

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL



EXECUTIVE SERVICES

Chief Executive

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NB - This agenda contains proposals, recommendations and options. These do not represent Council policy or decisions until they have received proper consideration through the full decision making process.

Contact: Committee Services
committee.services@tmbc.gov.uk

9 November 2016

To: MEMBERS OF THE PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL
(Copies to all Members of the Council)

Dear Sir/Madam

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the Parish Partnership Panel to be held in the Civic Suite, Gibson Building, Kings Hill, West Malling on Thursday, 17th November, 2016 commencing at 7.30 pm

Yours faithfully

JULIE BEILBY

Chief Executive

A G E N D A

Part 1 - Public

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DISTRIBUTION

Borough Council Representatives

Cllr N J Heslop (Chairman)
Cllr M A Coffin (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Mrs J A Anderson
Cllr Mrs S M Barker
Cllr R P Betts
Cllr T I B Cannon
Cllr R W Dalton
Cllr S M Hammond
Cllr D Lettington
Cllr B J Luker
Cllr D Markham
Cllr R V Roud
Cllr T B Shaw

Parish and Town Council Representatives

Addington
Aylesford
Birling
Borough Green
Burham
Ditton
East Malling and Larkfield
East Peckham
Hadlow
Hildenborough
Ightham
Kings Hill
Leybourne
Mereworth
Offham
Platt
Plaxtol
Ryarsh
Shipbourne
Snodland
Stansted
Trottscliffe
Wateringbury
West Malling
West Peckham
Wouldham
Wrotham

County Councillors

Valerie Dagger, Malling West
Trudy Dean, Malling Central
Matthew Balfour, Malling Rural East
Sarah Hohler, Malling North
Peter Homewood, Malling Rural North East

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Apologies for absence

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TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

Thursday, 8th September, 2016

Present: Cllr N J Heslop (Chairman), Cllr Mrs J A Anderson,
Cllr Mrs S M Barker, Cllr R P Betts, Cllr R W Dalton,
Cllr S M Hammond, Cllr D Lettington, Cllr B J Luker, Cllr R V Roud,
and Cllr T B Shaw.

Together with Addington, Birling, Borough Green, Burham, East Malling and Larkfield, East Peckham, Hadlow, Kings Hill, Leybourne, Platt, Plaxtol, Shipbourne, Trottiscliffe, Waterringbury, West Peckham, Wouldham Parish Councils and County Councillor M Balfour

Councillor S Perry was also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M A Coffin (Vice-Chairman), Cannon, Snodland Town Council (Miss A Moloney), Wrotham Parish Council (Mr H Rayner), County Councillor Mrs S Hohler and Chief Inspector Pate (Kent Police)

PART 1 - PUBLIC

PPP 16/16 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

PPP 16/17 UPDATE ON ACTION IDENTIFIED IN THE LAST MINUTES

There were no actions identified requiring an update that did not appear later on the agenda.

PPP 16/18 FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS WITH PARISH COUNCILS - UPDATE FOLLOWING CONSULTATION

The Director of Finance and Transformation referred to the two recent consultations on the potential withdrawal of Council Tax Reduction grants to parish councils and the potential introduction of a Special Expenses Scheme (Fairer Charging) in place of the s136 Financial Arrangements with Parish Councils Scheme. The latter was aimed at achieving savings where possible and to provide equity for residents throughout Tonbridge and Malling.

Both consultations had ended on 20 June 2016 and Parish Councils were thanked for their participation. The responses received had been

considered by a Special Cabinet meeting held on 28 July and a preferred way forward formulated for recommendation to Council in November.

With regard to Council Tax Reduction grants it was proposed that these grants would be withdrawn with effect from April 2017, subject to Council approval. The Panel was reminded that the Borough Council had no statutory obligation to passport funding to parishes and, in fact, many local authorities had already withdrawn this financial support as a result of the reduction in local government funding from Central Government.

However, the impact on some Parish Councils was recognised and the Director of Finance and Transformation offered to discuss the implications to individual parishes out of meeting.

In respect of Fairer Charging it was proposed to introduce a Special Expenses Scheme from April 2017 and withdraw financial support (through s136 grants) to Parish Councils at the same time, subject to comment from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September and final approval of Council in November 2016.

