

Bearsted Road Reconstruction - Update 2024

The three-year delay to this project resulting from design changes and for other reasons resulted in a continuing increase in local traffic congestion. Recent ongoing closures and restrictions along the M20 and intermittent closures of Ware Street have added to these difficulties for local residents and others passing through Maidstone.

Following persistent and continuing pressure on the County Council from Local Lib Dem Councillors and others we can now confirm that the full contract for the construction contract has finally been awarded to 'Colas'.

An early works instruction was given two months ago allowing the site compound to be put in place and the Crematorium drainage outfall work, which is now nearly complete, to proceed.



Drainage work to the site compound area will start on the 18th September and work in the field and areas to the East of Newnham court Shopping Village and businesses i.e., drainage, internal access roads and the eastern retaining wall will be started shortly. We are told, all of this work can be completed with minimal impact to the travelling public on Bearsted Road.

The construction period for the main works is October 2023 to November 2024, although KCC are exploring opportunities to reduce this with the contractor. KCC are finalising the updates to a newsletter, which will be distributed widely across the local area.

Cllr Hannah Perkin selected to fight next general election in Faversham and Mid Kent



"I speak to many life long Conservative voters who are walking away from them and looking for change across the Country"

Hannah Perkin has been selected by local Liberal Democrats to take on the complacent Conservative MP at the next General Election. As well as being a local Councillor, Hannah is a trustee of multiple local charities and devotes much of her time to helping others.

Hannah said; " I feel very honoured to have been selected to represent the Lib Dems in Faversham and Mid Kent. I live and work in the Constituency and have been a Councillor in Faversham for five years. Our area deserves better, this Conservative Government have crashed the economy, our NHS is on it's knees, we are all facing the cost of living crisis and water companies are being allowed to pump thousands of litres of sewage into our rivers and seas.

I speak to many people on the doorsteps who have voted Conservative their entire lives and will never support them again. Residents are ready for change and I will work hard to listen, to act and to demand better for everyone that lives here"

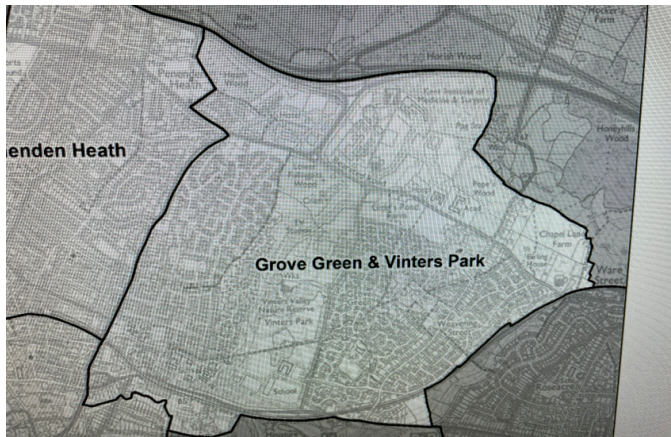
Aldi Planning application refused.

At the August Planning Committee meeting Borough Councillors discussed the controversial Planning application for a new ALDI at Newnham Court. Although there was some public support there were also numerous objections, partly on highways grounds from Local Residents. The Planning Committee eventually voted eleven votes to one abstention to refuse the application on a motion proposed by Liberal Democrat Councillor Clive English.

The proposal was contrary to the Maidstone Borough Local Plan, which designated the site for Employment related to medical and scientific purposes and related activities. Retail was explicitly ruled-out by the relevant land use policy.

The application site was also located on a plateau within the foreground of the protected Kent Downs AONB. The intensive retail use proposing a supermarket and large car park left little room for vital landscaping and would therefore harm iconic views of the hills.

Such a significant retail development would further overload the already congested road network.



Boundary changes all round.

Following the Review of Maidstone Council Ward boundaries, Grove Green will no longer be part of Boxley ward and will join with Vinters for next year's Borough Council elections with three Borough Councillors. This change will be formally confirmed by parliament in October and full Register of Electors and detailed boundary changes will be published by the Borough Council on the first of December ready for the 2024 Borough Council elections.

Having completed one Review, the Borough is now looking at Parish boundaries. Currently it is proposed to move the area around Orchard Drive south into Grove Green and to remove Lombardy Drive and Bargrove Road into Vinters from Boxley Parish. Proposals are also to come forward to amend the boundary of the Grove Green part of Boxley and Thurnham Parish.

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