

# AYLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

## In this edition:

- Parish Council Achievements & 2025/26 Highlights
- Budget & Precept Explained
- How the Parish Council Works for You
- Grant Funding Opportunities
- Meet Your Councillors & Drop-In Sessions
- Reporting Anti-Social Behaviour
- Aylesham Centenary Celebrations
- Community Governance Review Update
- Have Your Say on Highways
- Issues Find out when the next meeting is

## Your Parish Council, Your News

Welcome to the first edition of our Parish Council Newsletter. This quarterly update, published in February, May, August, and November, has been introduced in response to feedback from residents who told us they would like to see a stronger and more visible presence from their local council. Through this newsletter, we aim to keep you informed about council decisions, local initiatives, and upcoming events that affect our community. We hope it helps improve communication, encourages greater involvement, and provides a clear snapshot of what's happening in the parish.

If you require this newsletter in an alternative format please contact the Parish Council Office.

Aylesham Parish Council  
Offices are open:

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday  
Drop in any time between  
10am-12pm.

Or any other time by appointment only

Aylesham House,  
Dorman Avenue South,  
Aylesham, Kent  
CT3 3AD

# Budget & Precept 2026/27

## Investing in Our Parish

### Our Approved Budget

#### **£280,302.89**

Approved at the January meeting to ensure the continued care of facilities and delivery of community focused initiatives.

**For a band D property this equates to:**  
**£156.73 Per Year**  
**£1.34 Per Month**  
**31p Per week**

The Parish Council operates with a modest budget relative to the range of services it delivers locally.

### What Your Budget Maintains

The agreed budget of £280,302.89 enables the Council to maintain and manage key local assets, including:

- Market Square
- The Skate Park
- Attlee Avenue (Cripps Close) Play Park
- Snowdown Recreation Field Village
- Benches
- Three parish-owned bus shelters
- Aylesham House

### Protecting & Maintaining Community Spaces

Alongside maintaining these spaces, the Council will continue to:

Provide grant funding to local organisations  
Fund White Cliffs Countryside Partnership to manage Spinney Wood on behalf of the Parish  
Deliver additional skateboarding sessions for young people  
Hold the annual Garden Competition  
Organize and fund the Christmas tree lighting and switch-on event in Market Square

## How the Parish Council Supports the Community

Aylesham Parish Council is the first tier of local government, working at the heart of the community to provide services and facilities that directly affect daily life in Aylesham and Snowdown. We are committed to supporting residents, maintaining local spaces, and ensuring the voice of our community is heard at district and county level.

### We Support the Community

We are dedicated to strengthening community life and encouraging local involvement. We:

Provide grant funding to local organisations and community groups  
Deliver and support community initiatives that enhance wellbeing  
Support village events and activities that bring residents together  
Work in partnership with voluntary groups and local stakeholders

Through collaboration and funding support, we help local projects grow and thrive.

### We Represent Local Residents

Your Parish Council is your local voice in decision-making.

We: Act as a statutory consultee on planning applications

Liaise with Dover District Council and Kent County Council on local matters  
Raise local concerns and represent community views

Advocate for improvements to infrastructure, services and facilities

We are committed to transparency, accountability, and ensuring that the needs and priorities of Aylesham and Snowdown residents are clearly represented.

## Meet Your Council

Aylesham Parish Council is made up of up to **nine elected Councillors** who serve the community on a voluntary basis. Councillors attend meetings, help shape local priorities and make decisions on how the parish budget is allocated. They are supported by professional

Council Officers

who:

- Manage finances
- Deliver services
- Provide legal and procedural advice
- Ensure the Council operates lawfully and transparently

While parish elections are administered by Dover District Council, the Parish Council meets the cost of its elections and ensures democratic procedures are properly followed

### Contacting the Council

[www.ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk) [contact@ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:contact@ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

01304 840377 / 07897 593030

## **You Can Contact the Parish Council About:**

Attlee Avenue Play Park

Community Initiatives

Aylesham Skate Park

Market Square

Snowdown Recreation Field

Benches

Some of the Parish Bus Shelters

Litter on APC owned/leased land

Community Grant Funding

## **We Can't Help With:**

Roads or Potholes

Waste Collection

Planning Decisions

Policing

Housing

Street Lighting

Schools

## **These Are The Responsibility Of:**

Kent County Council

Dover District Council

## **How to Contact Us**

Please contact Council Officers in the first instance:

**Email:** [contact@ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:contact@ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Phone:** 01304840377 07897539030

**Website:** [www.ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## **Have Your Say – Attend a Council Meeting**

### **Public Participation at Meetings**

Residents are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings and raise matters of local concern during the public participation session.

