

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

17 February 2017

To: MEMBERS OF THE TONBRIDGE FORUM
(Copies to all Members of the Council)

Dear Sir/Madam

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the Tonbridge Forum to be held in the Riverside Lounge, Angel Centre, Tonbridge on Monday, 27th February, 2017 commencing at 7.30 pm

Yours faithfully

JULIE BEILBY

Chief Executive

A G E N D A

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|--------|
| 1. | Apologies for absence | 5 - 6 |
| 2. | Minutes | 7 - 14 |

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of Tonbridge Forum held on 12 September 2017

3.	Update on any action identified in the last Minutes	15 - 16
4.	Kent Community Rail Partnership	
	Verbal presentation to be provided by representatives from the Kent Community Rail Partnership	
5.	Public Spaces Protection Order	17 - 48
	- Cabinet report of 31 January 2017 attached for information	
6.	Kent Police Update	49 - 50
7.	Kent Fire and Rescue Services Update	51 - 52
8.	Kent County Council Services Update	53 - 60
9.	Tonbridge and Malling Services Update	61 - 62

DISTRIBUTION

Borough Council Representatives:

Cllr N J Heslop (Chairman)
Cllr C P Smith (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Mrs J A Anderson
Cllr O C Baldock
Cllr Mrs P A Bates
Cllr P F Bolt
Cllr J L Botten
Cllr V M C Branson
Cllr D J Cure
Cllr T Edmondston-Low
Cllr R D Lancaster
Cllr Ms S V Spence
Cllr F G Tombolis

Members of the Forum:

Mr R Long (County Councillor)
The Bridge Trust
Kent Fire and Rescue Service
Kent Police (Tonbridge)
St John's Ambulance
Society of Friends Mr R Long (County Councillor)
The Bridge Trust
Kent Fire and Rescue Service
Kent Police (Tonbridge)
St John's Ambulance
Society of Friends
Tonbridge Allotments and Gardens
Tonbridge and Malling Seniors
Tonbridge Art Group
Tonbridge Area Churches Together
Tonbridge Citizens' Advice Bureau
Tonbridge Civic Society
Tonbridge District Scout Council
Tonbridge Historical Society
Tonbridge Line Commuters
Tonbridge Lions Club
Tonbridge Music Club
Tonbridge Philharmonic Society
Tonbridge Rotary Club
Tonbridge Sports Association
Tonbridge Theatre and Arts Club
Tonbridge Town Team
Women's Institute

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Apologies for absence

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TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TONBRIDGE FORUM

Monday, 12th September, 2016

Present: Cllr N J Heslop (Chairman), Cllr C P Smith (Vice-Chairman),
Cllr Mrs J A Anderson, Cllr O C Baldock, Cllr P F Bolt,
Cllr V M C Branson, Cllr Ms S V Spence and County Councillor
R Long

Together with representatives from:

St John's Ambulance, Society of Friends, Tonbridge Allotments and
Gardens, Tonbridge and Malling Seniors, Tonbridge Art Group,
Tonbridge Civic Society, Tonbridge District Scout Council, Tonbridge
Music Club, Tonbridge Rotary Club, Tonbridge Sports Association,
Tonbridge Theatre and Arts Club, Tonbridge Town Team and
Women's Institute

Councillor M A Coffin was also present pursuant to Council Procedure
Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs P A Bates,
D J Cure, F G Tombolis, Kent Fire and Rescue Service,
Tonbridge Historical Society, Tonbridge Line Commuters,
Tonbridge Lions Club and Tonbridge Philharmonic Society

TF 16/14 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2016 be
approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

TF 16/15 UPDATE ON ANY ACTION IDENTIFIED IN THE LAST MINUTES

There were no actions identified.

However, reference was made to the Tonbridge High Street
Improvement Scheme discussion at the previous meeting, set out at
Minute Number TF 16/12, and the requested response from Kent County
Council regarding shared spaces.

The Chairman advised that this would be circulated to all Forum
Members out of meeting and apologised for the delay in passing this on.