Following responses received from parish councils and residents a number of changes had been made to the initial proposals. The consultation had highlighted an issue regarding Tonbridge Cemetery and after further reflection the Borough Council felt that this should not be included in the Special Expenses Scheme on the grounds that it was a facility that was available equally to all residents in Tonbridge and Malling.

Reference was also made to open churchyards across the borough and, whilst there was no obligation on the Borough Council (or parish councils) to provide financial support, Members had requested that some further work be undertaken. Information was to be sought from the church authorities on the capacity status of open churchyards throughout the Borough to enable further consideration of whether some funding (under section 214 of the Local Government Act 1972) should be offered to Parochial Church Councils to support their maintenance in furtherance of the previous policy in this regard. The Director of Finance and Transformation stressed that this work had not been undertaken and therefore no decisions had yet been made.

At the current time, Christmas lighting was not included in the Special Expenses Scheme although the Borough Council recognised that there was an inequity between Tonbridge and the parished areas of the borough as there were differing funding arrangements in place. With this in mind, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would undertake a thorough review and explore alternative opportunities. It was hoped that a new system could be adopted for Christmas 2017.

The Director of Finance and Transformation recognised the concerns of Parish Councils regarding the introduction of 'capping' and indicated that the Borough Council continued to make informal enquiries with Government.

Details of the projected timetable for the proposals were available in full on the Borough Council website but summarised below:

13 September – Overview and Scrutiny Committee review proposals for Special Expenses and make recommendations to Cabinet

12 October – Cabinet considers proposals and any recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny and makes recommendations to Full Council

1 November – Full Council considers final proposals and approves/adopts Special Expenses Policy

December – Parish Councils contacted with information for budget setting

PPP 16/19 LOCAL PLAN - UPDATE AND CONSULTATION

Members were advised that a period of public consultation on the Local Plan was expected to start on Friday 30 September 2016 for an eight week period. The closing date was 25 November and this was longer than the minimum statutory consultation period of six weeks.

The main focus of the consultation would be a revised Way Forward document, including an executive summary and map of the potential development strategy; the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping and the Habitat Regulations Assessment reports and an electronic survey setting out 15 set questions to provide consultees with a structure for responding. All of this material could be viewed on the website once the consultation opened and hard copies would be available at the two main Council offices and libraries. In addition, further copies would be shared with all the Parish and Town Councils.

All Parish and Town Councils were encouraged to work with their local communities to raise awareness of the Local Plan consultation period and to respond by the November deadline.

There would also be a small number of manned exhibitions around the Borough during the consultation period although the number and duration would have to reflect the limited resources available to the Local Plan team during this busy stage of plan making.

It was noted that requests for meetings would have to be managed proportionately to the resources available. In order to plan for this eventuality it was suggested that there would be a small number of Local

Plan events for Parish and Town Councils and other local amenity and community groups to attend.

In response to a question from Members, it was confirmed that traditional methods of promotion and communication would be used in conjunction with the use of social media and the internet.

With regard to the 15 set questions in the electronic survey, the Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health confirmed that honest comment and opinion was welcomed. It was important to know what residents thought of the process and it was recognised that alternative viewpoints and/or proposals might come forward as a result.

Finally, Borough Green Parish Council referred to recent discussions regarding contaminated land at the last meeting of the Planning and Transportation Advisory Board. Members had asked for a report setting out the Borough Council's position in relation to contaminated land and it was suggested that this be shared with parish councils once finalised.

PPP 16/20 PLANNING ENFORCEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Development Control Manager reported that since the last meeting of the Parish Partnership Panel a local Planning Enforcement Plan had been drafted and approved by the Borough Council. It set out how the planning enforcement service would seek to address breaches of planning control and prioritise its work.

In addition, the range of powers available to the Borough Council, how it was decided whether or not to pursue enforcement action, timetables for action and the process of enforcement were described. In doing this, the Plan complied with the contents of the Borough Council's wider enforcement policy, together with national legislation and Government guidance.

Particular reference was made to the commitment where Planning Services, via the Development Control Manager, would manage an update system for individual Parish Councils on a regular basis on enforcement cases where the parish was the 'complainant'. These updates were intended to provide some reassurance that investigations were progressing. It was reported that this process would continue as the enforcement plan began to be implemented and its effectiveness monitored. It was also hoped that the Plan would assist Parish Councils in dealing with residents' concerns and complaints and demonstrated the Borough Council's commitment to addressing those concerns.

