

Tonbridge Forum 12th September 2011

Kent County Council Service 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 at the Adult Education Centre in South Tonbridge;
- 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 (Snodland) would no longer be used directly by Kent Youth Service but 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 and a budget for each district has been set aside for community groups to develop and run

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

You can also give your views by emailing kysconsultation@kent.gov.uk

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

2) 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 1st 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.

3) KCC Member Grants

KCC are pleased to report that despite the severe budget constraints we are still able to offer local communities 4 funding streams via the KCC Members to improve your local communities.

Small Community Capital Grant & Local Schemes Grants

There is 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)
<p><i>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).</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
Local Schemes Grants (Total available to distribute in Tonbridge & Malling is £18,100)
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>

Application forms can be provided by emailing steve.charman@kent.gov.uk or james.harman@kent.gov.uk

Member Community Grants

Each of your T&M County Councillors can provide financial support of up to £10,000 each year for projects that benefit local communities. This funding has helped a wide range of projects including youth groups, environmental projects and facilities for older people. We welcome applications from all types of organisations and groups. We do ask that the application comes from an organisation or a

group with a current bank account. We do not accept applications from individuals (for example for personal sponsorship) or from party political groups. We will consider applications from religious groups, but the application must show that the project will bring wider community benefit.

Contact your local **County Councillor** or **Community Engagement Officer** to discuss any project you would like them to support.

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.

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.

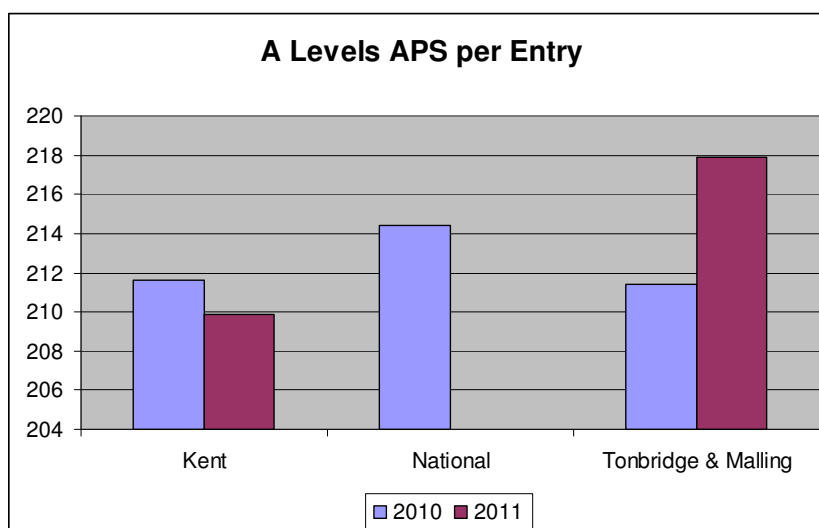
4) School Results

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.

Full breakdowns by school have yet to be released but Tonbridge Grammar School was well above the average, with 83.6% of students getting A or A* GCSE results, an increase of almost 4% on last year.

The graph below demonstrates the APS (Average Points Score) for each A-Level taken. As you can see Tonbridge and Malling schools have increased by 7 points on last year and are above the Kent average and anticipated to be above the national average.



Kent Key Stage2 Results

Key Stage2 results in Kent have risen by 3% on last year and up one per cent on the national average. This is the first time Kent have achieved this and we are delighted that so many of our schools have continued to raise the academic standards for young people across the County.

5) Developing a Health & Wellbeing Board for Kent

Kent County Council (KCC) has been awarded early implementer status by the Department for Health (DoH) for the development of a Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) for Kent.

Health and Wellbeing Boards are a key part of the health reform proposals currently before Parliament in the Health and Social Care Bill, and are intended to bring the key players from the health (including public health) and social care sectors together to promote greater integration and ensure the delivery of better care for patients and meet the needs of the local population.

In late July, the County Council approved the creation of a shadow HWB as a full committee of KCC, including the Terms of Reference and Standing Orders. The first meeting of the shadow HWB as a formally constituted committee of Kent County Council will take place on the **28th September**, 6.30pm to 8.30 pm, in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone.

This meeting will be open to the public and press. Whilst the health reform agenda remains exceptionally challenging for us all, it provides an exciting opportunity to begin to better shape health and social care services around the needs of our local communities and patients.

6) Kent Highways Changes

The standard of road repairs in Kent is set to rise now a new long-term maintenance contract has come into force.

From Thursday 1 September, Enterprise took over maintenance and repair of Kent County Council's 5,000-mile road network. Under the new contract, there are powerful incentives to make sure the firm does a good job. For example, the company will only be paid if it does high-quality work and for the amount of works done - not for the time taken to do it.

The contract was awarded after a year-long, new style selection process known as competitive dialogue, which was also employed by the Olympic Delivery Authority to develop and build the new venues and infrastructure for the 2012 London Games. This process meant that Kent County Council was able to pick the best ideas proposed by competing bidders then use these to develop and enhance the best possible contract for Kent. We ask for your forbearance during the initial period of transformation.

Introduction

I am 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 District Council and the local community and to highlight any items of interest and importance.

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

James

James Harman

KCC Community Engagement Officer (Interim Tonbridge and Malling)

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