TF 16/16 FLOODING UPDATE: TONBRIDGE, HILDENBOROUGH AND EAST PECKHAM

The Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health reported on
recent progress made towards flood improvement measures within

Tonbridge. As a result of effective partnership working between the Environment Agency, Kent County Council and the Borough Council on funding support and modelling of options there was now a clear way forward with a scheme.

Mr Simon Curd of the EA's Flood Risk Management Team provided a summary of these recent developments and reported that, following an initial assessment stage, it appeared feasible to increase the capacity of the Leigh Flood Storage Area (LFSA) and bring forward a flood und at Hildenborough. This would improve the level of protection to Tonbridge and other communities downstream. Improvements to benefit Hildenborough would need to occur at the same time as those at Leigh. It was explained that extensive modelling had demonstrated that both the LFSA and Hildenborough elements of the scheme needed to be completed together to avoid the increased risk of flooding River Medway into that community.

In addition, the LFSA and Hildenborough schemes had been 'decoupled' from the options for the Rivers Beult and Teise as it was felt that more localised flood defences would be more beneficial for the communities at Yalding, Collier Street and Laddingford.

Funding to improve the LFSA and defences for Hildenborough would be forthcoming from DEFRA with partnership contributions from Kent County Council, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and the private sector. In addition, there was a bid to the South East Local Enterprise Partnership which, if successful, would contribute to this scheme and a separate flood alleviation scheme for East Peckham. The EA and Borough Council were optimistic that funding would be secured. It would be known on 23 November 2016 whether the bid for funding had been successful.

The local community would be briefed at a poster exhibition to be held on 20-22 October 2016 at the Angel Centre, Tonbridge between 1400 and 2000 hours on weekdays; 1000 and 1600 hours on Saturday.

Finally, Members were advised that the outline business case was being prepared and would lead to the full business case being submitted to DEFRA in 2018. Once approved the detailed design phase was anticipated to start in 2018/19. Currently, the EA's indicative programme showed construction between 2019 and 2022.

The Forum was also advised of other recent EA investment in Tonbridge at Town Lock and Avebury Avenue.

Members welcomed the positive news regarding improved flood defences and asked that the timetable for the works to be implemented was moved forward as quickly as possible. Mr Curd recognised that the process seemed lengthy and reminded the Forum that the proposed schedule was earlier than that originally promised. The earlier

development of the scheme was as a result of securing funding contributions and the Borough Council's initiative regarding the funding bid to SELEP was recognised. It was also hoped that the timetable could be accelerated as progress was made.

Concerns were raised regarding the lack of flood protection measures in place for Hildenborough whilst the scheme was developed and whether temporary flood barriers could be used. The EA recognised the concerns raised and offered to revisit the potential use of flood barriers although it was not guaranteed that this would be a viable alternative. Further work would also be done to improve communication and early warnings to residents.

The issue of surface water was raised and it was confirmed that Southern Water and Kent County Council had responsibility for this area. Work had recently been completed on clearing the culverts but the EA recognised that the surface water represented a significant challenge and were consulting with Southern Water, via the County Council.

The Chairman thanked Mr Curd for his contribution and asked all Members of the Forum to promote the upcoming workshops in Tonbridge. A copy of the recent EA newsletter would be attached again to the Minutes for information.

TF 16/17 FAIRER CHARGING IN TONBRIDGE AND MALLING - UPDATE FOLLOWING PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive referred to the recent public consultation on the proposals for fairer charging in Tonbridge and Malling by the introduction of a Special Expenses scheme. The proposal aimed to achieve savings where possible and to provide equity for residents throughout Tonbridge and Malling.

The consultation had ended on 20 June 2016 with a good response from residents. These responses had been carefully considered by a Special Cabinet meeting held on 28 July and a preferred way forward formulated for recommendation to Council in November. As a result of those considerations a number of changes had been suggested and it was now recommended that Tonbridge Cemetery be removed from any Special Expenses Scheme on the grounds that it was a facility that was available equally to all residents in Tonbridge and Malling.

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.

As a consequence of the suggested changes to the Scheme indicative figures for Special Expenses would be lower than originally estimated but the final sums were still being calculated.