However, as live enforcement investigations were confidential, because of the possibility of future legal action, the amount of information that could be shared was limited. All Parish Councils were asked that any updates provided were not discussed at public meetings or recorded in any public minutes.

The Parish Councils thanked the Borough Council for the improved communication on enforcement matters which was greatly appreciated. However, concern was expressed that the Plan focused on providing feedback to the original complainant and not to all parish councils that had a relevant interest. The Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health indicated that this aspect could be reviewed but advised of significant staffing and works pressures within Planning Services that potentially challenged undertaking more than was currently suggested.

The Development Control Manager advised that regular case reviews with Enforcement Officers were planned and it was hoped these would flag up potential problems to which parishes could be alerted.

The Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health and the Development Control Manager volunteered to explore what type of simple reporting and tracking system could be developed in house.

PPP 16/21 LOCAL SEWER SYSTEM

Borough Green Parish Council, supported by the Kent Association of Local Councils (Tonbridge and Malling), asked the Borough Council to contact Southern Water regarding issues arising from the failure to address problems associated with the ageing sewer system.

Reference was made to the regular incidents of localised flooding due to the Victorian sewer along the A25, the inadequate pumping station(s) and the lack of maintenance over many years. It was reported that any new building developments in the area exacerbated the problems.

It was noted that Snodland Town Council had similar experiences.

In response, the Chairman (and Leader of the Borough Council) would invite Southern Water to attend the next meeting of the Parish Partnership Panel to address concerns raised by Parish Councils.

PPP 16/22 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The report of the Director of Central Services provided an update on the work of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), which was reviewed and noted by the Panel.

The CSP had a website: www.tmcommunitysafety.org.uk twitter account (@TM_CSP) and a Facebook page.

Crime statistics were available to download from the Kent Police website via www.kent.police.uk Unfortunately these could no longer be provided for parish council meetings due to increasing pressures on a police resource.

PPP 16/23 KENT POLICE SERVICES UPDATE

Inspector Rachel McNeil, attending on behalf of Chief Inspector Pate, provided a verbal update on the achievements made in performance and the neighbourhood policing agenda.

It was reported that the position in the Borough remained good despite a 7.7% increase in crime. Tonbridge and Malling had the 3rd lowest crime levels in Kent and remained one of the safest places in the County. Increased reporting of incidents, more accurate recording of crime and fewer resources were believed to have contributed to the percentage increase over the year.

Particular reference was made to resourcing levels and police numbers remained stable despite the reduction in Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) due to them becoming regular police officers. However, Kent Police were currently pursuing a recruitment campaign and this was actively supported by the new Police and Crime Commissioner to increase police visibility.

The Panel was advised that Chief Inspector Pate was now the Borough Commander for Tonbridge and Malling and Tunbridge Wells and this enabled an improved and co-ordinated approach between the two areas.

Recent police initiatives included a road safety campaign in partnership with Kent Fire and Rescue Services; the implementation of dispersal orders for youths and speed checks focusing on problem areas, road traffic accident hot spots and new building developments. A new road development experience had been built in Rochester for 14 – 18 year olds to educate on road safety. Details of this were available from the Kent Fire and Rescue Services website.

With regard to Speed Watch initiatives, Inspector McNeil was pleased to advise that Alan Watson was the new police co-ordinator and was eager to work with parish councils to develop opportunities.

The Chairman asked that an invitation be extended to Mr Watson to attend the next meeting of the Parish Partnership Panel in November to talk about Speed Watch initiatives and to listen to concerns raised by Parish Councils.

Waterbury Parish Council referred to the lack of support from Kent Police on Speed Watch initiatives which was leading to their decline as volunteers no longer felt it was worthwhile without effective enforcement. It was felt that points on licences and on the spot fines were more effective deterrents than warning letters from local Speed Watch co-ordinators.

Inspector McNeil responded that Kent Police took speeding seriously and arrangements were in place for speed checks over the coming

months. Locations that presented the highest risk were treated as a priority due to police resources. The lack of communication around Speed Watch was recognised and it was anticipated that the position would be improved with a co-ordinator in place.

