

## Maidstone Borough Council

### Personal Details:

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### Comment text:

Yalding Parish Council fully supports Maidstone Borough Council's latest recommendation for a three member Marden and Yalding Ward comprising the parishes of Collier Street, Hunton, Linton, Marden, Nettlestead and Yalding. Yalding and Collier Street have strong, historical community engagement; they share the ecclesiastical benefice of St Peter and St Paul Yalding, with St Mary's Laddingford and St Margaret's Collier Street; until 1999, Collier Street (part) was in Yalding Parish so we continue to share the benefit and management of The Alms Houses, as well as the other Yalding Charities of Relief in Need, Relief in Sickness and the Education Foundation. The other part of Collier Street was in Marden Parish and the two parishes still have a strong affiliation. All of the parishes within the proposed Ward, with the exception of Linton, are adversely affected by severe flooding from the River Medway and/or its tributaries, the Rivers Beult and Teise. A large part of our parishes sit on the functional flood plain, Flood Zone 3b, and are represented on the Medway Flood Partnership. Collier Street, Hunton, Nettlestead and Yalding come together at such times to monitor the flood severity and to ensure we keep our residents safe. We have been given the authority, and the equipment needed, by Kent Police, in conjunction with Kent County Council, to close roads in our parishes as needed and it is hoped to extend this further into Marden. Close contact at such times is essential to ensure we close linked roads at the same time. Collaboration is a vital tool in the school improvement arsenal. It can be used to improve teaching and learning, leadership, and use of data and assessment. It works best when partners have similar characteristics, are nearby and both sides are fully committed at all levels as happens with Collier Street, Hunton, Laddingford (in Yalding parish) and Yalding schools. We believe the proposed hierarchy of a Rural Service Centre, a larger village and four smaller villages can be well represented with three Members rather than perhaps a one member and a two member Ward. We urge LGBCE, please, to look favourably on our request to support the links between communities as above.

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded