



Aylesford

PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL,
Council Offices, 23 Forstal Road,
Aylesford, Kent ME20 7AU
Telephone: 01622 717084
Email: admin@aylesford-pc.gov.uk
www.aylesford-pc.gov.uk

Environmental Services Annual Report for 2024/25

This past year, we've continued our efforts to ensure that every part of our Parish remains a clean, safe, and welcoming place for everyone to enjoy—whether you're playing sport, walking the dog, enjoying the children's play areas, or simply relaxing outdoors.

Our **allotments** remain popular and well-used, and I am pleased to share that our staff have worked hard this year to speed up allocations and reduce waiting times. There are still plots available in Eccles, and a small waiting list continues for Aylesford.

I am pleased to report that our Parish Clerk has successfully secured over **£400,000 in S106 funding** that will go towards a proposed new changing room block by the 3G pitch at Forstal Recreation Ground, further supporting our growing sports and leisure offerings. An additional **£40,000** in S106 funding has also been secured for future enhancements across the Parish, focusing on play areas, open spaces, and outdoor sport.

At the end of 2024/25 the Parish installed new **Outdoor Gym Equipment** on Forstal Recreation Ground. The cost was **£41,728.16** and was funded using **S106 funds**. The old equipment had been in place for 15 years and was at the end of its life.

The **Cemetery** has now reached full capacity for new coffin/ashes burials. However, we will continue to accommodate second or subsequent burials in existing graves and interments of ashes, ensuring a respectful and dignified service for families.

The **Christmas Market** has become a much-loved annual tradition, and 2024's event was another great success! Thanks to the tireless work of the Market Committee, the event raised **£5,673.69**, with **£2,150.00** donated to support various local good causes.

While I am saddened to see the newly planted trees at Tunbury Recreation Ground affected by repeated vandalism, we remain committed to enhancing and protecting our green spaces for future generations.

I am pleased to share that the rear car park behind the Parish Office has had an upgrade. It is now tarmacked, clearly white-lined and had drainage installed so it is now accessible all year round.



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I would also like to take a moment to recognise the dedication and hard work of our **Maintenance Supervisor, Lee Randall**. He works tirelessly to ensure all our sites are well-kept and looking their best. We are grateful for his continued efforts in maintaining our parks and open spaces to such a high standard.

I would like to thank my Vice Chair, Susan Dorrington, our dedicated fellow Councillors, and especially to our Clerk, Melanie Randall, and Admin Assistant, Claire Goodayle, for everything they do behind the scenes to make our Parish such a lovely place.

Looking ahead to 2025/26, the Clerk will continue working hard to secure funding, especially S106 and Grants to help fund some new play equipment at The Hollow, Aylesford, and Tunbury Recreation Ground. These upgrades will help ensure that our play areas remain vibrant, fun, and inclusive for all children and families to enjoy for years to come.

Thank you to all residents for your continued support and pride in our community.

Joyce Gadd
Chairman of Environmental Services