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

A question was asked about financial arrangements for Tonbridge and whether local councillors, or a local Member panel, would be granted delegated authority to make decisions regarding local precepts and funding opportunities. The Chief Executive responded that, under current Borough Council arrangements, those councillors elected to represent Tonbridge residents' interests had the opportunity to do so via the Advisory Board system and the standard budget setting process.

Members were encouraged to read the report on Special Expenses considered by Cabinet on 28 July 2016 via the following link:

<https://democracy.tmbc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=146&MIId=3006&Ver=4>

TF 16/18 LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

The Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health indicated that the forthcoming Local Plan was a significant document for the Borough Council in identifying and outlining future development for Tonbridge and Malling for the coming years.

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, hard copies would be made available for local organisations.

All Members of the Forum 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 also confirmed that traditional methods of promotion and communication would be used in conjunction with the use of social media and the internet.

Following the consultation a revised plan would be prepared to reflect the comments received before submission to Government sometime in 2017. There would be further opportunity for local involvement and contribution as the process continued.

In response to a question from the Forum regarding the scope of the Plan, the Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health indicated that currently it dealt with headline development strategy and policies around use of land; protection of the countryside and infrastructure.

Finally, in response to a further question regarding planning policy until the Plan was implemented in 2018, the Policy Manager advised that the Local Development Framework remained extant until the Local Plan was ratified. The Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health was also pleased to report that the Borough Council had an estimated five year supply of housing development available. However, it was important to take some challenging decisions for the longer term.

Members were pleased to see consideration being given to mixed types of housing and asked whether consideration would also be given to community spaces and local shopping. It was confirmed that both of these areas would be referred to in the Plan and that the Borough Council tried to promote the scale of development should be right for the size of the community.

The Chairman closed the discussion by asking all Members to promote the consultation with their local community groups.

TF 16/19 KENT POLICE UPDATE

This item was WITHDRAWN from the agenda.

However, the following local concerns were raised and these would be forwarded to Kent Police, via the Community Safety Partnership, for addressing:

- Nuisance vehicles along Yardley Park Road (Councillor V Branson)
- An outstanding enquiry regarding enforcement around speeding in Barden Road and speeding along the Ridgeway (County Councillor R Long and Councillor N Heslop)
- Anti-social behaviour around fishing

In addition, the following concern had been raised at the Parish Partnership Panel on Thursday 8 September regarding youths loitering and smoking cannabis in Tonbridge. At that meeting Kent Police (Inspector R McNeil) confirmed that drug issues were always taken seriously and dealt with 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.

TF 16/20 KENT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES UPDATE

Apologies had been received from the Kent Fire and Rescue Services Group Manager (C King) due to another work commitment and this item was WITHDRAWN from the agenda.

TF 16/21 KENT COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES UPDATE

The Kent County Council Community Liaison Officer (Anne Charman) reported on a number of County initiatives and consultations. A Kent County Council Services Update report setting out more details was attached to the agenda for information.

Members were advised that by subscribing to Kent County Council's free emailing service residents could receive important information and news as it became available. A valid email address was required and would be used only to provide information on topic preferences subscribed to. For more information visit: www.kent.gov.uk

All KCC consultations could be found online and Members were encouraged to sign up to the consultation directory:

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

Finally, feedback on the format and future content of the Services Update report was invited.

The Women's Institute thanked the County Council for the installation of the pedestrian crossing at Hunt Road. The Chairman indicated that this had been funded from the Combined Member Grant Scheme and thanked the local County Councillors (R Long and C Smith) for their contribution.

Gratitude was also expressed for the new bench seats along the Tonbridge High Street.

In response to a query from the Society of Friends regarding the Cycling Strategy Consultation result, the Community Liaison Officer indicated that the outcomes would be available on the website in due course and offered to follow this up out of meeting.

Finally reference was made to a pilot programme for Volunteer Community Wardens being run by Kent County Council and everyone was 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.

TF 16/22 TONBRIDGE AND MALLING SERVICES UPDATE

The Chief Executive and the Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health provided an update on key points relevant to Tonbridge and these included:

- Hive Lotto

The Community Lottery had been launched on Friday 2 September and was a fundraising scheme to help local good causes. It was reported that six partners were on board, including the Bridge Trust, West Kent Mind, Spadeworks and Tonbridge Angels, and all were encouraged to support, promote and participate.

