

UNDERSTAND HOW YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL'S WORK

Borden Parish Council

The Parish Council is the most local tier of government. It is made up of up to 13 elected or co-opted residents who volunteer their time, without payment, to represent the community and help improve life in the parish.

The Council's role is to maintain and improve local facilities, help shape the future of Borden, and promote the well-being of residents. It acts as the voice of the community, working with other authorities and organisations to ensure local concerns are heard.

While the Parish Council works hard to represent residents' interests, it does not have direct responsibility for many public services such as roads, schools, waste collection or housing. These services are provided by Swale Borough Council or Kent County Council. However, the Parish Council regularly works with the Borough and County Councils and Kent Police to raise local concerns and advocate on behalf of residents.

What Responsibilities Does the Parish Council Have?

The Parish Council is responsible for a range of local facilities, services and community initiatives, including:

- ❖ Meeting monthly to consider local matters and to make decisions on how public funds are spent for the benefit of the community. Residents are welcome to attend; dates and times are available on the Council's website www.bordenparishcouncil.gov.uk.
- ❖ Setting an annual budget and raising a precept (part of the Council Tax) to fund local services and activities.
- ❖ Providing and maintaining local facilities, including some street lighting and the public toilet at Playstool.
- ❖ Managing and maintaining community open spaces, including:
 - Memorial Gardens
 - Playstool Recreation Ground
 - Children's Play Area
 - Sports Pitches
 - Woodland Areas
 - Nature Reserve
- ❖ Commenting as consultees on local planning applications to ensure local knowledge and community views are taken into account.
- ❖ Working with Kent County Council on road safety initiatives, including speed reduction measures.
- ❖ Exercising limited powers in relation to certain byelaw-related offences.
- ❖ Fly-tipping.
- ❖ Liaising with Kent Police to raise local concerns and arrange community engagement events and police surgeries.
- ❖ Organising community events and celebrations.

Borden Parish Councillors are:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| ▪ Jeremy Bolas (Chair) | • James Tumber |
| ▪ Nicola Butlin (Vice Chair) | • Charlotte Wallace |
| ▪ Mike Baldock | • Vacancy 1 |
| ▪ Eileen Harrison | • Vacancy 2 |
| ▪ John Hepburn | • Vacancy 3 |
| ▪ Brian Jemmett | • Vacancy 4 |
| ▪ Stephen Palmer | |

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Which Council Is Responsible?

Local government services are delivered by three different levels of council. The table below explains briefly which authority is responsible for key services.

Information from www.gov.uk/understand-how-your-council-works/decision-making

Service Area	Parish, Community & Town Council's	District, Borough & City Councils	County Council's
Allotments	✓		
Public clocks	✓		
Bus shelters	✓		
Community centres	✓		
Play areas and equipment	✓		
Grants to help local organisations			
Planning applications	✓ (consultee)	✓ (decision maker)	
Household waste and recycling collection		✓	
Recycling		✓	
Council tax collections		✓	
Housing		✓	
Leisure centres and borough facilities		✓	
Education			✓
Transport			✓
Planning			✓
Fire and public safety			✓
Social care			✓
Libraries			✓
Waste management			✓
Trading standards			✓

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