

## **Tonbridge and Malling Parish Partnership Panel**

**Thursday, 6 February 2020**

### **Kent County Council Services Update**

#### **Our budget 2020 – 21**

Kent County Council provides a huge range of essential services to the people of Kent, spending over £1.5 billion each year. The government's settlement for next year assumes modest increases in Council Tax together with some additional grants. This will mean we have additional funding, however, these increases are still likely to be insufficient to fully fund the rising costs of council services.

On 6 January 2020 we published our draft Budget Book which includes both our revenue (day to day expenditure) and capital (larger scale investments in buildings and roads) plans for next year. View the [draft Budget Book](#).

These draft plans are being considered by County Council on 13 February:

[draft Budget Book \(PDF, 1.8 MB\)](#)

[draft Revenue Budget Variation Statements \(XLSX, 7.0 MB\)](#).

#### **The Weather & Potholes – Update from Michael Payne, Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport.**

Whilst the weather over recent weeks has been very wet there have been a number of marginal nights throughout December in terms of predicted road surface temperatures and the possible formation of ice. This has resulted in a total number of 13 nights gritting during the month, 12 full county wide runs and one partial run.

When we get wet weather we get potholes. The prolonged wet weather has had an impact on our roads with pothole enquiry numbers increasing significantly over the last month. Highways teams are addressing the increased enquiries and repairs are continuing. Could I take this opportunity again to remind everyone to use the on-line reporting tool for any enquiries that you wish highways to address. 75% of all potholes are now reported in this way which is a significant increase in use of the tool and leads to a more efficient way of prioritising works.

The tail end of storm Brendan was felt mainly across mid and west Kent on the night of 14<sup>th</sup> January. Out of Hours highway officers were doubled up for the event and were kept busy most of the night particularly with fallen trees and flooding. On the morning of 15<sup>th</sup> only 3 roads remained closed due to fallen trees and these were opened once cleared.

Moreover, £1.2m has been allocated in order that the 2020 Pothole Blitz can be ramped up with ten contractors across Kent from February. Furthermore, we now have an approach at Kent Highways that where it is suitable larger patch repairs are undertaken that encompass a number of smaller defects.

## **Consultations - have your say, your views count**

You can view all KCC consultations online at: <http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti>

**Signed up to the KCC Consultation Directory yet?** It only takes a few minutes to register and gives a full list of past, current and planned consultations and provides an opportunity to feedback on local services and policies. It enables KCC to contact residents when an activity is due to take place or to receive feedback for a particular consultation or involvement activity when it is published on KCC's website.

(Please note there are separate lists for **Traffic Regulation Orders** and **Start of Works Notices** and for **Public Rights of Way Notices**.)

## **Strategic Statement - Five Year Plan**

**The 5 Year Plan is the flagship strategy for Kent County Council. It unites the Council with clear outcomes and objectives.**

The 5 Year Plan has been brought together by working with and listening to our residents, young people, local businesses, the voluntary and community sector and staff. We've reflected what we heard during our engagement process in this draft consultation document.

The consultation will run from **6 January to 17 February 2020.**

<https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/fiveyearplan/consultationHome>

### **What happens after the consultation?**

Following the end of the consultation we will bring together a 'You Said, We Did' report which will include an analysis of the engagement and consultation feedback and KCC's response to this. This will be published on the consultation website. This report will be presented to our Corporate Management Team, our Cabinet and County Council in February and March 2020 as part of the approval process.

We will also be bringing together a shorter summary document of this 5 year plan.

## **National Transport and Highways Survey 2019/20**

**Councils across the UK are asking residents to tell them what they think of transport and road services in their area.**

The National Highway and Transport Network have provided six independent surveys.

They are asking views on:

- Accessibility
- Roads maintenance
- Public transport
- Road safety
- Tackling congestion
- Walking and cycling

[https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Nationaltransportsurvey2019\\_20/consultationHome](https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Nationaltransportsurvey2019_20/consultationHome)

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