



Aylesford Parish Council

Clerk to the Council

23 Forstal Road

Aylesford, Kent

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Environmental Services Annual Report for 2025/26

The allotments continue to be well used and remain popular with residents. At present, there is no waiting list for Eccles and only a small waiting list for Aylesford. The Council has invested in clearing vacant plots at both sites, with a contractor removing significant overgrowth and debris left by previous tenants, at considerable cost. Staff have worked diligently to reallocate plots as they have been cleared, ensuring continued use and accessibility for residents.

The proposed new changing rooms at the Forstal Recreation ground have not yet commenced and are currently progressing through the planning approval process with Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMBC). The Clerk has successfully secured £400,000 in Section 106 funding towards the overall cost of the project.

In addition, the Clerk has also secured £13,903.23 of Section 106 funding for the refurbishment of Tunbury Recreation Ground play area. The current design proposals have an estimated cost of £79,968.30.

Work is also ongoing to secure funding for the play area at The Hollow, Aylesford (locally known as The Pitt), with the FCC Communities Foundation being explored as a potential funding source. Current plans for this site indicate a project cost of £95,595.59.

Improvement works have also been delivered across several sites. Four new solid oak planters have been built and installed in Blue Bell Hill, with ongoing maintenance and planting to be undertaken by local residents.

A new picnic bench has been installed at Tunbury Recreation Ground, funded through a combination of Kent County Councillor Kennedy's Members' Grant and Section 106 contributions. Additionally, the outdoor gym equipment at Tunbury Recreation Ground, specifically the leg press, was replaced after being damaged beyond repair. The new installation is a more modern unit, similar to that installed at Forstal Recreation Ground last year.

Looking ahead to 2026/27, the Clerk will continue to pursue further Section 106 funding opportunities to support a range of local recreational projects. These funds remain vital in maintaining and improving our play areas and recreation grounds for the benefit of the community.



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I would like to extend my thanks to all staff for their continued hard work and dedication, Lee Randall (Maintenance Supervisor), Melanie Randall (Clerk), and Claire Goodayle (Administrative Assistant) consistently go above and beyond in their roles to help ensure the Parish remains a welcoming and well-maintained place to live, work, and visit.

I would also like to thank the volunteer litter pickers who do an amazing job helping to look after the community, making it a nicer place.

Allan Sullivan
Chair of Environmental Services