

REPORT TO WOULDHAM PARISH COUNCIL 1st April 2025

By the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councillors for

**Aylesford North and North Downs Ward
Councillors Dave Davis, Alex McDermott and Roger Dalton**

COUNCIL TAX 25/26

1. The Council Tax for a Band D, Wouldham, property for next year is £2338.75. This is made up of the following elements:
 - a. KCC £1691.19
 - b. Kent ant Medway Fire and Rescue Authority. £94.86
 - c. Kent Police and Crime Commissioner £270.15.
 - d. Consolidated TMBC, Special Items and Parish precepts £282.55. The TMBC element of this is a rise of 3% or £7.14 for a Band D household.

NEW FREEMAN OF THE BOROUGH

2. At the TMBC Full Council, on the 8th April, Royal British Legion Industry will become a Freeman of the Borough. We look forward to this honour being conferred on this most deserving institution.

LOCAL PLAN – UPDATE

3. TMBC MEMBER / PARISH COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT PLAN

4. There have been no further updates since our last report. The need to prepare for Regulation 18 remains and we will be ready to take any questions you have at your meeting.

DEVOLUTION

5. There has been no further update devolution since last time.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS IN PROGRESS

Common Road Blue Bell Hill

6. This is just outside your parish boundary in Burham and Aylesford.
7. Your longer serving members, may recall Barron Deschaeur who bought a field to the northeast of Common Road which is split by a footpath. The area to the southeast of the footpath is in Aylesford parish and to northwest is in Burham Parish. This land was split up into what was sold across the world as “building plots” although the chances of ever getting any planning permission with present planning laws is close to non-existent.
8. TMBC’s original reaction back in 2012 was to serve an Article 4 Direction on the whole field removing all permitted development rights. Nothing can be built and no change of use can take place on any part of the field without planning permission from TMBC.
9. Recently there have been some activity there with crude building materials being dumped and some spray-painting marking being made that has cause local concern.
10. There may also be attempts to sell plots of land though it is not clear if the sellers own the land. 0
11. This is now an active enforcement case.

TMBC ASB REDUCTION & PC INVOLVEMENT

12. We reported last month on the highly success work TMBC's ASB Team have done to reduce ASB by a third across the Borough. (See Parish Comparisons below)

13. As a result, TMBC won a National Silver Award for this work.

Parish Comparisons

14. The following table shows the ASB incidents by Ward (April 2024 – September 2024) when to new ASB team were in and working. The table was created using Kent Police data

15.. TMBC saw the greatest reduction across the whole of Kent last year.

	2023	2024	+ / -	%
Aylesford North & North Downs Ward	74	43	-31	-41.89%
Aylesford South & Ditton Ward	70	54	-16	-22.86%
Birling, Leybourne & Ryarsh Ward	49	18	-31	-63.27%
Borough Green & Platt Ward	23	26	3	13.04%
Bourne Ward	21	13	-8	-38.10%
Cage Green & Angel Ward	108	72	-36	-33.33%
East and West Peckham, Mereworth & Watlingbury Ward	29	22	-7	-24.14%
East Malling, West Malling & Offham Ward	62	74	12	19.35%
Higham Ward	17	23	6	35.29%
Hildenborough Ward	16	14	-2	-12.50%
Judd Ward	114	60	-54	-47.37%
Kings Hill Ward	46	22	-24	-52.17%
Larkfield Ward	126	41	-85	-67.46%
Pilgrims with Ightham Ward	66	54	-12	-18.18%
Snodland East & Ham Hill Ward	58	66	8	13.79%
Snodland West & Holborough Lakes Ward	83	36	-47	-56.63%
Trench Ward	48	35	-13	-27.08%
Vauxhall Ward	36	33	-3	-8.33%
Miscellaneous	3	1	-2	-66.67%
Total ASB	1,049	707	-342	-32.60%

Parishes in red are signed up for next year.