



One Approved, Eleven Still Waiting

On 15 September Medway signed off one of the 54 conditions on the Church Street land, the first since March 2025, without referring to any of the twelve objections on the file. The committee has asked it to look again and to answer by 30 September. One closing date falls this month, on 24 September. It is the one that settles what replaces the recreation ground.

FOR THE GROUP 18 SEPTEMBER 2026

PART ONE

What happened since 11 September

- 1 Medway approved the drainage scheme.** The decision notice on MC/26/1459 was issued on 15 September. It discharges condition 32 for all phases of the development, thirteen days before Medway's own target date of 28 September. Before this only three of the 54 conditions imposed when the appeal was allowed had ever been discharged, the most recent in March 2025.
- 2 The committee has asked Medway to look at it again.** A letter went to the case officer on 16 September asking the council to publish its record of the decision, to answer twelve questions in writing and to say by 30 September whether it will look at the decision again. It is on the website to read.
- 3 Comments closed on the remediation scheme and it has not been decided.** MC/26/1542, conditions 20 to 23, closed on 16 September. Fourteen people commented on it, all of them objecting. Medway's own target date for deciding it is 8 October.

- 4 Residents wrote in, in numbers.** On 11 September the replacement recreation ground had five people commenting on Medway's file and the six new September applications had none between them. By 18 September the recreation ground had eleven and the six had eighteen. Seven letters were published on the recreation ground file on 13, 14 and 15 September.
- 5 Nothing new has come from the developer.** No document from the applicant has been added to any of the Church Street files since 8 September and no new application has appeared on that land.

PART TWO

Where things stand

CONDITIONS DISCHARGED

4

of the 54 imposed
on appeal

WAITING FOR A DECISION

11

applications on the
Church Street land

ON THE RECREATION GROUND

11

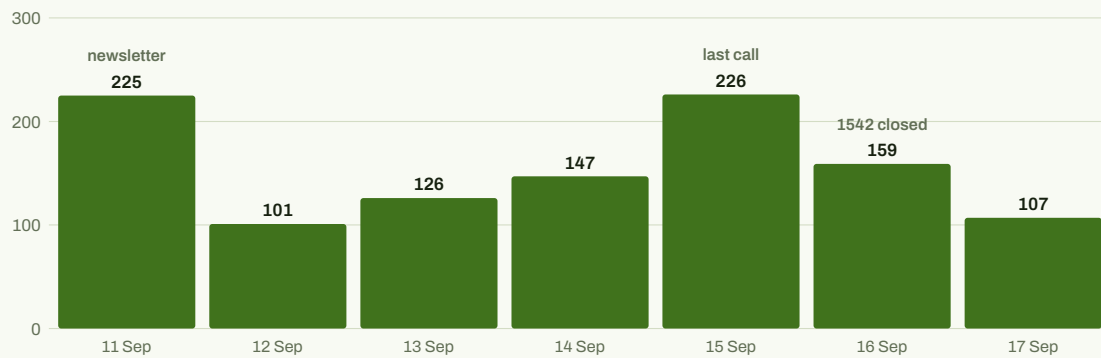
people
commenting,
against five on 11
September

ON THE SIX FROM SEPTEMBER

18

people
commenting,
against none on 11
September

The four figures belong together. Medway took thirteen days off its own timetable to approve the drainage scheme and its notice refers to none of the twelve objections made on it. Over the same week the number of people commenting on the other Church Street files that were open on 11 September went from fourteen to forty-three. Comments made early are on the file when the officer sits down to decide. Comments made at the last minute may not be.



These bars are visits, which is to say people, not page hits. A page hit counts every load of every page by anybody or anything: on 14 September the site recorded 952 of them from 147 visits, which is why the group quotes visits and not the larger number.

PART THREE

What it actually means

01 A condition was discharged without a word about the objections

Twelve people commented on MC/26/1459, all of them objecting. The decision notice gives one reason for approval: that the details submitted have been reviewed and are considered acceptable. No officer report and no consultee response has been published with it. The file holds the application, the drainage drawings and calculations, a covering letter and the notice itself.

