

REPORT TO WOULDHAM PARISH COUNCIL 9th APRIL 2024

By the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councillors for

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

NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. The process for finding a successor to Julie Beilby is now complete and there were about 30 applicants for the post which were trimmed down to a shortlist of 10 then 5. It reflects well on the Council that so many have applied because it can be difficult to attract suitable candidates for this role at tier 2 council level.
2. The incoming CEO is Damian Roberts who is Chief Executive of Surrey Heath Borough Council. He has an impressive CV and welcomed by all who were on the selection panels.

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY CHANGES

3. The new parliamentary boundaries covering your parish are at Annex A for Chatham and Aylesford and at Annex B for Maidstone and Malling. Better details can be found at:

<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/interactive-map/>

4. **Tracey Crouch.** As you will be aware, Tracey Crouch will not be seeking re-election for Chatham and Aylesford. She has been an exceptional champion for our community and had a national reputation through her work on loneliness, fixed odds betting terminals, cancer and her Independent Review into Football Governance. We have always found her willing to help or give advice on ward matters and casework and she will be greatly missed by many of our residents.

COUNCIL TAX

5. Residents will have received their Council Tax bills by now. This bill covers the tax due to KCC, KCC Adult Social Care, TMBC, Wouldham Parish Precepts, Kent & Medway Fire Authority and Kent Police including the Police and Crime Commissioner.
6. From April 2025 Council Taxpayers can pay in 12 monthly instalments, if they wish, instead of the normal 10 monthly payments by emailing: revenues@tmbc.gov.uk. This option has now closed for the coming financial year. Once the request is made there is no need to make it each year it will roll over.

7. TMBC Element of Council Tax 2024/25.

- a. At the last full Council meeting on 20 January members unanimously approved a budget for the new financial year starting in April. TMBC part of the Council Tax bills will increase by just under £7 to £238 a year or £4.58 a week for a typical Band D property. This is an increase of 3 per cent on the current year which compares to 5% increases for KCC and Kent Police whose budgets continue to make up the bulk of the average annual Band D Council Tax in the Borough of £2266.
- b. TMBC's medium term financial strategy is addressing a forecast funding gap of £1.7m over the next four years. Savings and efficiencies in the current year totalled £195,000 with a further £305,000 planned for the next financial year. Unlike many councils, as has been widely reported in the media, TMBC is debt free and in a good position to invest in both core services and schemes to deliver improvements for the Borough's residents.

AGILE

8. In our last reports, we have explained the move over to Agile as the administrative computer program for much of TMBC's work.
9. This is very much work in progress and things are improving but the work is complex and slow.

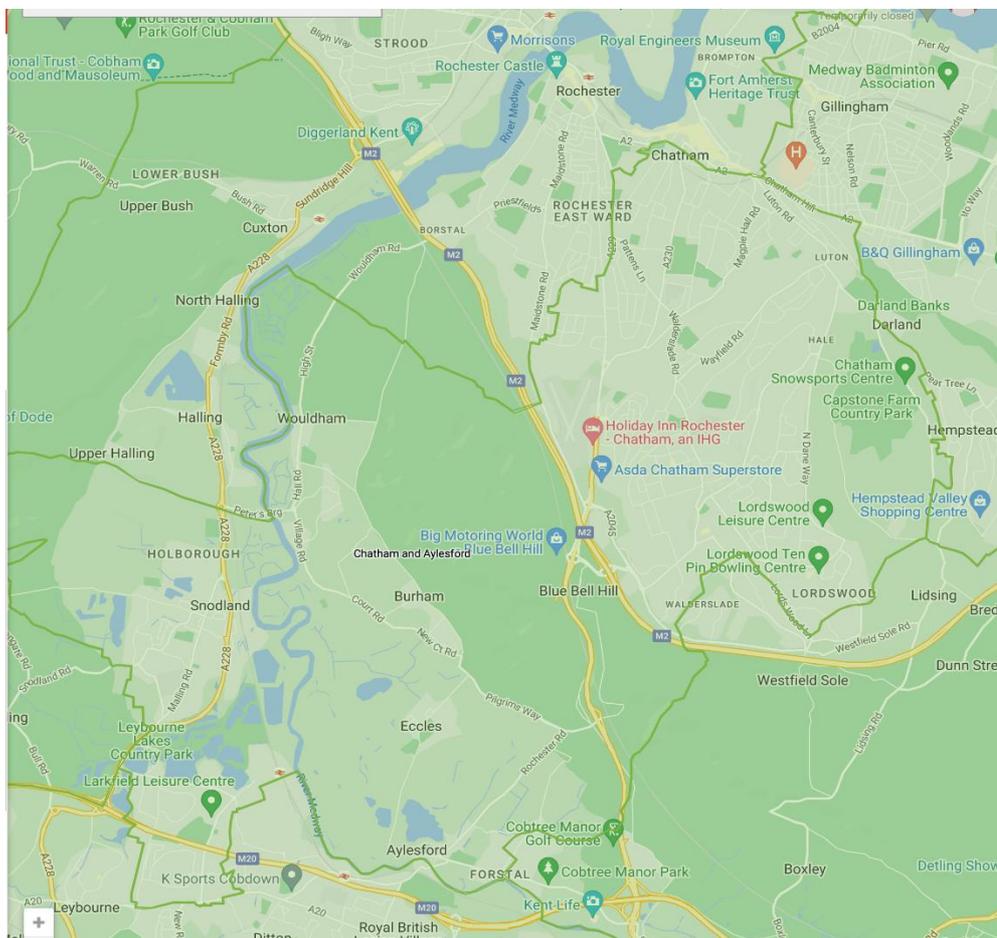
22/00113/OAEA LAND AT ECCLES, EAST & WEST OF BULL LANE ECCLES

10. This application is mainly in the parish of Aylesford but there are some road issues in Burham. These road changes will help those coming from Peters Village going towards the A229.
11. At present TMBC are waiting for the award of appeal costs as final closure on the Trenport's successful appeal to build on the Land at Eccles and West of Bull Lane. Costs have not been finally resolved but is nearing a conclusion.
12. Considerable planning work is being done in the background.
13. The details of the road layouts in the Burham area were set out in the Planning Appeal Hearing in October and given firm approval.
14. At present we have no start date for these road works but they are liable to be early in the this project as the rest of the development depends on the new road system being in place before construction starts.
15. All documents available can be seen at:

<https://planning.agileapplications.co.uk/tmbc/application-details/4826>.

ANNEX A - REPORT TO WOULDHAM PARISH COUNCIL 9th APRIL 2024

CHATHAM & AYLESFORD PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY MAP



ANNEX B

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MAIDSTONE & MALLING PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY MAP

