

**Tonbridge Forum**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> June 2013**  
**Kent County Council Service Updates**

**1) KCC Member Grants 2013/13**

The 2013/14 KCC Member Grant scheme launched on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June with a new shorter application form and updated guidance and terms of reference. Last year KCC Members for Tonbridge and Malling supported over 75 local groups across the Borough via the Member Grant streams, providing some real community benefit to local people and organisations. The grant streams are open to all Community groups (subject to status) and can provide grants of upwards of £250.

In Tonbridge and Malling the money available for 2013/14 is as follows;

**Member Community Grant** = £10,000 for each County Member

**Local Schemes Grant** = £16,000 for the Borough

**Small Community Capital Grant** = £41,200 for the Borough

**Member Highway Fund** = £21,250

For more information or to have a conversation about how Member Grants could help you please contact your local KCC Member or your Community Engagement Officer.

**2) Tonbridge Cycle Strategy**

The draft Tonbridge & Malling Cycling Strategy is a collection of policies and related action plans that work together to promote cycling and the development of appropriate cycling facilities throughout Tonbridge and Malling Borough. It has been prepared by Kent County Council with support from Sustrans and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council.

It is recognised that there are many advantages in providing and encouraging cycling as a viable alternative form of transport, exercise and as a source of recreational enjoyment. Everyone should have the opportunity for independent mobility, and in order to achieve this it is vital to consider the street environment and infrastructure. The vision of this strategy is to create an environment, particularly in the urban areas within the Borough, where people of all ages and abilities feel able to cycle safely, easily and enjoy the experience.

The suggestions for possible cycle routes included within the draft Strategy are initial outline plans only and your views at this stage are important.

The feedback we receive from this consultation will shape the final version of the Cycling Strategy, which will be presented to the Tonbridge & Malling Joint Transportation Board in September 2013. The final Strategy will be published on this webpage.

Implementing the proposals contained within the final Strategy will depend upon securing the necessary funding and the completion of satisfactory detailed design, costing and public consultation exercises.

**Have your say**

Consultation on the draft Strategy runs from the 20 May to 30 June 2013.

<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/TMCyclingStrategy/consultationHome>

### 3) Register for the Kent Test Now!

Parents who would like their children to sit this September's Kent Test (eleven plus), can from today register for them to take part. Registration is open from 3 June to 1 July 2013. The test is available for any child starting year six in September 2013 who wishes to apply to go to a Kent grammar school in September 2014.

There are a few of ways for parents and carers to register. The easiest is to go online, at [www.kent.gov.uk/ola](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola). Last year 90 percent of all test registrations were made online, allowing results to be sent out by e-mail. Alternatively a copy of the registration form can be downloaded from the KCC website, collected from your child's Kent primary school or posted to you on request. There is room to name up to four schools in order of preference.

Tests for children attending Kent schools will be taken on 11 and 12 September following a practice test in school a few days beforehand. Children who do not attend a Kent primary school will take the practice tests on Saturday 7 September and the main tests on Saturday 14 September.

Children will sit maths, verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning papers in a multiple-choice format, along with a written assignment. Assessment decisions determining whether a child is suitable for a grammar school or high school will be sent out on Wednesday 16 October 2013, giving parent's time to complete the common application form for schools before Wednesday 31 October 2013.

To complete a form online, log on to [www.kent.gov.uk/ola](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola). Alternatively a paper copy can be downloaded from the website, picked up from primary schools, via post, by calling 0300 333 6472.

### 4) A20 Statutory Quality Partnership consultation

Kent County Council in conjunction with TMBC and Arriva Buses have come up with a new offer to residents on part of the A20.

The scheme covers an area about 3 miles in length, along London Road (A20) from the junction with Coldharbour Lane (Coldharbour Roundabout) in a westerly direction, to the junction with Ashton Way (A228) and Castle Way.

Proposed improvements include:

- a smart travel card for the Maidstone area - making it easier to hop on and off the bus without using cash
- real time Information at bus stops with shelters - telling you when the next bus will arrive
- accessible buses - easy to get on and off, particularly for those with wheelchairs and pushchairs
- traffic signal priority - giving the green light to buses to make journey times more reliable
- Arriva's 11 diesel-electric hybrid buses - reduced fuel consumption and engine emissions.

Proposed service standards include:

- frequency of buses
- maximum fares passengers can be charged
- presentation of vehicles and drivers
- punctuality
- passenger information

Consultation on the draft Strategy runs from the 22 April to 15 July 2013.

**Have your say**

Visit [www.kent.gov.uk/A20](http://www.kent.gov.uk/A20) to complete the online survey or contact Charlotte Owen

Via [Charlotte.Owen@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Charlotte.Owen@kent.gov.uk) for more information

## 5) Countryside and Coastal Access Improvement Plan

The Kent The purpose of the Countryside and Coastal Access Improvement Plan is to increase the usage and enjoyment of public rights of way and open green space in Kent. The network of paths should be a gateway for visitors and residents to explore Kent's heritage, wildlife and iconic landscapes.

