

Maidstone Local Board District Annual Report



➤ Introduction

The Maidstone Local Board District is pleased to present its sixth annual report covering the period from 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010.

The nine KCC Members (Councillors) and the respective areas they represented were:-

Maidstone Central	Malcolm Robertson
	Dan Daley
Maidstone North East	Ian Chittenden
Maidstone South East	Gary Cooke
Maidstone South	Alan Chell
Maidstone Rural East	Jenny Whittle
Maidstone Rural West	Paulina Stockell (Chair)
Maidstone Rural North	Paul Carter
Maidstone Rural South	Eric Hotson

The list of Members and their contact details are shown in Appendix 1.

➤ What is the Maidstone Local Board Area?

Until October 2008 there existed the KCC Maidstone Local Board. It was a forum for KCC County Council members to discuss key issues in Maidstone District and engage with local residents. There were at least four meetings a year held throughout the district at which the public were welcome. It was established to “put the Local into Government”.

A new development across Kent in 2008 regarding Local Boards was the exploring of Localism with District Councils and the possibility of altering Local Boards or even developing new ideas to make them more effective. Essential was a closer collaboration between KCC and the Districts. Within Maidstone District this has resulted in numerous meetings between KCC members and officers and District councillors, and at present there is an agreed outline to organise in partnership with MBC four neighbourhood Fora that will include parish councils and statutory and voluntary services. The geographical boundaries and membership of these are in Appendix 3. Negotiations are still taking place at the time of writing this report, April 2010 as to the exact method of operation.

➤ Meetings

There have been no public meetings held during 2009/10, but the KCC members met on 15th October 2009 to agree the allotment of the Local Schemes and Small Community Capital Project grants.

➤ Small Community Capital Grants

KCC allocated £500,000 in its Capital Budget for 2009/10 to the Small Community Capital Projects Fund. This was to be spent on small capital projects originating in local communities. The KCC Maidstone Local Board District was given **£51,500** to allocate, and the total amount was distributed.

The job of the Local Board District was to receive applications to the Fund, and to recommend those they wished to support. The list of projects then went forward for Cabinet member approval. Applicants for projects were given guidance about how to submit their bid, and the criteria by which the Fund operates. KCC had identified four areas as particular priorities for the fund. These were:

- Projects which enhance local community and voluntary organisations in the provision of services to the public.
- Projects which enhance KCC’s Supporting Independence Programme
- Projects which improve the provision of public transport
- Projects which improve the provision of community safety

The Fund’s main eligibility criteria included the following:

- Grants could only be given to organisations that are ‘properly constituted’. This includes organisations such as district, parish and town councils, voluntary and community groups, churches, societies, charities, etc. The organisation must be able to demonstrate that it is properly constituted.
- Grants could only be provided to a maximum value of £20,000 to any one project.
- Grants could only be provided to projects that enhance local communities or the provision of services to the public of Kent.

- Grants could not be provided as replacement funding.
- The grant support was for the purchase or creation of capital assets. It is not to fund current or on-going running costs.

Small Community Capital Grants allocated 2009/10

12 grants totalling £51,500 were made by Kent County Council Maidstone Local Board District at their meeting on 15th October 2010

Summary of Small Community Capital Project bids

Project	Applicant	Requested	Recommended
Car park resurfacing	Bearsted and Thurnham WI	£ 9000	£9000
Kitchen and flooring	1 st Headcorn scouts	£ 8677	£5000
Facilities upgrade	Harmony Variety group	£ 4838	£4000
War Memorial play area	Sutton Valence Parish Council	£ 7000	£4146
Toilets upgrade	St. Andrews church Barming	£ 4000	£4000
Film Club	Headcorn village hall	£ 4000	£4000
Basketball court refurbishment	Boughton Monchelsea PC	£ 3000	£3000
Play area	Langley PC	£ 5000	£4000
Water supply	Teston Land Conservation Trust	£ 2000	£2000
Healthy living centre refurbishment	Parkwood Plus	£10,450	£7000
Switch Youth café jukebox	Maidstone BC	£ 3240	None
Storage space	Hunton Bowls club	£ 400	£400
IT project	Collier Street Parish magazine	£ 4,954	£4954
Children's play area facilities	Kent Wildlife trust	£ 8,867	None

Amount available for grants 09/10: £51,500

Amount requested: £77,476

Application forms for SCC grants are available from April 2010 for new grants. The Local Board District will consider these at a meeting in October 2010. Deadline for last applications will be September 17th 2010.