In response to a question, Inspector McNeil assured the Panel that Kent Police took drug issues seriously and dealt with this appropriately. There was work undertaken with local schools and youth teams on education around drug use. However, it was important to report incidents as they occurred as it was difficult to deal with issues retrospectively. Dispersal orders were also an effective tool in preventing youths loitering and taking drugs but represented a challenging situation with reducing resources.

Kings Hill Parish Council asked about the level of community police liaison with parishes and the loss of the monthly reporting statistics. Inspector McNeil advised that PCSOs now had increased areas to patrol which had impacted upon the level of community engagement undertaken. The resourcing levels of PCSOs were under constant review. With regard to the crime statistics the information was available on the Kent Police website and verbal updates could be provided if requested. However, the more detailed statistics took time to prepare and the preference was for PCSOs to be visible in the community rather than behind a desk.

All parishes were encouraged to report any concerns or raise any issues with the Community Safety Unit.

PPP 16/24 KENT COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES UPDATE

The Kent County Council Community Liaison Officer (Anne Charman) reported on a number of County initiatives and consultations. Further detail was set out in the Kent County Council Services update report attached to the agenda.

Particular reference was made to the recent incident where the M20 footbridge had collapsed onto the motorway after having been hit by a lorry. The footpaths leading to the bridge were now officially closed. The initial notice obtained from the County Council's Public Right of Ways team would be in force for three weeks, followed by a six month closure.

A pilot programme for Volunteer Community Wardens was being run by Kent County Council and parishes were asked to promote this new initiative. Full details were not yet available but information would be placed on the website in due course. Any information forthcoming in the near future would be circulated with the Minutes.

The Combined Member Grant Scheme had opened on 1 April 2016 with £20,000 available to every County Councillor to fund both community

and highway projects their electoral division. It was reported Speed Watch initiatives had been supported in the past and it was possible that if the Community Safety Partnership came up with an innovative approach or project that assistance might be available.

Finally, any ideas to improve the format of the Kent County Council Services update were welcomed.

Burham Parish Council thanked the County Council for its help and support in saving the 151 Arriva bus services which had been threatened with withdrawal with no public consultation. Kent County Council would cover the losses of this service until February 2017.

In response to a query related to the Young Persons Travel Pass it was indicated that this was subsidised heavily by the County Council but it was hoped that this could be maintained at an affordable cost to parents. Currently, the discounted rate was approximately £270.

PPP 16/25 TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL SERVICES UPDATE

The Director of Finance and Transformation provided an update on key points relevant to Tonbridge and Malling. The headline messages included:

- Hive Lotto

The Community Lottery had been launched on Friday 2 September and was a fundraising scheme to help good causes. It was reported that seven partners were on board and more were welcomed to be involved.

Details were available on: www.hivelotto.co.uk

- Heritage Open Days

Free entry to 25 historical properties was available from Thursday 8 – Sunday 11 September 2016.

Details were available on: www.tmbc.gov.uk

- Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme

This consultation, regarding potential changes to the local scheme for claimants had closed in August. Cabinet would review and assess proposals in due course. Due to the way council tax reduction was now operated, it was noted that the council tax base might change as a result which would have implications for parish councils.

PPP 16/26 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman was pleased to announce that East Peckham Parish Council had successfully made it through to the long list of nominations for the National Association of Local Councils Star Council Awards. In addition, parish councillors Stephanie Watson (Chairman) and Penny Graham had been nominated for Councillor of the Year and Karen Bell nominated for Clerk of the Year.

Shortlisting was to take place later in September with the winners announced in October and the Chairman wished everyone involved good luck.

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm

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Agenda Item 3

Update on action identified in the last Minutes

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Agenda Item 4

- Presentation by Speedwatch co-ordinator (Alan Watson)

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Agenda Item 5

Police Liaison

Representatives of the Police to be present to address crime prevention issues, including any raised by the Panel

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TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

17 November 2016

Report of the Central Services Director

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

To provide an update on the work of the Tonbridge & Malling Community Safety Partnership