The plan will deliver improvements which contribute to reducing congestion, and which support rural business and economy, health and, most importantly, the quality of life in Kent.

### The plan

- a. evaluates the extent to which local rights of way meet the present and likely future needs of the public
- b. assesses the opportunities provided by local rights of way for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of Kent
- c. assesses the accessibility of local rights of way to blind or partially sighted persons and others with mobility problems
- d. provides a strategy for future proactive management of countryside access in Kent to put in place a more meaningful and sustainable network
- e. supports bids for external funding by demonstrating links to a wide range of local and national strategies, in order to maximise opportunities for funding
- f. provides a catalyst for actions that both improve the countryside access estate and raise its profile.

### Have your say

Consultation on the updated plan runs from the 1 May to 26 June 2013.

<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/CAIP/consultationHome>

## 6) Changes to KCC Cabinet and Committees

Following the County Council Elections on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May your elected County Councilors representing Tonbridge are Chris Smith and Richard Long. As a result election changes there have been some changes to the KCC Cabinet and overall responsibilities at County Hall. These are as follows;

- Paul Carter - Leader and Cabinet Member for Business Strategy, Audit & Transformation
- John Simmonds - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement
- David Brazier - Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment
- Gary Cooke - Cabinet Member for Corporate & Democratic Services
- Mark Dance - Cabinet Member for Economic Development
- Graham Gibbens - Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services & Public Health
- Roger Gough - Cabinet Member for Education & Health Reform
- Mike Hill - Cabinet Member for Community Services
- Bryan Sweetland - Cabinet Member for Commercial & Traded Services
- Jenny Whittle - Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services

Both Tonbridge County Councilors have been given extra responsibilities in the new arrangements. Chris Smith has been appointed Deputy Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services & Public Health and Richard Long will head up the Governance and Audit Cabinet Committee.

## 7) Cutting congestion and frustration for drivers in Kent

Drivers will be relieved to hear that a Kent County Council scheme to reduce congestion on Kent's busiest roads is now up and running.

Under the new Kent Lane Rental Scheme, companies will now be charged up to £2,000 per day for the inconvenience caused by digging up the busiest roads on the network at peak time.

Kent is the first county council in the country to run the groundbreaking scheme, which aims to push utility contractors to work on the roads during the night and at off-peak times or to use techniques such as tunnelling more often to avoid closing the road altogether. The scheme covers over 465 roads in Kent in the areas most susceptible to major roadwork disruption. Revenue generated from the scheme will be invested in further work to cut congestion in Kent.

A twelve-week trial of the scheme began in March after it was given the 'green light' to commence by the Secretary of State for Transport, Patrick McLoughlin. Companies began incurring fines from 28 May 2013 when the scheme came into full force. The Kent Lane Rental Scheme has also won the backing of Transport Minister Norman Baker MP and the National Joint Utilities Group.

For further information about the KLRS, visit

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads\\_and\\_transport/highway\\_maintenance/lane\\_rental\\_scheme.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads_and_transport/highway_maintenance/lane_rental_scheme.aspx)

## 8) Energy-saving scheme boosts business opportunities in Kent and Medway

Brand new business-boosting opportunities have opened up for trades people and SMEs in Kent and Medway thanks to a £12million scheme that will save residents money on their energy bills.

The Kent and Medway Green Deal Partnership and Enterprise, the UK's largest dedicated provider of maintenance and front-line services to the public sector and utility industry, are on the look out for subcontractors, direct suppliers and trades people to work with them to deliver their "Warm Homes" scheme.

The scheme, run by the Kent and Medway Green Deal Partnership, delivered by Enterprise and funded by npower, will see more than 1,400 low-income households benefit from free energy-saving measures and lower energy bills. If successful, it could be rolled out to more than 5,000 homes with up to £80million funding across the next two years.

Skilled trade's people and businesses are needed to help Enterprise install the energy-saving measures, including wall insulation, loft insulation and new boilers, into the homes as well as project support for the general running of the scheme.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the potential employment opportunities can do so by attending a 'Meet the Buyer' event in June.

**Date:** Wednesday 19 June 2013    **Time:** 8:45am - 12pm

**Venue:** The Hilton Hotel, Bearsted Road, Weaving, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5AA.

The event is free. To register, please email [lowcarbon@kent.gov.uk](mailto:lowcarbon@kent.gov.uk), or phone 0300 333 5011

**For more information on any of these subjects please contact:**

**James Harman** - KCC Community Engagement Manager (Tonbridge and Malling)

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For more details visit - [http://www.kent.gov.uk/your\\_council](http://www.kent.gov.uk/your_council)