Details were available on: www.hivelotto.co.uk and more information around the launch of the community lottery could be found on the Borough Council's website:

<http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/news/archive-2016/launch-of-hive-lotto-marks-start-of-funding-boost-for-good-causes>

- River Walk Improvement Scheme

This was a project to improve and enhance the River Walk area up to New Wharf Road and a partnership approach between the County and Borough Councils would be adopted. It was intended to be a high quality scheme and had been 'fast tracked' to take advantage of a funding opportunity. Works were anticipated to start on site in

November. More detailed information would be presented to the Borough Council's Finance, Innovation and Property Advisory Board on 21 September and the report could be viewed on the website via the following link:

<https://democracy.tmbc.gov.uk/documents/s18537/Report%20of%20Director%20of%20Street%20Scene%20Leisure%20and%20Technical%20Services.pdf>

TF 16/23 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

(1) Tonbridge and Malling Seniors advised of a TAMs Open Day on 29 September in the Medway Hall, Angel Centre between 1000 – 1400 hours. This would promote initiatives and provide advice and guidance for the over 50s.

(2) Tonbridge Rotary announced the following two events:

- Tonbridge Half Marathon on Sunday 2 October, which was a joint venture between the Rotary and Tonbridge Lions.
- Tonbridge Christmas Festival on 27 November which would provide entertainment and stalls around the formal turning on of the Christmas Lights. Activities were due to start at 1400 hours and would end with a firework display on the Castle Lawn.

Finally, the Chairman thanked the Tonbridge Town Team for a successful Dragon Boat Race at the weekend (Saturday 10 September) and the organisers of the Medieval Fayre (Sunday 11 September), both of which had been well received by visitors.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm

Agenda Item 3

Update on action identified in the last Minutes

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TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

31 January 2017

Report of the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer

Part 1- Public

Executive Non Key Decisions

1 PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

To provide a report giving details of the proposed Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) for the borough, including details of the borough wide restrictions, as well as restrictions for particular geographical areas.

1.1 Background to Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO)

1.1.1 The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 places new duties on the Council to tackle Anti-social Behaviour (ASB), working co-operatively with the Police, social landlords and other agencies. The Act puts victims at the heart of the response to ASB and is intended to give professionals the flexibility they need to deal with any given situation.

1.1.2 Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) are one of a number of new tools contained within the Act and are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. They are designed to ensure the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour.

1.1.3 Councils will be responsible for making the new PSPO. District Councils will take the lead in England with county councils undertaking the role only where there is no district council. The new power is not available to parish councils or town councils.

1.1.4 The PSPOs will be replacing dog control orders, designated public place orders (also known as Alcohol Control Zones) and gating orders.

1.2 The requirements of a PSPO

1.2.1 The council can make a PSPO on any public space in its own area. The definition of public space is wide and includes any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission, for example a shopping centre.

- 1.2.2 Before making a PSPO the council must consult with the local police. This is an opportunity for the police and council to share information about the area and the problems being caused as well as to discuss the practicalities of enforcement. In addition the owner or occupier of the land should be consulted as well as community representatives as appropriate.
- 1.2.3 The test for a PSPO is designed to be broad and focus on the impact anti-social behaviour is having on victims and communities. A PSPO can be made by the council if they are satisfied on reasonable grounds that the activities carried out, or likely to be carried out, in a public space:
- have had, or are likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality;
 - is, or is likely to be, persistent or continuing in nature;
 - is, or is likely to be unreasonable; and
 - justifies the restrictions imposed.
- 1.2.4 A single PSPO can include multiple restrictions and requirements in one order. It can prohibit certain activities, such as the drinking of alcohol, as well as placing requirements on individuals carrying out certain activities, for instance making sure that people walking their dogs keep them on a lead.
- 1.2.5 The maximum duration of a PSPO is three years but they can last for shorter periods where appropriate. At any point before expiry the council can extend a PSPO by up to three years if they consider that it is necessary to prevent the original behaviour from occurring or reoccurring. If a new issue arises in an area where a PSPO is in force the council can vary the terms of the order at any time. This can change the size of the restricted area or the specific requirements or restrictions. As well as varying the PSPO, a council can also seek to discharge it at any time.