Some examples of projects funded:



Sutton Valence playarea received £4146 towards refurbishment



Fusion Healthy Living Centre received £7000 towards refurbishment



Langley Childrens playarea received £4000 towards all weather paths



Boughton Monchelsea PC received £3000 to refurbish and bring back into Use this derelict basketball court



Headcorn Village hall received £4000 towards setting up a film club for the village



Headcorn Scouts received £5000 towards a new kitchen and flooring in their new building



St. Andrews Church Barming received £4000 to upgrade the toilets in the community hall

➤ Local Schemes Grants

Awards could be made for revenue projects or for minor capital schemes, and are all one-off grants with no reliance on funding for future years. Local Schemes Grants could be used with monies awarded from the Small Community Capital Grants but the two were not interchangeable. Local Schemes Grants could also be supplemented by awards under the Member Community Grant scheme.

The criteria for LSG awards were that they:

- Support KCC's "Towards 2010" strategy and /or
- Underpin the "Vision for Kent" and Public Service Agreement and/or
- Enhance KCC's Supporting Independence Programme

The amount available for Maidstone District was **£13,400**

8 grants totalling **£13,400** were made by Kent County Council Maidstone Local Board at a meeting on 15th October.

Maidstone Local Board Local Schemes Grants 2009/10

Project	Applicant	Requested	Recommended
Office space rental	Shalom	£3,612	£1000
Film club	Headcorn village hall committee	£2000	None
Summer activities	Harmony Variety club	£4000	£2000
Anger management courses	Maidstone Mediation	£4,500	£2000

Teston land conservation trust	Insurance	£500	None
Maidstone majorettes	“Twirlmania”	£2829	None
Parkwood Plus	Youth Project	£4000	£1000
Francis Knight	Creative project space	£8252	£3000
Maidstone Women’s Support Service	Group work programmes	£7332	£2000
Loose PC	Loose youth project	£2000	£1000
Maidstone BC	SNAP club nights	£3498	£1400

Amount available for grants 09/10: £13,400

Amount requested: £41,983

Some Examples of Local Schemes grant projects:



Harmony Variety Club received £2000 towards Its Summer 2010 activity programme



Parkwood plus received £1000 towards running a youthclub in the evenings at Heather House

Specific grants to organisations working with cultural, social minority or disabled groups

Maidstone districts members devolved budgets

First aid courses	Topaz	£500
Octopus club	St Faiths church	£777
Howard de Walden centre	Nepalese boxing group	£947
New Opportunities project	Maidstone Young Families	£500
Repairs to premises	Maidstone Mencap	£500
Insurance, mobility services in shopping centre	Maidstone Town Centre Management	£372
Mobile information services	CILK (Centre for Independent Living in Kent)	£1,500

Maidstone Local Schemes

Office space rental	Shalom	£1000
Maidstone Womens Support Service	Group work programmes	£2000

Maidstone SCCP

Toilets upgrade (disabled)	St. Andrews church Barming	£4000
----------------------------	----------------------------	--------------

➤ Member Community Grants

Each Member can recommend grants from their allowance of £10,000 to be spent on local community initiatives or projects. Expenditure for each Member has, as the year progressed, been reported to meetings of the Local Board. Each member spent the full total available. A summary for each Member is shown in **Appendix two**.

