



Community Alert

Loose Parish Council (LPC) – Keeping you updated

Issue No. 64

7 August 2026

For your diary: Loose Neighbourhood Plan:

After the summer holidays, the draft Loose Neighbourhood Plan will be published for formal public consultation. This will be an opportunity for all interested parties to comment on this important planning document and to help shape the future of our parish.

The new neighbourhood plan has been prepared by a working group of parish councillors and residents, with the support from a professional planning consultant. Informed by comments from residents and local organisations and businesses, the plan updates and merges the content of the current neighbourhood plans for Loose and North Loose.

The consultation will run from 10 September to 23 October. A series of information events will be held, including a presentation evening in the Loose Pavilion (ME15 9RG) on Tuesday 29 September. Over coming weeks please visit LPC's noticeboards, Facebook page and our website to find out about planned events, where you can view the plan and how you can have your say. <https://www.loose-pc.gov.uk/loose-neighbourhood-plan>

Other current consultations:

Resident Survey 2026: Closes 30 August 2026

Have your say on the day-to-day experience of living in Maidstone. What matters to you most? <https://letstalkmaidstone.uk.engagementhq.com/resident-survey-2026>

Polling Districts & Places: Closes 19 August 2026

Have your say on the future of the polling districts and places to vote. Use the map to see current and proposed locations. <https://letstalkmaidstone.uk.engagementhq.com/polling-districts-places-2026-interim-review>

Budget Consultation: Closes 07 September 2026

Have your say about how the future KCC Budget for the next financial year should be spent or allocated from funds received from Council Tax, Government Grants, Business Rate shares and service changes. <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/budget-consultation-2026-27>

SGN Gas Mains Replacement Works

Pickering Street works have ceased until September. The team are now working up at Linton crossroads and will move northbound towards the village green using temporary traffic lights (no full road closure) over the next few months. The emergency closure of the A229 at Staplehurst is due to be re-opened early next week: [Sign up for email updates - SGN Gas Network Upgrades - Loose, Maidstone – Fill in form](#)

The long hot summer:

Water issues....

With the continued hot dry spell, water supply issues have occurred south of Loose. Whilst this has affected surrounding villages more than Loose (on this occasion), everyone needs to continue to use water wisely and adhere to the hosepipe ban as the lack of rain leaves reservoirs at very low levels.

And fire safety....

Additionally, the parched landscape is extremely vulnerable so take extra care discarding cigarette ends, and do not light fires or barbecues in parks or the countryside. Avoid lighting fire pits or barbecues at home if breezy, and never leave a fire or barbecue unattended, even when cooling, as glowing embers will treat dry grass as kindling.

Summer Vacancies:

Adopt a planter:

We have 2 planters on Boughton Parade in need of a caring "adopter". The only cost to you would be your time – LPC provides vouchers to fund the contents and Domino's kindly provide water refills. Get in touch to release your floral creativity!

Become a Councillor:

LPC welcomes Loryl Nixon onto the council, but we still have 4 vacancies remaining. You do not need any experience, just an interest in making decisions about where you live. **Interested but not sure how much commitment is needed?** Follow the link on our website front page to read FAQ's; call and have a chat with one of our team or come along to any meeting and see what the council does.

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Working Parties:

The next **Loose Amenities Association working party in the Loose Valley** will be on Sunday 16 August. Meet at the shed on Brooks Field at 9.30am for a 10am start. Tools provided but wear appropriate footwear and bring gloves if you have them. Fantastic cake and other refreshments provided at the 11am break. Work continues until around 12.30pm but people often come along for a few hours – any help gratefully received. These take place on the 3rd Sunday of every month.

The next **North Loose working party and litter pick in Mangravet Woods** will be on Saturday 5 September at 10am. Meet at the barrier on Pheasant Lane. These take place on the 1st Saturday of every month.



Want to do your bit but can't commit? We have a fantastic number of **volunteer litter pickers** who look after areas local to their homes, or along their dog-walking routes, and go out when it suits them. We can provide PPE (high-

viz, gloves and a litter pick-stick) and volunteer collection bags, which Maidstone Borough Council pick up if left by one of their bins. We have also engaged with local schools and organisations such as Loose Swiss Beavers to do one-off litter picks, and with individuals working towards the volunteering section for a Duke of Edinburgh Award. If you would like to set something up then do get in touch.

COMMUNITY ALERT:

Please help us to increase the reach of our Community Alert so that more people receive the updates and information. If you find this alert useful, please suggest friends and neighbours subscribe via our website. Thank you!

The BIGGEST thank you!

LPC would like to extend a thank you once again to local resident Richard Hunt for driving "The Greenway Project". This popular and well-used path needed a plan to tame the ever-overgrowing vegetation. It was narrowing the path and causing damage to the surface and edges, reducing accessibility. The clearance of over 200m of stinging nettles and brambles has been completed by the volunteers and some longer term weed control measures will soon be installed, with the help of the Community Payback initiative.



How can you help? If you use the path, then please do the right thing and use the bins provided at either end for litter or dog poo. There was a staggering amount of discarded dog poo bags in the undergrowth. If you would like to join our volunteers and get involved with the future maintenance, please get in touch.



Council responsibilities – who does what?

Residents come to us with so many different queries and we will always do our best to signpost where to go for help or answers. It can be confusing knowing who is responsible for your bins, the potholes, that overgrown footpath, those parking issues or nuisance noise. To help clarification, we have created a new page on our website with a handy visual to explain the current functions of Loose Parish Council, Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council. Find it here: <https://www.loose-pc.gov.uk/parish-council-responsibilities>

It will be all change with the Local Government Reorganisation coming, but for now this is accurate!

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