You can:

- Raise concerns
- Ask questions
- Comment on agenda items

Please contact Council Officers in advance if you wish to speak.

### **Meeting Information**

Agendas are published:

- On our website
- On the Parish Council noticeboard

at least three clear working days before each meeting.

### **Can't Attend?**

You can still contact Officers to raise matters on your behalf.

## **When is the next meeting?**

All meetings are held at [Aylesham Community Trust](#) and start at 7:00pm- all welcome!

**Full Council- 10<sup>th</sup> March**

**Recreational & Facilities Committee- 17<sup>th</sup> March**

**Planning Environment & Transport Committee - 24<sup>th</sup> March**

Please see our website for the 2026/27 Calendar: [www.ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## What We've Delivered Since April 2025

Investing in our Parish for well-being and community pride.

### **Held the 2nd Annual Garden Competition (Since Relaunch)**

Following its successful return last year, the Garden Competition continues to grow, celebrating the creativity and pride residents take in Aylesham and Snowdown.

### **Skate Park Artwork Project!**

We funded Graffiti 2Hire to transform the skate ramps using artwork designed by pupils from St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, giving young people the chance to shape a space they use and value.

### **Christmas Tree & Market Square Lighting!**

The Parish Council organized and funded the installation of the village Christmas tree and festive lighting in Market Square.

### **Delivered FREE Skateboarding Lessons**

In partnership with Dover Activity Parks CIC, we funded six skateboarding sessions for local young people, extremely well attended and very well received.

### **Installed Outdoor Gym Equipment!**

Thanks to National Lottery funding, new outdoor fitness equipment is now available at Snowdown Recreation Ground for residents of all ages.

*Working together to  
make our Parish an even  
better place to  
live.*

Looking ahead to Aylesham's 100th anniversary in 2027!

# Grants- Now Open for 2026/27

**Aylesham Parish Council now offers three grant programmes to support our community:**

## **General Grants**

**Up to £2,000**

- For local organisations and community initiatives that benefit residents of the parish.
- Applications are considered quarterly by council.

## **Centenary Grants – Aylesham 100**

**Up to £1,500**

- For projects and events linked to Aylesham’s 100th anniversary in 2027.
- Applicants must first liaise with and attend a meeting of the independent Aylesham Centenary Committee before submitting an application: [aylesham100@gmail.com](mailto:aylesham100@gmail.com)
- Applications are considered quarterly by the Finance, Audit & Personnel Committee.

## **Aylesham Aspiration Fund**

**Up to £150**

**Quarterly Deadlines**

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| • For young residents (aged 18-21) progressing into higher education, apprenticeships or recognised vocational training for the first time. | 6th April 2026          |
|   | 6th July 2026           |
|   | 5th October             |
| • Applications are considered quarterly by council.   | 4 <sup>th</sup> January |

### **Got an Idea?**

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Deputy Officer in the first instance for guidance before submitting an application.

[deputyofficer@ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deputyofficer@ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk) | 07830353872 | [www.ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## **2025/26 General Grants Awarded**

**£17,526.77 awarded in total.**

### **Organisation — Purpose**

**ARCH** — To support the 2025 Christmas grotto.

**ARCH** — For the purchase of AED equipment at Hill Crescent.

**Aylesham Carnival Association** — Toward the 2025 carnival running costs.

**Aylesham Arts Club** — Toward running costs of the club.

**Aylesham Heritage Centre** — To cover insurance expenses.

**Aylesham Majorettes** — For running costs and equipment.

**IMAGO Community** — Young carers day trip.

**Aylesham Media Collective** — Creation of “Village News.”

**20th Deal (Aylesham) Scout Group** — Equipment purchases to restart the scout section.

**Kent School Of Fashion** — Community seasonal sewing project (winter/spring 2026).

**Aylesham & District Amateur Boxing Club** — Toward a high platform tournament ring.

## Who Are Your Parish Councilors?

### **Clr Sue Bott**

Chair of the Parish Council

- Finance, Audit & Personnel Committee
- Planning, Environment & Transport Committee