1.3 Enforcement process and penalties

- 1.3.1 It is an offence for a person, without reasonable excuse, to:
- do anything that the person is prohibited from doing by a PSPO
 - fail to comply with a requirement to which the person is subject under a PSPO.
- 1.3.2 If a person fails to adhere to the PSPO they may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN). Where the FPN is not paid within the required timescale, court proceedings may be initiated.

1.4 The proposed PSPO for Tonbridge & Malling

- 1.4.1 After consultation with Borough Council offices and Police officers we have decided to proceed with a PSPO containing multiple restrictions [see Annex 1]. Some of the restrictions are borough wide (e.g. deterring dog fouling, dogs on leads by direction) and some are specific to geographical locations depending on particular issues (for example to prevent the use of unauthorised BBQs within Leybourne Lakes Country Park). We believe that each of the proposed restrictions passes the PSPO 'Test' and that they will all help to prevent ASB in the borough.
- 1.4.2 Officers have used evidence and professional judgement to develop this proposed PSPO and have considered all issues/areas against the stated test process. There are some areas that were considered and then rejected as they did not pass the test process and have procedures already in place which can tackle the anti-social behaviour. In particular, officers discussed the possibility of including fishing around the Town Lock area within the PSPO. It was noted that ASB has been associated with people who also fish in this area, and it was also noted that fishing is prohibited in this area. The sole activity of fishing could not be described as having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of people in the area, and it was also noted that the associated behaviours (such as drinking and camping) would be controlled under the proposed PSPO.
- 1.4.3 Officers also discussed whether or not to include 'No unauthorised camping' within the PSPO. The Council already has powers under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 ("CJPOA") to deal with unauthorised encampments, involving the service of a notice, which has a duration of 3 months. Breach of such notice is an offence. It was felt, however, that the CJPOA process was too lengthy, time consuming and potentially costly to the authority to deal with very temporary encampments which may still have a significant detrimental effect in areas such as the Country Parks. We have therefore included 'No unauthorised camping' within the proposals for Leybourne Lakes, Tonbridge Moorings, Haysden Country Park, Tonbridge Racecourse Sports Ground and Tonbridge Castle and Tonbridge Farm Sports Ground.
- 1.4.4 This restriction is not intended to be used for homeless individuals and anyone who is found to be homeless will be offered the appropriate help and advice.
- 1.4.5 We will be looking to set the Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) at £80, reduced to £50 if paid within 10 days. This follows the Borough Council's Enforcement Policy, which the PSPO will also adhere to. Under 18's will be dealt with in accordance with the Borough Council's Enforcement Policy.
- 1.4.6 Fixed Penalty Notices will be issued by authorised Borough Council staff. We anticipate that there will be a high expectation from the public in regards to enforcing the PSPO and this is something that we will need to manage. It may be that we need to seek alternative ways of enforcing any breaches and we may

therefore explore the potential for other partners (such as Parish Councils) to gather evidence or give witness statements if they see anyone breaching any of the restrictions within the PSPO. This is something that we would look to take forward outside of this consultation.

- 1.4.7 We have also liaised with the Police regarding the PSPO and following these discussions it has been agreed that they will not issue Fixed Penalty Notices but will provide evidence as required. A protocol will be developed with Kent Police to take this forward.
- 1.4.8 It is not possible, or appropriate, to include every area within the borough with an anti-social behaviour issue (or perceived issue). The majority of ASB can be dealt with through other measures without the need for a Public Spaces Protection Order. However, if through the consultation process a request for a restriction is provided then this will be considered (assuming the test has been met) and discussed at the appropriate Council meeting.