Detailed analysis of members grant expenditure 2009/10

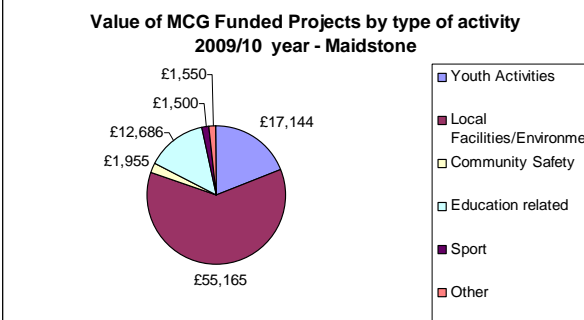
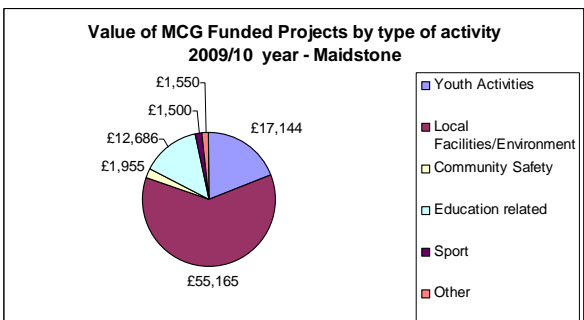
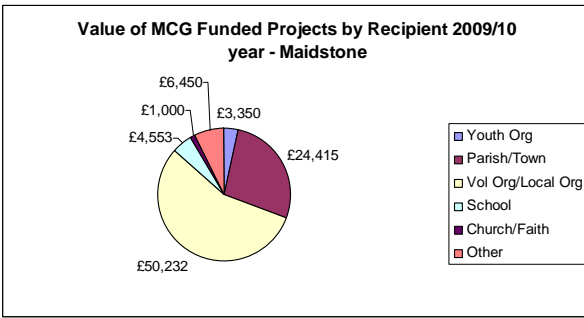
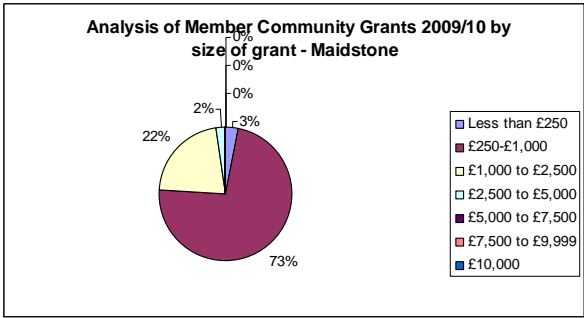
% committed	100.00%
Average per Member	£10,000
Total no. of Projects	91
Average per allocation	£989
Average no of projects per Member	10.1

<u>Count of Allocations by Beneficiary</u>	
Youth Org =	6
Parish/Town =	23
Vol Org/Local Org =	49
School =	7
Church/Faith =	1
Other =	5
Total	91

<u>Count of Allocations by Activity</u>	
Youth Activities =	18
Local Facilities/Environment =	46
Community Safety =	4
Education related =	15
Sport =	2
Other =	6
Total	91

<u>Value of Allocations by Beneficiary</u>	
Youth Org	£3,350
Parish/Town	£24,415
Vol Org/Local Org	£50,232
School	£4,553
Church/Faith	£1,000
Other	£6,450
Total	£90,000

<u>Value of Allocations by Activity</u>	
Youth Activities	£17,144
Local Facilities/Environment	£55,165
Community Safety	£1,955
Education related	£12,686
Sport	£1,500
Other	£1,550
Total	£90,000



Some examples of recipients of Devolved Budget grants



Trinity Foyer youth housing and training project received £573 towards funding a large TV



Switch Youth Café Maidstone received £480 towards kitchen equipment purchase



Sandling Village Hall received £4650 for replacement windows

General information on grants from KCC Members and the Maidstone Local Board District

There are three different sorts of funding, the Members Community Grants (MCG) the Small Community Capital Project (SCCP) grants, and the Local Schemes (LS) grants.

The Members Community Grant monies are quite easy to apply for, with a minimum of form filling and waiting. Each KCC member has £10,000 a year to be spent in the financial year April to April. The money can be used for almost anything, providing it benefits the community and the member thinks it is a good idea. Decisions are made as applications are received and can be completed in as little as a week or two. It's better to approach the member first and discuss the idea with them, rather than just submit the application cold.

The best way to find *your* local member (and MP's and District Councillors) is go to <http://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1> Then, simply type in the postcode and you will get contact details.