1.1 Anti-social behaviour across the borough

- 1.1.1 The Community Safety Partnership recently received reports of groups of (mainly) youths gathering outside McDonalds and the Butchers shop in Tonbridge High Street, causing intimidation and anti-social behaviour. Representatives from the Police and Borough Council met with the manager of McDonalds to look at how this issue could be resolved. As well as trying to identify those causing the ASB, the Police agreed to put some Dispersal Orders in place. These give the police additional powers to move on anyone over 10 who has caused or is likely to cause ASB and are in place for set time periods.
- 1.1.2 So far, several Dispersal Orders have been granted and have been successful, with a number of people being dispersed to more suitable locations (Tonbridge Sports Ground) and with some arrests made for a breach of the Order (e.g. they returned to the area).
- 1.1.3 Those who were moved on will be visited and warnings given to them (and their parents) about their behaviour. We hope that all of these actions will ensure that there will be a reduction or cessation of the ASB occurring.
- 1.1.4 We have also been working to tackle issues of anti-social behaviour in West Malling and as well as trying to identify those causing the issues the Police have put in place some Dispersal Orders. The latest Dispersal Order was put in place over the weekend of Bonfire Night. There were no calls received over this weekend in relation to reports of anti-social behaviour.
- 1.1.5 As many will know, Sarah Taylor has now left her post as Anti-social Behaviour Officer. We have advertised for a replacement and we hope to have someone in post by the beginning of December.

1.2 Operation Valletta

- 1.2.1 Operation Valletta took place on 20 July to target drivers committing offences. Kent Fire & Rescue Service and Kent Police worked together and as well as any enforcement actions, they were also giving drivers' restorative justice to try to prevent them from committing offences again. During this operation Officers stopped a total of 75 cars in Cannon Lane, Tonbridge and London Road, Hildenborough.
- 1.2.2 Of these 75, 39 people were stopped for speeding offences, with a further 32 stopped for not wearing a seatbelt. A further four were stopped for using a mobile phone at the wheel. Once a car had been stopped by an officer, and if it was deemed appropriate, they were offered the choice of speaking with fire crews about road safety or receiving a penalty. This was not the case for seven drivers who were travelling too fast to qualify for this restorative justice. Instead they received traffic offence reports.

1.3 Independent Police Advisory Group (IPAG)

- 1.3.1 The Independent Police Advisory Group (IPAG) is a group of people who meet to act as a 'critical friend' to the Police. As critical friends IPAG members constructively advise and challenge Kent Police on their policies, procedures and practices and advise the force on how to enhance these areas, so that policing performance is improved.
- 1.3.2 An IPAG for Tonbridge & Malling has recently been set up and they are looking for members who are able to represent sections of the community to attend. Meetings are held at 6pm at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council offices, Kings Hill and in 2017 meetings will be held on Wednesday 25 January, Wednesday 12 April, Wednesday 5 July and Thursday 5 October.
- 1.3.3 If you would like further information or would like to register your intention to attend the next meeting please contact ipag.sevenoaksdistrict@gmail.com.

1.4 Community Speedwatch

- 1.4.1 The Community Safety Partnership is encouraging Parish Councils and other community groups to set up Community Speedwatch schemes within their areas. Speedwatch is a community based scheme that helps volunteers make their local roads safer by reducing speeding without penalising passing drivers.
- 1.4.2 A group of two or three police trained volunteers operate at carefully selected roadside sites where speed limits of 20, 30 and 40 miles per hour (mph) are in place. Using a portable speed indication device, they accurately measure the speed of passing vehicles.
- 1.4.3 Without using photography, the volunteers capture and report details about the vehicles travelling at, or above, nationally recommended speed thresholds (25, 35 and 46 mph). The details of vehicles reported speeding are stored by Kent Police

for 12 months. A letter of advice may be sent in that time to the registered owners of vehicles who repeatedly speed and/or drive at more than 50% over the limit. Police officers usually hand deliver advice letters to frequent offenders.

- 1.4.4 Kent Police helps schemes get started safely by training all new volunteers and pre-approving areas where they will operate. They can also help with funding towards any equipment needed.
- 1.4.5 If you are interested in setting up a Speedwatch in your area you can get details by phoning 01622 653781 or email speed.watch.data@kent.pnn.police.uk

1.5 Legal Implications

- 1.5.1 None

1.6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.6.1 Any funding requirements are provided through the Community Safety Partnership.

1.7 Risk Assessment

- 1.7.1 All appropriate risk assessments will be undertaken as required.