Condition 32 was the gateway condition on drainage and it is now discharged for every phase at once. The Phase 2 ground investigation filed with the remediation application, MC/26/1542, says that shallow soakaways into the chalk would not be a viable way of getting rid of surface water. The committee's letter of 16 September asks Medway to explain how it reached its decision.

02

Most of the group's September objections are not on Medway's public file

On 9 September the group sent objections to MC/26/1720, MC/26/1721, MC/26/1722, MC/26/1723 and MC/26/1724. As at 18 September none of the five appears on the document list for any of those applications. What those files do show is objections from individual residents, published on 14 and 16 September.

The group's objection to the travel plan, MC/26/1719, was published on 11 September. On the recreation ground, MC/26/1646, both of the group's letters are on the file but under the wrong names. The objection of 7 September is listed as a statutory response from the parish council. The supplementary objection of 8 September is listed under a misspelling of the group's name that was on the letter itself.

A resident reading those files today cannot see most of what the group has said. The group is asking Medway to put the missing letters on the files and correct the labels. Every one of the group's objections can be read on its website, on the page for each application.

03

The village does comment when it is asked plainly

Comments on the recreation ground went from five people to eleven in a week. On the six September applications they went from none to eighteen. Between 14 and 16 September the buttons on the website that open Medway's comment form were used fifty-one times. Twenty-eight of those were for MC/26/1542, in the three days before it closed.

That is the evidence for how to spend the next fortnight. One application closes on 24 September and it is the one that decides what Cliffe gets in place of the recreation ground. Six more close on 1 and 2 October.

What to do about it

Four dated things and one standing habit. Three of them are closing dates. The first is the most important of the month.

Wednesday
23 SEPTEMBER

Last call for MC/26/1646, the recreation ground. It closes the next day, 24 September. This is the application that settles what the village gets in place of the rec, so it deserves the biggest effort of the month.

Wednesday
30 SEPTEMBER

The day Medway was asked to answer on the drainage. The committee's letter of 16 September asks twelve questions and whether the decision will be looked at again. The group will report what comes back.

Thursday
1 OCTOBER

Comments close on the two road schemes. MC/26/1722, the access into the new sports ground from Buttway Lane. Also MC/26/1723, the Cooling Road improvements.

Friday
2 OCTOBER

Comments close on the other four. MC/26/1719, the travel plan; MC/26/1720, air quality; MC/26/1721, the Cooling Road highway works; and MC/26/1724, noise. Each has its own page on the website with a button that opens Medway's comment form.

Every week
WHILE
APPLICATIONS ARE
LIVE

Send the link rather than only reacting to the post. Most visits arrive with no trace of where they came from, which is what a link shared in a WhatsApp group or a text looks like. It takes ten seconds and it is how this spreads.

Comments are counted and they were counted in the week to 18 September.

Nobody needs to know any planning law to write one. On the recreation ground, say what you or your children use the rec for, how often and what you expect the replacement to contain. Eleven people have commented so far. It closes on 24 September.

Where this comes from

Everything above comes from Medway's own planning register, read application by application on 18 September 2026: the dates, the document lists and the number of people commenting, as Medway's comments tab counts them. The traffic figures come from the website's own visit counter, which records no names, no addresses and nothing that identifies anybody.

The group also swept Medway's weekly lists for the weeks beginning 31 August, 7 September and 14 September, looking for new applications anywhere in the two villages. It found no new development application in Cliffe or Cliffe Woods beyond those above. The week beginning 14 September is still open and will be swept again for the next issue.

Prepared for the Cliffe & Cliffe Woods Residents Development Group, 18 September 2026. Sources are Medway Council's public planning register and the group's own filed papers, read on 18 September 2026. Not affiliated with Medway Council, the parish council or any developer. Nothing here is legal or planning advice.