Small Community Capital Project Grants are for up to £20,000 per application and each district has a set amount to spend related to the population. This effectively means approximately £40-50,000 per district, so usually large grants of around £20,000 don't tend to get handed out. These grants are meant to be for capital expenditure, not revenue, and they get a better reception if they are for part funding something in partnership than for the total cost. They take longer to get decided upon and paid out than member's grants, as they have to go before the KCC Members of Tonbridge and Malling District for recommendation, then to a Cabinet member for ratification. SCCP Grants are usually a once a year application round, normally paid out around December in any financial year. **Local Schemes grants** are similar to SCCP grants but can also be used for *revenue* funding as well as small capital purchases.

KCC Maidstone Local Board District and KCC Members funding 10/11

- *Small Community Capital Grants- £51,400 are available.*
- *Local Schemes grants- £17,500 is available.*

Deadline for applications for both these schemes is September 17th 2010 (although strongly recommended applications received before this to allow for site visits, alterations to application etc.)

KCC Members Community Grants- £90,000

Made up of 9 KCC members X £10,000

Deadline for final applications 28th February 2011 subject to finance still being available.

Useful advice about Local Board and Members funding schemes:

1. Aside from Members grants, there will be no advantage in early application for the other grants. There will be a single cut off date for LS and SCCG application, **September 17th 2010**, and only one round of decisions based upon merit for each scheme. In fact, a hurried and possibly badly prepared application is likely to be detrimental.
2. “Getting an application in quick” to a member is no replacement for discussing it with the relevant member and getting a decision in principle. *Just because the project fulfils auditable requirements and criteria does not mean that a member would want to support it.*
3. The most successful applications are those where the applicant has discussed thoroughly with the relevant Community Liaison Manager their requirements, submitting it to the most relevant funding stream and then spent time on ensuring the application is legible, conforms to criteria and has the relevant documentation, approvals and signatures to back it up.
4. Website www.open4community.info/kent is extremely useful as well and could highlight other areas of funding aside from us that you could access, whilst further information on applying for funding can be found in the KCC External funding website factsheets:

www.kent.gov.uk/community_and_living/external_funding/news_and_factsheets/external_funding_factsheets.aspx



Maidstone Local Board Annual Report Appendix 1

➔ Maidstone Local Board Members

Paulina Stockell (Chairman)

Maidstone Rural West

Conservative



Farthing Green Barn
New Barn Road
Hawkenbury
Staplehurst
Kent
TN12 0EE

Telephone: 01622 842508

Email: paulina.stockell@kent.gov.uk

Jenny Whittle

Maidstone Rural East

Conservative



The Cottage
Sutton Street
Bearsted
Maidstone
ME14 4HP

Paul Carter

Maidstone Rural North

Conservative



Langley Park House
Langley
Maidstone
Kent
ME17 3NQ

Alan Chell

Maidstone South

Conservative



14 Sheppey Road
Maidstone
Kent
ME15 9SL

Malcolm Robertson
Maidstone Central
Liberal Democrat



16 Ernest Drive
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 0QS

Dan Daley
Maidstone Central
Liberal Democrat



9 Frinstead Walk
Allington
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 0NN

Eric Hotson
Maidstone Rural South
Conservative



White Willows
High Street
Staplehurst
Kent
TN12 0BL

Gary Cooke
Maidstone South East
Conservative



Hillside
Broad Street Hill
Hollingbourne
Maidstone
ME17 1QY

Ian Chittenden
Maidstone North East
Liberal Democrat



2 Blakeney Close
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 4QF

+



Maidstone Local Board District Annual Report Appendix 2 Individual Members expenditure 2009/10

➤ Paul Carter- Maidstone Rural North

Tractor barn for Bearsted Woodland Trust	£1000
Campsite cooking facilities, Boys Brigade	£500
Bearsted Parish Council Youth Forum launch	£350
Bearsted Cricket Club, new roller	£500
Joint Parish Group against KIG, operating expenses	£500
Maidstone Community Support Centre coffee shop	£1000
Sandling Village Hall replacement windows	£4650
Mobile information service, Centre for Independent Living in Kent	£1500
	£10,000

