



Aylesford Parish Council

Clerk to the Council

23 Forstal Road

Aylesford, Kent

ME20 7AU

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Email: admin@aylesford-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.aylesford-pc.gov.uk

Chair Report 2025/26 Including Policy & Resources

It is my pleasure to present this year's Annual Report and to reflect on the progress and achievements we have made together over the past year.

In September 2025, we welcomed two new Councillors representing Eccles and Walderslade. I hope they have enjoyed their time with the Council so far and look forward to their continued contribution to our work and community.

The Aylesford Christmas Market once again proved to be a great success, providing local small businesses with an opportunity to showcase their products while bringing the community together in a warm and festive atmosphere. The Market Committee works tirelessly throughout the year to deliver this event, and we are extremely grateful for their continued dedication. This year's event raised £3,600 for the Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance. This will be their chosen charity of choice every year going forwards.

The Council recently commissioned an independent Health and Safety review. I am pleased to report that no major issues were identified, with only minor administrative updates required. In addition, an independent HR review has been completed to update Council policies and ensure employment contracts for new starters are fully up to date.

We continue to benefit from strong and constructive relationships with our local policing team. PC David Warner regularly attends the Parish Office to meet with the Clerk, supporting close liaison on matters affecting the community. PC Cole Brown, who covers another part of the Parish, also visits regularly. Both officers have introduced separate drop-in sessions at the Parish Office for residents, which have been very well received.

The Clerk remains dedicated to securing as much Section 106 funding as possible for the benefit of the Parish. To date, she has successfully secured £400,000 towards the proposed new changing rooms at Forstal Recreation Ground, as well as £13,903.23 towards the renewal of the Tunbury Recreation Ground play area. In addition, approximately £100,000 is currently being sought to fund a new Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at Forstal Recreation Ground, which is nearing the end of its life and will provide a more inclusive facility for children of varying disabilities.



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I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all Councillors, our Clerk, and staff for their continued hard work, support, and dedication to the community. Thanks, are also due to Tom for continuing to represent the Council at KALC meetings, the Parish Partnership Panel, the Climate Change Forum, and the Aylesford Station Adoption Group.

Finally, I would like to thank my Vice Chair, Lorna, for her unwavering support throughout my time as Chair. Her commitment to the Parish, willingness to assist whenever needed, and dedication to serving the community have been greatly appreciated. I am extremely grateful for all of her support and hard work over the past year.

Mrs Joyce Gadd

Chair

7th May 2026