

Issue No. 40

18 December 2024

Loose Parish Council staff changes

From January 2025, there will be some re-shuffling amongst the LPC office team. Kim Owen has been Clerk for over 7 years, and more recently has been both Clerk and Finance Officer. She will be reducing her hours but continuing as Responsible Finance Officer. Nicky Bourne will step up from Deputy Clerk to Clerk, ably supported by Assistant Clerks Amanda Baker and Janet Burnett. Amanda and Janet joined LPC early in 2024 in preparation for the Parish expansion from 1000 to 3000 homes. The best way to contact the team is via the office email: office@loose-pc.gov.uk.

Roles from January 2025:



Nicky Bourne - Clerk



Kim Owen - RFO



Amanda Baker
Assistant Clerk




Janet Burnett
Assistant Clerk

The team have been incredibly busy and hands-on with matters across the new Parish area – but are aware that bulletins like this have been less regular. It is our new year resolution to rectify this and keep you informed at least monthly, or more frequently when important information needs to be shared.

Please also use our other means of communication – the quickest and most up to date will always be our Facebook page. The website should provide any information you are seeking, and contains all agendas and minutes of meetings, information on LPC-owned amenities like the Loose Pavilion, King George V Playing Field and Brooks Field. We write an update in the “In & Around Loose” bi-monthly magazine. We also have 5 noticeboards (Holmesdale Close, opposite the Post Office, outside Loose Primary School, Boughton Parade and on the Greenway).

Winter Wellbeing

Winter brings challenges for everyone. If you have any concerns about the welfare of any resident of Loose, particularly those who may be living alone, elderly or vulnerable, please contact the **Community Warden service** team leader Sandra Edmonds on 07969 584183 or sandra.edmonds@kent.gov.uk.

 **The Priority Services Register** is free to join and helps utility companies work together to look after their customers with extra access, communication, or safety needs. Eligibility/registration info at <https://www.thepsr.co.uk>

LPC has a limited supply of warm items for vulnerable residents. These include blankets, thermal t-shirts, flasks, hats, gloves etc. If you would benefit, or know someone who might, please contact us.

Could you or someone you know be eligible to receive a £200 voucher which can be redeemed towards food, energy, or both? **The Pensioner Just Missing Out scheme** supports Kent pensioners in need of help with significantly rising living costs. Available for pension-aged residents on lower incomes who are not eligible for Pension Credit or the Winter Fuel Payment. <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/cost-of-living-support/find-help-and-support-with-money-worries/pensioner-just-missing-out-scheme>

Problems occur in our local environment all year round and we are always grateful to residents who spot and report issues directly to the relevant organisation via their reporting systems. If you let LPC know of the issue and the report reference number, we will do our utmost to chase it up until it is rectified.

KCC Highways (potholes, salt bins, trees blocking roads, drains, streetlight faults)
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem> Tel: 03000 418181

KCC Public Rights of Way (any issues on public footpaths and bridle paths)
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way> Tel: 03000 417171

Maidstone Borough Council (refuse, fly tipping, litter, dead animals, parking)
<https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/street-care-and-cleaning> Tel: 01622 602162

Email: office@loose-pc.gov.uk Website: www.loose-pc.gov.uk



Community Alert

Loose Parish Council (LPC) – Keeping you updated

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Want to get involved?

Loose Community Fete & Dog Show

Save the Date! The Loose Fete and Fun Dog Show will be returning on Saturday 14 June 2025. Shaylers Funfair will be on King George V Recreation ground from 12-15 June 2025. Planning starts now so contact us if you would like to be involved - no specific skills are needed just a willingness to help!

Help shape the future of Loose

A new Loose Neighbourhood Plan

The Loose neighbourhood plan has an important role in local planning policy and decisions. With the growth of Loose parish, a working group of councillors and residents is updating the plan and would welcome new members to help. Further information is available on the Neighbourhood Plan page of our website, or contact the Office with your questions or to express an interest.

Revising the Highways Improvement Plan

A new Highways Working Group of councillors and residents has been formed to renew the Highways Improvement Plan following the growth of Loose parish. They are currently consulting with the five schools within the new boundary to listen to their issues and priorities, before taking these to KCC Highways. Traffic issues from nearby developments and junction changes impact all of us, and the group are seeking constructive proposals to put to KCC. Contact us if you want to have your say and share your highways concerns and ideas.

Litter picking & environmental opportunities

As the Parish has tripled in size, we still have many areas that are not yet covered by the Love Loose Hate Litter scheme. This is a large team of volunteers quietly litter picking across the Parish. The pickers choose the area they wish to cover (often around where they live) and pick in their own spare time. We are so grateful to them all. There are other practical opportunities such as the pond works and supporting the Loose Amenities Association monthly working parties in the valley on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Get in touch if you would like to know more and when the next sessions will be.



Attend a Council or Committee meeting

Your Councillors are volunteer residents too! If it matters to you, it matters to them. Residents are welcome at any meetings to raise an issue. Check the website for dates.

Community Coffee Mornings

We were joined by Mrs Harris and the Loose Primary School choir at our Christmas coffee morning on Wednesday 11 December. As ever, the children were so enthusiastic and engaging. They had their audience smiling, singing and learning some sign language – although their Loose Primary rap was a little more challenging! Save the dates and join us in 2025.

Loose Community Coffee Mornings 2025



King George V Pavilion Walnut Tree Lane
Loose ME15 9RG

9.30am-12 noon. All welcome!

(Held on the second Wednesday of each month)

08 January	09 July
12 February	13 August
12 March	10 September
09 April	08 October
14 May	12 November
11 June	10 December

Other Key Contacts

Linton & Loose Ward Councillors:

Brian Clark Tel: 07963 757767

E-mail: brianclark@maidstone.gov.uk

Simon Wales Tel: 07803 270740

E-mail: simonwales@maidstone.gov.uk

KCC Councillor (Maidstone Rural West)

Simon Webb Tel: 07878 018997

E-mail: simon.webb@kent.gov.uk

MP for Maidstone & Malling

Helen Grant Tel: 020 7219 7107

Email: helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk

Police Tel: 101 – Non-Emergency
Tel: 999 – Emergency

LPC would like to wish all our residents a merry Christmas and a very happy and healthy new year.

Email: office@loose-pc.gov.uk Website: www.loose-pc.gov.uk