➤ Alan Chell- Maidstone South

North Loose Residents Association, playing field fencing	£543
Greenfields Primary School, "Filmsteps"	£500
Kent Goes Wild activities	£1500
Mangravet Recreation Group, design a Christmas Card competition	£627
"Keep Tovil Tidy", Tovil Parish Council	£2000
Maidstone Association of Youth transport fund	£1250
Maidstone Community Support Centre, furniture	£1000
Laptop and printer, KCC Youth Service	£500
Maidstone Mencap, repairs to hall	£500
Kents got Talent 2010	£750
Mangravet recreation Group, Bowling evening	£490
International camp, Shepway Youth Centre	£340
	£10,000

➡ **Ian Chittenden- Maidstone North East**

Ringlestone Community Association, general support	£1000
Maidstone Community Support Centre, coffee shop	£500
Topaz, first aid courses	£500
Joint Parish Group against KIG, operating expenses	£1000
Howard de Walden centre, fire alarm system	£2500
St. Faiths church, Octopus club	£777
St. Pauls Church, "Language for living"	£1000
Finch Hall maintenance, Ringlestone Community Association	£1000
Nepalese Boxing Association, Howard de Walden Centre	£947
Valley Park School, Yanomamo Production	£776
	£10,000

➡ **Gary Cooke- Maidstone South East**

Senacre Community Group, Over 50's group	£400
Rent and expenses, Maidstone Young Families	£500
Leeds PC Pavilion refurbishment	£600
Joint Parish group against KIG, operating expenses	£1000
Maidstone Young Families, "New Opportunities"	£500
Downswood Community Association, external door	£750
Parkwood plus, youth project	£1000
Downswood Parish Council roundabout landscaping	£1000
Fusion Healthy Living Centre, workshops and trips	£2500
Neighbourhood watch, new signs	£500
Switch Youth Café, equipment	£480
Downswood under 5's, equipment	£250
International camp, KCC Youth Service	£270
Willow Rise pre-school, role play project	£250
	£10,000

➡ **Dan Daley- Maidstone Central**

Maidstone Music festival	£2000
St. Francis RCP, Summer fair	£125

Dyslexia Action information event	£350
Age Concern Maidstone, Christmas parties	£150
MBC, lighting and security Giddyhorn play area	£692
Francis Knight, creative project spaces	£2500
Maidstone Community Support Centre, Coffee shop start up	£1000
St Pauls Infant school, Language for Living	£310
Westborough Bowls club, clubhouse improvement	£2300
Trinity Foyer, TV purchase	£573
	£10,000

➤ Eric Hotson- Maidstone Rural South

Play area refurbishment, Sutton Valence PC	£1500
Basket Ball Court refurbishment, Boughton Monchelsea PC	£1500
Boundary fence, Langley PC	£1000
Community Plan, Boughton Monchelsea PC	£1000
Youth Project, Loose PC	£2000
Community shop, Chart Sutton PC	£500
Planning permission, Chart Sutton PC	£500
War Memorial play area, Sutton Valence PC	£1300
Car park perimeter fencing, Langley PC	£700
	£10,000

Malcolm Robertson- Maidstone Central

St Francis RCP, Summer Fair	£125
Maidstone Community Support Centre coffee shop start up	£1000
Shalom, "Punch out in anger"	£2640
Francis Knight, Creative Project Spaces	£2500
Maidstone Mediation, publicity	£1850
MBC, Lighting and security Giddyhorn play area	£513
St Pauls CP school, Language for Living	£1000
Maidstone Town centre Project, insurance	£372
	£10,000

➤ **Paulina Stockell- Maidstone Rural West**

Barming PC, Parish Hall repairs and refurbishment	£1500
East Farleigh PC, footpath	£1500
Teston Land Conservation Trust, lock system of fences	£700
KCC Community wardens, Bicycle Safety for Children	£250
Holy Trinity Church, "Toilet and tea"	£1000
Queens Head Oddfellows fund pram race	£500
Coxheath Primary School, Playground refurbishment	£2000
KCC Community wardens, Community football	£500
Hunton PC, Parish Plan	£1000
Evergreens, Outings	£350
Television, Heathside day centre	£700
	£10,000

