

Palace Wood matters



2024: A BIG YEAR FOR Palace Wood

Autumn and Winter have been busy and productive months for **Cllr. Stan Forecast** and **Cllr. Tom Cannon**. Whilst 2023 was a hectic year with national and local issues, your Maidstone Borough Councillors **Stan** and **Tom** will continue the hard work delivering results in 2024.

On the first weekend in December Stan was delighted to spend Saturday afternoon volunteering at the St Nicholas Church Christmas Market which was a fantastic and well-attended event to raise funds for this community asset. Thank you to the organisers.

Tom has also supported St Nicholas Church, helping to fund the new Tommy and Mabel silhouettes through his KCC Community Fund. Made by Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI) in Aylesford, Tom was over the moon to have positioned the silhouettes in place in time for Remembrance Sunday.

Tom said *"Many villages and communities have Tommys as focal points for local remembrance. We called the project **Allington Remembers** and is on the base of our Tommy and Mabel. The idea was to provide a focal point in Allington. Maidstone has a proud history as a military town and I was keen we also put the new RBLI Women at War silhouette alongside our new Tommy."*

Stan joined the Friends of Palace Wood School and volunteered at the drinks stall during the Christmas Laser light show where every penny raised goes towards the betterment of the school and the children's education. Stan said *"My local school days were the best of my life and it was a privilege to help give something back."*

If you would like to get in touch, or need assistance with any matter, our contact details are below.

We hope to hear from you soon, but in the meantime, our best wishes for 2024.

Tom Cannon & Stan Forecast

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New Allington Remembers Silhouettes at St Nicholas.



Stan Volunteers at the Christmas Laser Lights Show



Tom funded funds from where? some of the fantastic flowers and planters for Maidstone.



Tom works to keep Tovil Tip open to stop traffic shift to Allington.



Stan Forecast and Helen Grant MP volunteering at the St Nicholas Church Christmas Market.

A great place to live and work

For Stan and Tom, Local Government is not about grandstanding or playing politics but delivering for the town they call home. **Hardworking taxpayers** expect their streets to be tidy, safe and clean and that's why we work hard to actually deliver for you.

Cllr Forecast has delivered new road signs on **Mountsfield Close** and **Riverhead Close**, new waste bins on **Braunstone Drive**, **Queens Road**, and **Freshlands** as well as incoming double Yellow Lines at the turning circle on **Maple Avenue**.

The new **no. 60 Bus** from Hermitage Park into town and back is a much-welcomed new service to the area. However, it is crucial we avoid a dangerous 'rat run' between the estate and Howard Drive. The plans for the gate were discussed before Stan and Tom were elected in 2021 but we have stepped up and organised that the bus gate is now locked overnight and at the weekend. Both Stan and Tom have the long-term aim of getting KCC to install Number Plate cameras at the gate and will keep residents updated. We will implement what should have been clearly planned from the start by former councillors.



Tom Cannon has 'TRUE GRIT'

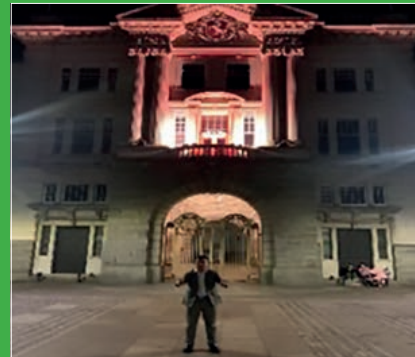


You may have seen new Grit Bins popping up across Allington like mushrooms. Tom managed to negotiate almost **20 new gritting salt bins ahead of winter, using allowances for community use and a bit of arm-twisting.**

Tom said "I am delighted to share that I have secured new grit bins for Palace Wood. **I have paid for them from my limited Councillor Community Fund** as KCC policy is not to install any more grit bins. But after residents raised issues with me last winter, I thought we really need to get better provision in place on our residential roads for this winter".

This first wave means we have new bins in place and possibly more in the pipeline. Lots of work has been undertaken to find locations that meet regulation and guidance but thankfully this winter **we will have better pro-vision across Maidstone and Allington.**

Championing Hometown Hero's and Sport



Maidstone is home to some elite talent and local sport is the beating hearts of their communities. Maidstone United have reached historic heights in the FA Cup this year and last summer hometown lioness, Alessia Russo, and her teammates inspired the entire nation. Stan Forecast successfully put forward a motion to full council to award Alessia freedom of the Borough, recognising her inspirational impact across Maidstone.

In June, **Helen Grant MP** and **Stan Forecast** presented the Palace Wood u11 girls' team with a congratulatory letter from the Minister for Sport following their National League Trust cup triumph so we could have our next generation of lionesses on our doorstep very soon!

In January, Helen, Tom, and Stan met with Maidstone Lawn Tennis Club of Poplar Park and offered their complete support to do all the can to ensure the future of this vital Tennis Club.

Stopping over-development in Allington

Since both being elected in 2021, Tom and Stan have been **steadfastly committed to protecting greenspaces and local infrastructure** in and around Hermitage Lane.

That's why Stan was the only Maidstone Councillor at the planning committee to **vote against the application for 106 houses on Beaver Road**. Tom also spoke up at the KCC regulation committee to **help secure Bungyards Farm as a permanent village green** for Allington so we keep one of the last green spaces between Aylesford and Maidstone.

Stan and Tom have been working cross party and persistently lobbied KCC in favour of the village green application for this land which would protect it from a pending planning of 435 more homes. In September 2023, KCC deferred the application to a public inquiry which will be considered this spring. **Stan and Tom will do all they can to protect this and other green spaces in West Maidstone.**



PUTTING RESIDENTS FIRST