

Notes on Parish Partnership Panel May 28th 2026

Held in Council Chamber, both in person and on Teams. I attended in person as although I received a reminder in the form of an apology from the police for not attending, I never received the Teams link.

Before the meeting started, I asked what the reaction was to the Daily Mail story about traveller activity in West Malling. <https://www.dailymail.com/news/article-15790939/Bank-Holiday-land-grabs-travellers-millionaires.html> and <https://www.dailymail.com/news/article-15848561/Travellers-wage-Bank-Holiday-land-grabs.html> . Nobody I asked knew anything about it, including Cllr Des Keers who was sitting behind me. However, the representative of West Malling Parish Council knew about it and confirmed the stories were true.

When the meeting started, I found Aylesford was down as an apology. However, I was there and recorded my presence.

Cllr Michelle Tatton was in the chair in person.

Cllr Roger Dalton was reappointed as chair

Michelle Tatton was reappointed as vice chair

Vice chair parishes, Sue Butterfield was elected

The police did not attend but sent a long written report before the meeting.

Des Keers began the meeting by pushing the Safer Neighbourhoods Team to be delivered by TMS Protection. We were told they will make a visit to parishes who have contributed. But will also cover the whole borough.

We had a contract overview from one of the TMS personnel. They have some powers e.g. to stop cycles and require names and addresses. She read from a prepared script. Somebody asked about where they could stop cyclists.

Sarah Barker. She said she was not clear how this would help with Anti Social Behaviour. She asked as to how to report problems. Des answered that the police should still be the first point of call. He said he would provide lists of contact numbers etc.

Platt Council asked about dealing with dog poo. Des indicated that this was not a priority.

I asked whether they could take action about the traveller activity as described in the Daily Mail and large scale fly tipping.

Des said the TMS activity was there mainly to provide community reassurance. Other council teams dealt with traveller activity and fly tipping.

Paul Hickmott said Snodland was not supporting the scheme although they did have ASB problems. He made a remark about people, "who come out when the sun was shining".

There was a description of the procedure re increasing Stansted Parish Council from 7 to 9 representatives. A consultation produced a 6.4% response rate of whom 80% approved the increase.

James Bailey. Local Plan. Concern re water resources management plan 24 to meet development requirements. There will be an all areas combined planning meeting on June 24th. The water supply and planning applications page is at <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/planning/water-supply-planning-applications> . The council is looking for a "Grampian style" condition for residential developments of 30 houses or more or commercial developments of 3,000 square metres or more.

The action plan was said to be set out on the TMBC website. A graduate planner will be joining the team in September.

James hoped that the going back to the old computer system will be completed by mid June.

Regulation 18 consultation closed on Jan 2nd. Reg 19 will close on 3rd September. It will go out to consultation on 10th September.

There will be conservation area consultations.

Mike Taylor said the council cannot refuse a planning application on the basis of water supply but can prevent houses being sold if there is not enough water.

There was a question about local transport which the questioner said was "Pathetic".

Answer. Government policy has changed significantly. There will nonetheless still be an active travel plan. Comment re one bus a week to a village. James said the plan related to the new communities and not the existing ones.

Mike said we do not know what the government is going to do about the water shortage.

Harry Rayner spoke about shortage of money for buses. With regard to the water problem, he said it is really important that, "We take the electors with us". Re the Borough Green development, he spoke about developers going bust and land owners who "could not agree about the colour of an orange."

Matt Boughton said the council is taking legal advice re handling the water issues.

He also suggested that if the water company "could fix the leaks", there would be enough water. He said they needed to make sure that, "We have every piece of evidence that is possible".

Mike Taylor said the current time for local plans to get through the examination system is 22 to 24 months

West Malling Parish Council suggested that the only organisation that can answer about water availability is South East Water and referred to various past and present water shortage problems in the borough including those in his parish.

James referred to a present policy of requiring 100 to 110 litres per person per day. It sounded as if South East Water might be trying to reduce this figure to 900.

Robin Betts. Climate Change. Air pollution levels are all now below national limits, except in Wateringbury.

Green Business Grants Round 6. 12 applications were received with 11 projects awarded funding. There will be another round.

Tetra Pak cartons can now be put into the recycling bin.

Anti idling: Signage now up at Tunbury School.

2000 trees have been planted since January. Roadside Nature Reserves have been established.

Taddington Valley work has been undertaken

Coppicing has been undertaken in Walderslade and Kings Hill.

2 residents in Aylesford borrowed the TMBC thermal camera.

Climate Action Shipbourne and Plaxtol Eco Fair was a great success.

Climate Change Forum: Please share upcoming events and help us build a directory of Repair Cafes.

Sarah asked about latest LGR timings slipping. Matt Boughton confirmed this.

Mike asked for information about any bits of land that parishes know about that might be lost with LGR that could potentially be transferred to parishes.

Matt brought up how it was still unclear how parish councils will fit into the new LGR structures. Awaiting information on the new geographies. He said the KCC OFFICERS have been very cooperative.

Next KALC meeting will be on July 9th

Next PPP will be on August 29th.

Tom Shelley May 29th 2026