➤ **Jenny Whittle- Maidstone Rural East**

Film Club equipment, Headcorn village hall	£2000
Replacement flooring, Stockbury village hall	£750
Facilities maintenance, Hollingbourne Pantomime group	£1000
Kent International Gateway response, Joint Parish Group	£1000
Ulcombe village hall management committee, improvements	£1000
Hollingbourne PC, "Joe carpenter" play	£300
Broomfield and Kingswood PC, resurfacing sports field car park	£2000
Len Valley Active retirement Association. Keep fit classes	£1000
Harrietsham PC, Allotment improvements	£950
	£10,000

Appendix 3

Maidstone Neighbourhood Forum establishment

1. Maidstone Rural South West:

- KCC Electoral divisions:** Maidstone Rural West- Paulina Stockell
Maidstone Rural South- Eric Hotson
- Parish Councils MRW:** Barming, Collier Street, Coxheath, East Farleigh, Hunton, Linton, , Marden, Nettlestead, Teston, West Farleigh, Yalding. (11)
- Parish Councils MRS:** Boughton Monchelsea, Chart Sutton, Langley, Loose, Staplehurst, Sutton Valence. (6)
- Maidstone BC Wards:** Barming, Boughton Monchelsea and Chart Sutton, Coxheath and Hunton, Loose , Marden and Yalding, Staplehurst, Sutton Valence and Langley (7)

2. Maidstone Rural North East:

- KCC Electoral divisions:** Maidstone Rural East- Jenny Whittle
Maidstone Rural North- Paul Carter
- Parish Councils MRE:** Bicknor, Boughton Malherbe, Broomfield and Kingswood, Detling, East Sutton, Frinstead, Harrietsham, Headcorn, Hollingbourne, Lenham, Otterden, Hucking, Stockbury, Thurnham, Ulcombe, Wichling, Wormshill, (17)
- Parish Councils MRN:** Bearsted, Boxley, Bredhurst (3)
- Maidstone BC Wards:** Bearsted, Boxley, Detling and Thurnham, Headcorn, Harrietsham and Lenham, North Downs. (6)

3. Maidstone South East:

- KCC Electoral divisions:** Maidstone South East- Gary Cooke
Maidstone South- Alan Chell
- Parish Councils SE:** Leeds, Otham, Downswood (3)
- Parish Councils S:** Tovil
- Maidstone BC Wards:** South, Leeds, Park Wood, Shepway South, Shepway North, Downswood and Otham. (6)

4. Maidstone Central:

- KCC Electoral divisions:** Maidstone North East- Ian Chittenden
Maidstone Central- Dan Daley, Malcolm Robertson
- Parish Councils:** None
- Maidstone BC Wards:** North, East, High Street, Allington, Bridge, Heath, Fant (7)

This Annual Report has been compiled by:

Loic Flory

KCC Community Liaison Manager for Tonbridge and Malling and Maidstone



**Room 1-97, Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 8ER**

Telephone **01622 694217**, Mobile **07710 339 889** and e-mail **loic.flory@kent.gov.uk**

He will be happy to provide more detailed information on grants available through Members and the Local District Board, as well as help you make contact with your Local Member.

Further information about Kent County Council's Maidstone Local Board District can be found on the Kent County Council web site at:

<http://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=151>

Community Liaison Managers across Kent:

Ashford and Shepway: david.geoghegan@kent.gov.uk

Canterbury: jo.pannell@kent.gov.uk

Dartford: kayley.phillips@kent.gov.uk

Dover: emma.carey@kent.gov.uk

Gravesham: will.farmer@kent.gov.uk

Swale: bill.ronan@kent.gov.uk

Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells: tom.phillips@kent.gov.uk

Thanet: anne.charman@kent.gov.uk

Tonbridge and Malling and Maidstone: loic.flory@kent.gov.uk

➡ Conclusion

The KCC Maidstone Local Board District continues to work for the people of Maidstone Borough to do all it can to help make it a great place to live, work and visit. In the coming year it will be seeking to work more closely in partnership with Maidstone Borough Council, the Parish Councils, local voluntary organisations and residents to reach this aim through developing four Neighbourhood Fora which will be more local, more relevant and more outcome based to residents.