

Please contact:  
Your ref:  
Our ref:  
Date: 30 April 2009

Medway Council  
Regeneration, Community and Culture  
Leisure and Culture  
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Dear Mrs Coutts

### **Maidstone Road Sports Ground - Petition**

Thank you for your letter and petition dated 16 April concerning Maidstone Road Sports Ground, a copy of which has been forwarded to me for reply.

As a result of some difficulties we were experiencing with the attendant at Maidstone Road Sports Ground, problems with her working environment and given the relatively low levels of fees that were being generated, I took the decision to remove the post and to make tennis freely available at that site.

The cleaning of the site forms part of our main grounds maintenance contract which is undertaken throughout Medway by Quadron, and in addition the site is on the inspection schedule for our Urban Ranger Service. I am aware there have been issues around the tennis courts not being opened and also some shortfalls on cleansing standards and these are in the process of being addressed. However, I do apologise for any inconvenience this has caused.

In relation to the other areas of the petition around planned improvements and investment into Maidstone Road Sports Ground we would welcome the opportunity of working with residents to improve what we currently offer and suggest the best way forward may be to establish a Friends Group for Maidstone Road Sports Ground. Clearly you feel very strongly about the service we offer and my team would welcome the opportunity to discuss further with you establishing such a Friends Group. Do let me know if you would like to take up this offer.

Thank you for taking the time to collate the views of concerned residents who use Maidstone Road Sports Ground.

If you do not consider that the issues raised in your petition have been addressed, please refer to the procedure sent with the acknowledgment letter for a possible further course of action.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Hicks**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Customer First, Leisure, Culture, Democracy and Governance**

cc Councillor Julie Shaw  
Mary Ryder  
Leighann Thurgood