1.5 Consultation process

- 1.5.1 The consultation period will start from 1 February 2017 and will end on 15 March 2017. We will be consulting with all Parish Councils, the Police and Crime Commissioner, partners within the Community Safety Partnership and community groups as relevant. Copies of the PSPO consultation will be available in a variety of locations as well as online.
- 1.5.2 The responses to the consultation will be reported to Cabinet on the 21 March 2017, and then Full Council on the 11 April 2017.
- 1.5.3 Once agreed, a copy of the Order will be published in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State.
- 1.5.4 A copy of the response questionnaire is shown at **Annex 2**.

1.6 Legal Implications

- 1.6.1 As the PSPO is a legal requirement of the new ASB legislation we will be receiving legal guidance to ensure that we meet the criteria. Once the final PSPO measures are agreed the PSPO will need to be published in accordance with the regulations made by the Secretary of State.
- 1.6.2 Currently TMBC enforce against dog fouling using the Dog (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. It was repealed by Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 section 65, and replaced by similar legislation in the same act, namely Dog Control Orders (DCOs). However, as TMBC did not adopt a DCO for fouling across the whole borough, we were still able to enforce under the Dog (FoL) Act. The introduction of the PSPO for dog fouling borough-wide will supersede this legislation and enforcement for such offences will then only be possible using the PSPO. This means that every three years, the PSPO will have to be amended to

ensure that dog fouling offences can still be enforced against. If the PSPO is not renewed, no legislation would exist to deal with fouling unless new legislation is introduced.

1.7 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.7.1 There is no significant cost associated with the establishment of the Public Spaces Protection Order within the borough.

1.8 Risk Assessment

1.8.1 All appropriate risk assessments will be undertaken as required.

1.9 Equality Impact Assessment

1.9.1 Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups, and (iii) foster good relations between people from different groups. The decisions recommended through this paper directly impact on end users. The impact has been analysed and does not vary between groups of people.

1.10 Policy Considerations

1.10.1 Crime & Disorder Reduction

1.11 Recommendations

1.11.1 That the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order, as presented at **Annex 1**, be circulated for consultation.

The Central Services Director confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
Guidance for the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

contact: Anthony Garnett
Licencing and Community
Safety Manager

Adrian Stanfield
Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer

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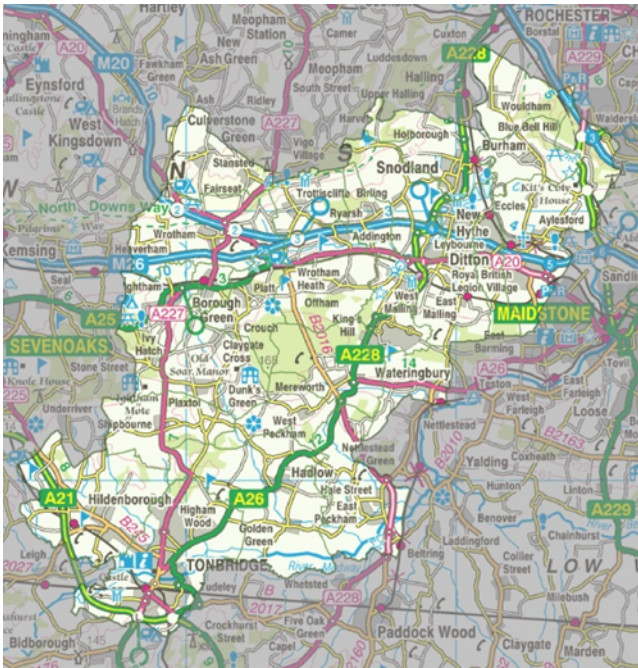
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

Proposal for Public Spaces Protection Orders in the Borough



Visit: www.tmbc.gov.uk

Introduction



The borough of Tonbridge and Malling lies in the heart of Kent and is an area of variety and historical interest. The borough is largely rural with few large settlements; Tonbridge in the south being the largest and home to around 35,000 residents. The remainder of the borough is dotted with villages and smaller towns.

Industry and commerce are concentrated around Tonbridge, Aylesford, Ditton, Larkfield and Snodland. Mineral extraction has been carried out in the area for many years. Paper and packaging mills, distribution, general and light industry and many small businesses make up the industrial scene. The borough is a popular area for office location and high tech development, particularly at the Kings Hill business and residential community.