1.8 Policy Considerations

- 1.8.1 Crime & Disorder Reduction

Background papers:

Nil

Adrian Stanfield
Central Services Director

contact: Anthony Garnett,
Licencing and Community
Safety Manager

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Tonbridge and Malling Parish Partnership Panel

Thursday, 17 November 2016

Kent County Council Services Update

Key points from the Report by Paul Carter, Leader of the Council to Full Council on 14 July 2016

- There are a number of 16-18 year olds who are disenfranchised from the job market having left school without achieving 5 A to C grade GCSEs, including English and Maths, and feeling failures with low self-esteem. Mr Carter expressed the view that the education establishment was too prescriptive with a one size fits all academic national curriculum. He believed that independent careers advice and guidance should be provided to 14-16 year olds, with real curriculum choices of applied vocational courses, which would enable young people to explore their full potential. He stated that the post 16 Skills Plan would help but it was still fixated on putting up barriers to employment and entry into apprenticeships until those young people had obtained 5 A to C grade GCSEs, including English and Maths. Many young people who may not be academically able wanted a job and a wage and the current system was working against them.
- Referring to health and social care integration through the Sustainable Transformation Plan, Mr Carter stated that Local Government had much to offer health partners in the delivery of effective and efficient services. He hoped that the role of Local Government would be strengthened allowing closer work with health partners, including sharing Local Government's experience of delivering effective and efficient services at much less cost.
- In relation to a compulsory dispersal system for unaccompanied asylum seekers, Mr Carter had recently written to Mr Brokenshire, Minister for Security and Immigration (current post-holder now Mr Robert Goodwill), to suggest that there should be a time limit on the voluntary system prior to a dispersal system being enforced, if necessary. This would enable Kent to reduce the number of unaccompanied asylum seekers down to three or four hundred plus the remaining 18+ year olds that would have to remain in Kent while they went through the asylum process.
- Regarding devolution, Mr Carter was of the view that there would be empowering of local government by Westminster and Whitehall. He referred to the example of public health and the inroads made into influencing and shaping the health and social care interface. He reminded Members that Local Government had a massive agenda and spent 25% of the public purse every year and was optimistic that Kent would receive additional funding to integrate health and social care, through a well thought out Strategic Development Plan.

Sign up to KCC's new mailing list and receive the latest council news in your mailbox

By subscribing to KCC's free emailing service residents can receive important Kent County Council information and news as it becomes available. A valid email address is required and will be used only to provide information on topic preferences subscribed to. For more information visit: www.kent.gov.uk

Snodland Library

Snodland Library will be closed from Monday 17 October until Tuesday 20 December 2016 for planned refurbishment. It will re-open on Wednesday 21 December.

KCC apologies for the inconvenience this may cause.

For more information contact: snodlandlibrary@kent.gov.uk

Kent Fostering - Open your Heart

KCC urgently needs people to provide children and young people with loving homes, particularly for:

- older children aged 13 to 18
- siblings
- disabled children
- unaccompanied asylum seeking young people

Find out about the benefits, payments and all the support Kent County Council can provide you. For more information please contact 03000 420 002.

KCC Highways – report a problem on the road or pavement

KCC Highways, Transportation and Waste welcomes feedback from its customers and has designed a fault reporting tool so that residents can quickly and easily let us know about any problems on the roads and footways or about any equipment such as streetlights, that may not be working.

If you wish to report a fault visit: www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults

From here can be viewed all known issues, any planned works, report multiple issues, upload photos as well as track any existing enquiries. KCC no longer offers a generic email service as the improved online fault reporting tool has been designed to ensure all of the information is captured so that faults are responded to quickly. Residents can still call to report any complex or urgent matters on 03000 418181 and speak to one of KCC's trained highway specialists.

KCC Combined Member Grant Scheme 2016/17

KCC's Combined Member Grant scheme will open on 1 April 2016 with £20,000 available to every County Councillor to fund both community and highway projects in their electoral division. Tonbridge & Malling County Councillors have a total of £140,000 to allocate in 2016/17.

The County Councillors have used their grant allocations in past years to support a wide range of organisations and projects, from sports clubs and arts groups to charities and social enterprises to Parish and District Council projects. The feedback from applicants and local people has been universally positive and has helped a number of projects receive additional or match funding as a result.

For more information on the Combined Member Grant scheme, please contact your local County Councillor or Anne Charman, KCC Community Liaison Officer.

KCC also produces a monthly publication 'Inside Track' which provides information on funding opportunities at a county and national level. For a copy of Inside Track or information on other funding opportunities visit: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/community-grants-and-funding>.