### **Clr David Fleck**

Vice Chair of the Parish Council

- Finance, Audit & Personnel Committee
- Planning, Environment & Transport Committee

### **Clr Graham Armstrong**

- Finance, Audit & Personnel Committee
- Recreational & Facilities Committee

### **Clr Steve Charman**

- Finance, Audit & Personnel Committee
- Planning, Environment & Transport Committee

### **Clr Jon Flaig**

- Finance, Audit & Personnel Committee
- Planning, Environment & Transport Committee

### **Clr Kay Sutcliffe**

- Finance, Audit & Personnel Committee
- Recreational & Facilities Committee

### **Clr Dave Miller**

## Clr Drop In Sessions

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 1-2pm

Do you have a concern that you would like to speak to the Parish council about?

We are holding drop in sessions where you can meet with councillors.

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month  
Aylesham House, Dorman Avenue  
South, Aylesham, Kent CT3 3AD

## **Community Governance Review**

A Community Governance Review looks at how parish councils are arranged. It can review all or part of the district and consider things like the number of councillors for each parish or parish ward, and other electoral arrangements. The aim is to ensure local governance reflects community identity and works effectively.

Why now?

With Local Government Reorganisation ahead and parish elections in May 2027, the Council wants to make sure parish councils remain strong, representative, and ready for future challenges.

What is being reviewed?

This Review focuses on the number of councillors for each town/parish council. More information is available at: [www.dover.gov.uk/elections](http://www.dover.gov.uk/elections)

### **Have Your Say**

We want to hear from residents as well as from town and parish councils.

Respond by 2 April 2026 with your views on councillor numbers.

- Complete the online form:  
<https://forms.office.com/e/fL9Wet9bkr>  
or scan the QR code.
- Email: [elections@dover.gov.uk](mailto:elections@dover.gov.uk)
- Or write to:  
Electoral Services (CGR), Council Offices,  
White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3PJ

## Aylesham 100 – How to Get Involved

In 2027, Aylesham will celebrate its 100th anniversary, a significant milestone in our village's history. Planning for this special occasion is already beginning. There is an Aylesham Centenary Committee, which operates separately from the Parish Council, and we encourage residents, community groups and local organisations to engage with and support its work as preparations develop.

For more information, please email the Committee:

[aylesham100@gmail.com](mailto:aylesham100@gmail.com)

Let's work together, through both the Centenary Committee and local initiatives, to make Aylesham 100 a celebration to remember.

## Your Parish Beat Officer PC 11454 Bowler

Here to Help With:

- Local Crime Issues
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Community Concerns
- Offering Advice & Support

Email: [11454@kent.police.uk](mailto:11454@kent.police.uk)

# Highways Improvements

## How Your Feedback is Shaping the Next Stage

In September, Aylesham and Snowdown residents were invited to share their views on highways, traffic, and road safety issues within the area. Many respondents took the opportunity to provide detailed feedback on specific locations, behaviours, and issues they feel affect safety and quality of life.

The results of this consultation can be found on the Parish Council website:

[www.ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

---

## Next Consultation Stage

Now we're asking for more focused feedback to inform the next stage of our Highways Improvement Plan.

- **Test support** for different interventions
  - **Identify priority locations** for action
  - **Gather additional details** on specific issues
- 

## Why We're Consulting Again

We're refining our approach using your feedback to:

- Confirm the key priorities we've identified
- Pinpoint specific locations that need attention
- Understand the types of measures residents support

## **You said | What we've done so far | What we're asking now**

### **Many residents reported that traffic speeds feel too high and unsafe.**

Speed and driver behaviour identified as a priority issue for the Highways Improvement Plan

Which speed reduction measures would you support, and where should they be focused?

### **Speed limits alone are not effective**

Included enforcement and compliance as part of the questions in the next consultation

What role should enforcement and monitoring play alongside physical measures?

