

## **Maidstone Borough Council**

### **John Newington, Senior Pollution Officer**

John is the Senior Pollution officer for Maidstone Borough Council which involves co-ordinating the Council's statutory responsibility under Local Air quality Management, Environmental Permitting and Contaminated Land. He previously worked as an Environment Officer with the Environment Agency and spent several very enjoyable years carrying out international collaborative research with the NERC/Imperial College research facility in Ascot called the Ecotron. The topics investigated and published on ranged from the effects of elevated CO<sub>2</sub> levels on ecosystem function to the effects of climate change on soil biodiversity.

### **Jennifer Hunt, Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Project Manager**

**(biography to follow)**

### **Suggested Themes and Questions**

1. Please could you outline the renewable energy/sustainability schemes that you are involved with in the Borough and the policies or plans they relate to.
2. Maidstone is identified as a Transport Hub in the South East Plan, what scope is there for renewable and low carbon technologies to be employed and what are the challenges to this?
3. Could you please outline some of the possibilities for electric vehicle charging and the issues you are aware of with regard to Maidstone.
4. What opportunities are there to reduce carbon emissions from public transport in the borough – what are the issues to be addressed and what, if any, are the constraints to progress?
5. Please could you outline how pollution control legislation impacts on the use of biomass for heating at different sites and at different scales?
6. MBC were early adopters in Kent of renewable biomass heating technology – having experience problems initially - can you now offer any positive experience or guidance in relation to this?
7. In your view, what are the key actions that should be taken by the County and District/Borough councils in order to achieve the carbon reduction targets for the organisations, and for the County.