Public Spaces Protection Orders

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Police and Crime Act 2014 places new duties on the Council to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), working co-operatively with the police, social landlords and other agencies. The Government make it clear that their reforms are designed to put victims at the heart of the response to ASB and give professionals the flexibility they need to deal with any given situation.

Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's) are intended to control and restrict anti-social behaviour or potential anti-social behaviour in public spaces. They can help by giving local councils and police additional powers to tackle anti-social behaviour in specific locations. The definition of a public space is wide and includes any place to which the public or any section of the public has access too.

District/Borough Councils are responsible for making the new PSPO's and to take enforcement against any breaches, although the Police are also able to enforce these Orders and it is also possible for the Council to delegate enforcement powers to others.

Tonbridge & Malling is considering introducing Public Spaces Protection Orders to cover the open spaces within the Borough and specific locations (Leybourne Lakes Country Park; Tonbridge Memorial Gardens; Tonbridge Moorings; Haysden Country Park; Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground and Tonbridge Castle; Tonbridge Farm Sportsground and Tonbridge Cemetery). Those Orders in specific locations are to deal with anti-social behaviour that is particular to these areas and any breaches of the Orders will lead to Fixed Penalty Notices if the behaviour does not cease when asked to do so. The PSPO will be in place for a three year period and will be reviewed at the end of this time.

The activities identified within the PSPO have been carried out in public places within the Council's area and have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. The Council is satisfied that that the prohibitions imposed by the PSPO are reasonable to impose in order to prevent the detrimental effect of these activities from continuing, occurring or recurring, or to reduce that detrimental effect or to reduce the risk of its continuance, occurrence or recurrence.

There will be Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) of £80 (or £50 if paid within 10 days) to be issued for any breaches of the PSPOs. These will be issued by an authorised person and will follow the Enforcement Policy set by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council.

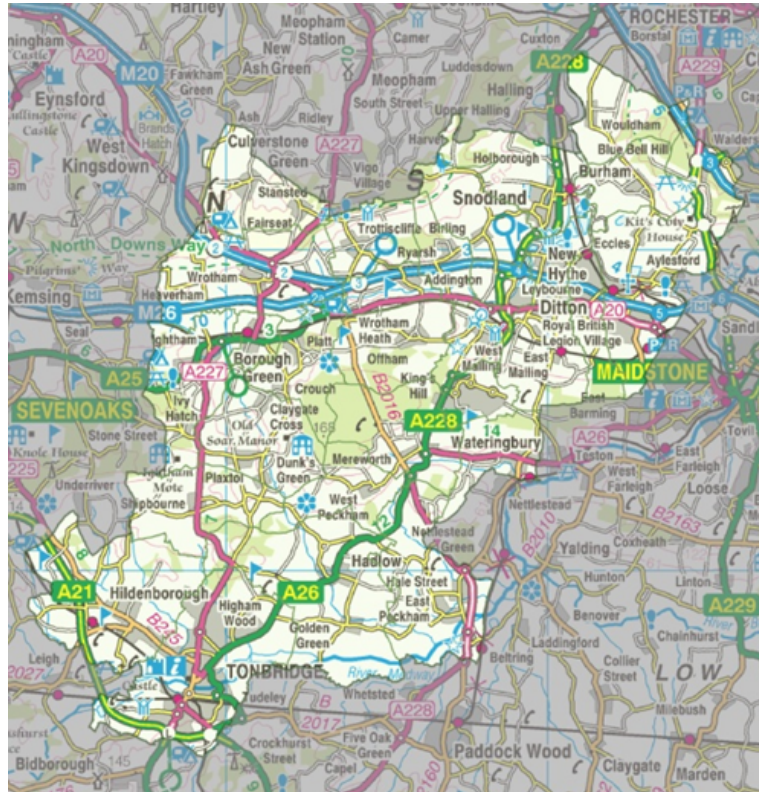
Consultation;

This booklet gives you details of the Proposal. We will be consulting the public and other groups about our proposals and there will be both paper copies of a questionnaire as well as an on-line survey to allow feedback to be provided. The on-line survey will be available on www.tmbc.gov.uk.