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**.)

A26 Cycle Route – 4 November to 18 December

Kent County Council, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council are working together to promote active travel and the greater use of cycling, especially for local journeys.

Find out about proposals for improving the A26 cycle route between Tonbridge (Brook Street junction) and Tunbridge Wells (Grosvenor Road junction) and tell us your views.

If you require any further information about the proposals before responding to the consultation, please email andy.moreton@kent.gov.uk.

Improving access to Tonbridge Station – 31 October to 11 December

Kent County Council has secured £500,000 from the Local Growth Fund, allocated by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership to improve the area outside Tonbridge Station. Tonbridge station is the busiest station in Kent with over four million customers using the station in 2014/15.

Working with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Network Rail and Southeastern, KCC is aiming to improve the space providing more room for pedestrians and to link the design to the recently improved High Street.

The scheme aims to improve the safety of pedestrians, particularly when crossing the roads at peak times and encourage more sustainable modes of travel such as buses, cycling or walking.

There are four consultation drop-in events where members of the team will be available to answer questions in the Council Chamber at Tonbridge Castle on:

Saturday, 12 November: 11am - 3pm

Saturday 19 November: 11am - 3pm

Thursday 24 November: 2pm - 7pm

Monday 28 November: 3pm - 8pm

KCC Draft Budget Proposals 2017/18 – 13 October to 27 November 2016

KCC needs to identify £108.3m for its 2017/18 budget and is proposing a Council Tax increase of **1.99%**. The Government also allows KCC to include a further **2%** increase to fund extra spending on adult social care. This is called a [social care precept](#).

This would mean KCC's proportion of the Council Tax charge on a Band C property would rise from £1007.60 in 2016/17 to £1,047.84 in 2017/18.

These Council Tax changes, which include new households, would raise an extra **£27.9m** towards closing the gap. However, there will still be an **£80.4m** shortfall between the amount of money KCC has and the amount it needs to spend to continue to deliver services.

KCC is asking for your views on its budget proposals and how it can close the remaining gap before its 2017/18 budget is finalised in February 2017.

For more information visit:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/finance-and-budget/budget-201718>

KCC news

To view the latest news and releases from KCC visit KCC's Media Hub at <https://kccmediahub.net/>

Recent media releases

Kent parents encouraged to get young children vaccinated against flu this autumn - With nursery and school terms well underway parents and guardians of children aged two to seven, are being encouraged to get the free flu vaccination for their children.

Kent's young artists' work on show - A competition for young artists across the county reaches its climax with an exhibition of their work at County Hall, Maidstone. The annual John Downton Awards for Young Artists commemorate the work of John Downton, the celebrated Kent artist, poet and philosopher, who was born in Erith in 1906. Each year, students from schools and colleges across Kent are invited to participate in the awards; giving young artists aged 11-18 the opportunity to exhibit their work, possibly for the first time in their careers.

Admission is free to the exhibition, which will run from Monday 24 October to Tuesday, 3 January, at the County Gallery, Sessions House, County Hall. The gallery is open Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm. Winners will be announced at an awards evening on Thursday, 10 November.

Winter service launched – ready for action - As temperatures continue to drop, Kent County Council has now rolled out its gritters which will remain in operation until March. The county's 64 gritter trucks are now on standby for when the temperatures plummet and staff are keeping a close eye on 13 weather stations which determine when gritting needs to take place

New Smartcard for Kent launches allowing pay-as-you-go travel - A pay-as-you-go travel card has been launched in Kent today, allowing passengers to pay for their bus travel without having to scabble around for change.

The Connected Kent and Medway smartcard has been designed as a joint initiative between Kent County Council and Medway Council and will be available for use from Monday, September 26.

The pay-as-you-go card closely resembles the capital's Oyster card in that it can be topped up online, at certain libraries or in person on the bus. It will initially be accepted on seven operators: Nu-Venture, Autocar, Chalkwell, ASD, County Connect, Farleigh and Go-Coach.

For more information on any of these subjects please contact:

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KCC's Community Liaison Team covers all 12 district council areas in Kent supporting local County Councillors in their role as community leaders and administering their grants. The team works closely with partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors, to help ensure Kent's residents and local community groups are kept well informed about KCC's services and are given the opportunity to influence decisions.



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Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Services Update

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