### **Crossing roads can be difficult and unsafe**

Pedestrian safety identified as a key theme

Where are the most difficult or unsafe places to cross, and why?

### **Vulnerable road users feel at greater risk**

Prioritised safety for children, older people and disabled residents

Which locations should be prioritised to improve safety for vulnerable users?

### **Pavement parking causes obstructions**

Parking and obstruction issues recorded across multiple responses

Where does parking cause the greatest problems, and what approaches should be considered?

### **Poor parking affects visibility at junctions**

Junction safety recognised as part of parking concerns

Which junctions feel least safe and what are the issues?

### **Rules are not always enforced**

Enforcement concerns reflected across all themes

How important is enforcement compared to engineering or design changes?

### **Street lighting affects personal safety**

Mixed views on lighting captured and noted

How strongly does lighting affect how safe you feel, and what concerns should be considered?

### **Improvements should be planned village-wide**

Committed to a coordinated, parish-wide approach

What should the top highways priorities be over the next five years?

### **Some issues are outside local control**

Clarified the respective responsibilities of the Parish Council and Kent County Council as highway authority.

# Questionnaire

## Section A- About You

### Q1 Are you responding as...

- A resident of Aylesham/Snowdown
- A resident from somewhere else
- On behalf of a friend/relative (please complete this questionnaire using their details)
- On behalf of an organisation, business or group
- Other, please tell us: \_\_\_\_\_

## Section B- Speed and Traffic

### Q2 How much of a problem do you feel speeding traffic is in your area?

- Not a problem       Minor problem       Moderate problem       Serious problem
- Very serious problem

### Q3. Which measures do you think would be most effective in reducing speeding?

(Select up to three)

- 20mph limits where appropriate       Physical traffic calming (e.g. humps, build-outs)
- Speed indicator devices       Increased enforcement
- Road design changes       Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

### Q4. Are there specific roads or locations where speeding is a particular concern?

## Section C – Pedestrian Safety and Crossings

### Q5. How safe do you feel when walking in your area?

- Very Unsafe       Unsafe       Neutral       Safe       Very safe

### Q6. Which pedestrian issues concern you most? (Select all that apply)

- Difficulty crossing roads       Lack of formal crossings       Poor driver behaviour near crossings
- Narrow or uneven pavements       Traffic near schools       Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

### Q7. Please tell us where you feel pedestrian safety improvements are most needed and why.

## Section D – Parking and Obstructions

### Q8. How much of a problem is parking in your area?

- Not a problem       Minor problem       Moderate problem       Serious problem

### Q9. What parking-related issues do you experience?(Select all that apply)

- Pavement parking       Blocked driveways       Obstructed junctions       Reduced visibility for pedestrians  
 Access issues for wheelchairs/pushchairs       Emergency vehicle access  
 Other (please specify)\_\_\_\_\_

### Q10. Please tell us where parking causes the most difficulty

## Section E – Enforcement and Behaviour

### Q11. How important is enforcement in improving road safety locally?

- Not important       Slightly important       Important       Very important       Essential

### Q12. What types of enforcement or monitoring would you support? (Select all that apply)

- Speed checks       Community speed watch       Average speed or fixed cameras (subject to Police approval)  
 Police presence       Clearer signage       Other (please specify)\_\_\_\_\_

## Section F – Lighting and Personal Safety

### Q13. To what extent do you agree with the statement:

**“Street lighting contributes to people feeling safer when walking locally.”**

- Strongly disagree       Disagree       Neither agree nor disagree       Agree       Strongly agree

### Q14. Do you have any concerns about street lighting in your area?

- No concerns       Light pollution       Impact on wildlife       Cost  
 Other (please specify)\_\_\_\_\_

## Section G – Looking Ahead

### Q15. Are there any other highways or road safety issues you would like the Parish Council to consider as part of its Highways Improvement Plan?

Please return your responses to Aylesham House, Dorman Avenue South, Aylesham CT3 3AD. Or by email to [contact@ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:contact@ayleshamparishcouncil.gov.uk) **by 6<sup>th</sup> April 2026.**

Alternatively you can complete online by scanning the QR code:



