

## **Tonbridge & Malling District Parish Partnership Panel - 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

James Harman is the interim Community Engagement Officer for Tonbridge and Malling for KCC, and will be working with the district and local community for the next few weeks to connect KCC with the local community and to highlight any items of interest and importance.

### **Kent County Council Updates**

#### **1) Kent Youth Service Hub Consultation**

##### **What is going to happen?**

Mike Hill, OBE, the Cabinet Member for Customer & Communities is inviting communities to take part in a wide-ranging consultation, from **1 August 2011** until **29 October 2011** on our proposals to transform the Youth Service before any formal decisions are taken. No decisions have been made yet. KCC are proposing to change the way we deliver services to young people so that we can continue to provide a first class service despite the severe financial pressures we all face.

##### **What will be different?**

It is our intention that youth activities will still be available in local areas; whether they are based in an existing centre, a new location such as a school or delivered by going to the places where young people meet. Many of these services will be commissioned from the voluntary sector and there will also be an opportunity for voluntary groups and individuals to run the activities themselves.

##### **Local Proposals for Youth Provision in Tonbridge & Malling**

The proposed new model of service delivery for Kent Youth Service in Tonbridge and Malling will consist of direct delivery through:

- A Youth Hub developed in partnership with the Borough Council;
- The Community Youth Tutors based at Ridgeview School and The Malling School;
- The development of a Tonbridge and Malling Borough Detached Project.

This means that the facilities currently used for SAMAYS Youth Centre would no longer be used directly by Kent Youth Service and could be available for future provision as decided through the commissioning process. Under the new model of delivery Kent Youth Service would be seeking to commission youth work delivery which is reflected by the general needs and outcomes of the district

##### **How to get involved**

Please take part in the consultation by visiting the website

[www.kent.gov.uk/education\\_and\\_learning/youth\\_service/kys\\_consultation\\_survey.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/youth_service/kys_consultation_survey.aspx)

You can also give your views by emailing [kysconsultation@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kysconsultation@kent.gov.uk)

You can also write to us at: KYS Consultation - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

#### **2) Children's Services Safeguarding Improvement Plan.**

The plan was introduced following last November's Ofsted inspection of safeguarding and looked after children's services. Three months on from the last article, the children's social care teams have continued to make excellent progress, clearing a backlog of cases and preparing for the next stage of improvements. The caseload backlog has been cleared due to the hard work and focus from professionals across the council and districts.

Acting Director of Children's Services **Malcolm Newsam** stated *"There is still a lot to do, but having seen the way staff have pulled together so far, I have every confidence that further improvements will be carried out with the same enthusiasm, energy and professionalism.*

*The children's social care teams are preparing for a follow-up visit by Ofsted, which is due soon."*

### 3) KCC Restructure

Kent County Council is facing immense changes which are taking place in response to the toughest financial challenge that Local Government has ever faced - £165m of savings over the next 24 months for KCC. The first part of Kent County Council to restructure is the Communications and Engagement Division and as from September the 1<sup>st</sup> has implemented the changes to its structure and Staff.

KCC Leader **Paul Carter** places a great importance on KCC connecting and engaging districts and local communities and is committed to implementing well run & managed Locality Boards and significant opportunities locally that these Boards will provide.

The new C&E structure includes Community Engagement Officers, who will support and engage the local district, Locality Board; Local Children's Trust Board and also provide support to local Members to enable the successful delivery of localism in all its forms. The second phase of recruitment for these posts is now underway and the team will be managed by Steve Charman.

A number of other divisions of KCC are due to be consulted with between now and Christmas with a view to restructuring the remaining other divisions and directorates within the organisation.

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### 4) Highways Member Fund

The Member Highway Fund is worth £25,000 this year for each Kent Member, who can choose to use the grant to best help their local community. More information regarding this Grant can be gained by contacting your local KCC Member.

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### 5) Small Community Capital Grant & Local Schemes Grants

A closing date of **Monday 31st October 2011** has been set for Small Community Capital Grant & Local Schemes Grants. This information is for circulation to local organisations and interested parties. So please pass on the information as you feel appropriate.

To assist, we have summarised below the purpose for each scheme to enable applicants to identify which funding stream may be most appropriate. Full guidelines are attached to the front of the relevant application forms.

Once the closing date has passed, all Tonbridge & Malling Members will meet and discuss the applications, and put their recommendations forward for approval.

#### **Small Community Capital Grants (Total available to distribute in Tonbridge & Malling is £41,500)**

*This fund is available to formally constituted organisations in Kent that wish to obtain money **only for capital works** connected with a project that will bring community benefit. This includes parish and town councils, district councils and KCC, voluntary and community groups, churches, societies and charities. Maximum application is £20,000 (although in reality, and considering the amount to distribute, grants are usually offered at a much lower level).*

*Small Community Capital Projects Fund grants are one-off grants, available only in the financial year in which the Council awards them. An organisation cannot apply for additional grant for the same project in a subsequent year. An organisation can put forward more than one project at a time, but will usually only receive a grant for one project in any year.*

## Local Schemes Grants (Total available to distribute in Tonbridge & Malling is £18,100)

*This fund is available to formally constituted organisations in Kent that wish to obtain money for minor **capital or revenue** connected with a project that will bring community benefit. This includes parish and town councils, district councils and KCC, voluntary and community groups, churches, societies and charities.*

*The grant is offered as one-off and non-recurring payments with no on-going revenue or capital commitments. An organisation cannot apply for additional grant for the same project in a subsequent year. An organisation can put forward more than one project at a time, but will usually only receive a grant for one project in any year.*

Application forms can be provided by emailing [steve.charman@kent.gov.uk](mailto:steve.charman@kent.gov.uk)

If there are other issues regarding KCC services, I am always happy to take these to the local KCC Members and officer, and ask that they are raised for discussion at the appropriate local meetings.

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### In the Media

There has been coverage in the past month about:

#### **Kent's GCSE Results**

It has been another record year for Kent's students. 62% of the county's students achieved the key benchmark of five A\* to C grades, including English and maths, (up five percentage points on last year) and 84% achieved five A\* to C grades in all subjects - an improvement of five percentage points on 2010. There has been year-on-year improvement in Kent since 1995.

#### **What KCC said**

Kent County Council Deputy Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills, **Mike Whiting**, said: "I would like to congratulate pupils on what is a record-breaking set of GCSE results in Kent. I believe our young people have earned their grades through their own hard work over the last two years, supported by dedicated teachers and staff."

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#### **Kent Allocated £9.87m for Broadband Roll Out**

Kent is set to get £9.87 million to help take Broadband to everyone and superfast to 90 per cent of homes and businesses in the county, Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport Secretary Jeremy Hunt announced on Tuesday 16 August as part of the Government's £530 million broadband investment fund.

The private sector on its own will take superfast Broadband to around two-thirds of UK households and businesses - this funding will be used to help take broadband to the remaining one third by making it viable for business to invest. Kent can secure their share of the Government investment by drawing up an effective local Broadband delivery plan, and matching the Government's investment with European, their own or private funds.

#### **What KCC said**

Kent County Council Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Economic Development, **Kevin Lynes**: "We welcome this good news as it clarifies how much Kent will receive from the Government towards providing superfast Broadband in the county, which is so important for businesses and economic growth."

In addition, with our colleagues at Medway council, we have presented a robust case for high-speed Broadband in Kent. It is going to cost at least £42 million to introduce this to 90% of homes and businesses in the county, which is the national aim. That means the Government has earmarked about a quarter of what we need.

“We now need to work together to secure the rest of the money. The announcement comes as the county council, Medway and Kent’s district councils are having to make huge budget savings, and must be seen against that background.

“Initially we will need to work alongside our public sector partners to see if we can find innovative ways of raising the remaining money that is needed. At the same time, there is a great opportunity for businesses to invest in super-fast Broadband, which is critical for the county’s economy to grow.”

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**I look forward to meeting and working with you in the near future,**

James

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