained by the Cabinet Member for Community Services (Cllr D Keers), a new and more advanced camera system was being considered for a pilot in the borough, with the aim of improving outcomes for ASB enforcement.

With regard to the collaborative and strong working relationship between the Kent Police and the Borough Council via the Community Safety Partnership, in particular the significant role played by the Borough Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Enforcement Team (now renamed 'Safer Neighbourhoods Team'), the Cabinet Member for Community Services reflected on the improved community engagement and highlighted the importance of intelligence-led policing and the value of public reporting as a result of the proactive actions of the Safer Neighbourhoods Team.

In addition, catapult-related offences were recognised as a national focus for policing and it was noted that a restriction around the use of catapults was being considered for inclusion in the Borough Council's Public Spaces Protection Order, which was due to be reported to Members at the Communities and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee on 4 March 2026.

Representatives of the Panel recorded their appreciation to Inspector McKinley and the Borough Council's Community Safety Unit for the work they had been undertaking in reducing crime and improving safety across the borough.

PPP 26/8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no other businesses identified to be discussed.

The meeting ended at 9.17 pm

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Climate Change Quarterly Bulletin - May 2026

Key climate change updates from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council for Parish and Town Councils



Updates

Air Quality Management Areas

- 4 AQMAs revoked: Tonbridge High Street, A20 Larkfield, A20 Aylesford, Borough Green
- Air pollution levels now below national limits
- Monitoring continues across the borough, with Wateringbury remaining the only AQMA

Green Business Grant Scheme (Round 6)

- Launched February, closed April
- Up to £5,000 funding (50% contribution)
- Supports carbon reduction measures such as solar, LED lighting, insulation, double glazing
- 12 applications received, with 11 projects awarded funding
- Funded through the Business Rates Shared Growth Fund



Waste & Recycling

- Tetra Pak cartons now accepted in green lidded recycling bins
- Waste contract award announced

Anti-idling

- School engagement ongoing
- Signage installed at Tunbury School, Walderslade
- Email: environmental.protection@tmbc.gov.uk



Habitat Enhancement

Over 2,000 native trees and whips planted since January. Planting programme ongoing.

Tree & Micro Forest Planting

Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground

- Miyawaki forest planted
- Micro forest planted

Leybourne

- Existing Miyawaki forest enhanced

Swanmead Sportsground

- Micro forest planted



Expansion of Roadside Nature Reserves (RNR)

- 47 plots identified across the Borough
- 93.9% increase in total RNR coverage
- Reduced cutting to one annual cut and collect
- Native wildflower seed mix to be introduced across 20% of reserve areas
- Officers training supporting habitat monitoring

Habitat Enhancement

Woodland Management

Taddington Valley

- Woodland Management Plan progressing
- New entrance signage installed
- Nature trail and webpage launched

Holly Hill

- Public consultation on the new management plan being prepared

Haysden Country Park

- Brown hairstreak butterfly egg and caterpillar surveys
- Dormouse boxes installed

Walderslade & Kings Hill

- Coppicing undertaken



Thermal Imaging Camera Scheme

Helping residents improve home energy efficiency

- Scheme delivered during the winter period
- Over 40 residents booked the service



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Benefits

- Identifies heat loss and cold spots
- Supports informed decisions on insulation and draught-proofing
- Encourages practical, cost-effective home energy improvements

Area	Residents
Aylesford	2
East Malling	6
Hadlow	1
Hildenborough	1
Ightham	1
Kings Hill	11
Larkfield	1
Leybourne	1
Shipbourne	2
Tonbridge	12
West Malling	4
Wrotham	2
Grand Total	44

Climate Action Shipbourne and Plaxtol (CASP) – Eco Fair

- Open homes event showcasing low-carbon improvements
- Research identified typical local housing types and retrofit options
- Developing practical upgrade pathways for residents
- Attended by KCC, TMBC Members and local groups



Climate Change Forum (CCF)

- Partnership supporting local climate change engagement
- Discussions include home energy, waste reduction and plastics

Get involved - climate.change@tmbc.gov.uk

- Share upcoming events
- Help us build a directory of Repair Cafes



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