The details below show the timeline for consultation with the public and other groups.

Cabinet	31 January 2017
Consultation period	1 February 2017 until 15 March 2017
Cabinet	21 March 2017
Full Council	11 April 2017

Responses should be sent to PSPO Consultation via csp@tmbc.gov.uk or sent to PSPO Consultation, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4LZ.



The whole Borough area where the council is considering introducing a Public Spaces Protection Order for the issues mentions below.

These proposed Public Spaces Protection Order measures replace the current Dog Control Orders (DCO's) and Alcohol Control Zones.

Measure 1

Deterring Dog Fouling

Dog Fouling is a widespread and well known problem with the Borough. Dog faeces are a known carrier of the roundworm toxicara that can cause blindness. The Council has a duty under the Litter (Animal Droppings) Order 1991 to endeavour to keep public open spaces clear of dog faeces.

Proposal

A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to the person responsible for the dog(s) who allows dog fouling by not removing dog faeces from any public place.

Measure 2

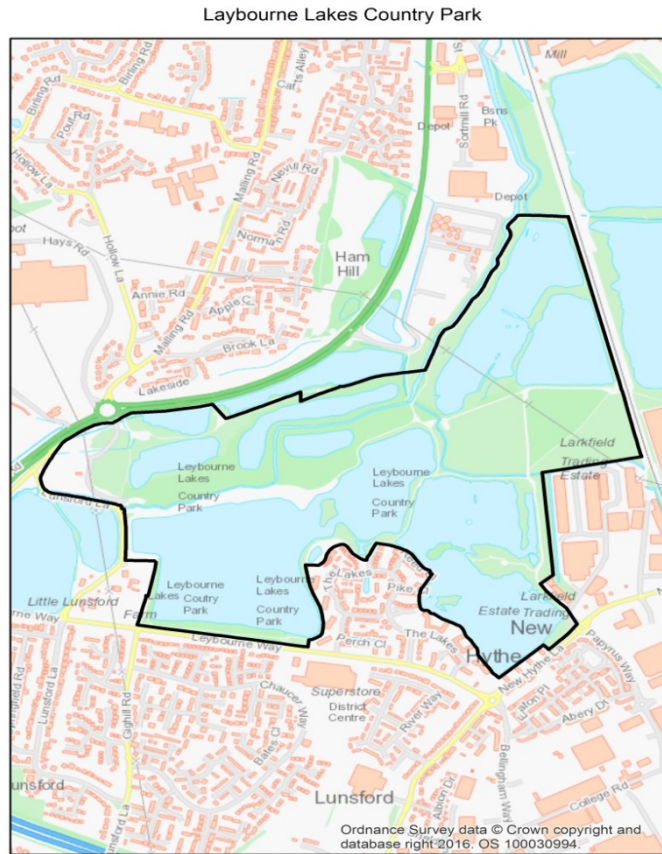
Exclusion of dogs from Borough Council owned and maintained children's play areas

A number of complaints have been received about dogs being loose and causing distress to young children. The exclusion of dogs from borough council owned and maintained children's play areas will prevent any distress and alarm to children.

Proposal

A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued for any person allowing a dog, or dogs, into a Borough's owned and maintained children play areas to enable children to enjoy the facilities unimpeded from dogs.

Proposed - Public Spaces Protection Order	Orders covering all of the public spaces within Tonbridge & Malling.
<p>Measure 3</p>	<p>Dogs on leads by direction In order to stop a loose dog causing a nuisance, annoyance or disturbance to other people or to wildlife, dogs must be kept on a lead if the owner is instructed to do so by an authorised person.</p> <p>Proposal A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to anyone who does not put their dog on a lead when instructed to do so by an authorised person.</p>
<p>Measure 4</p>	<p>Maximum number of dogs This measure restricts the total number of dogs that one person can take onto a public place to six dogs to ensure that they have full control of these dogs and do not allow them to cause alarm or distress to other people.</p> <p>Proposal A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to anyone who takes more than six dogs at one time onto a public place.</p>
<p>Measure 5</p>	<p>Introduction of a controlled alcohol zone There have been many incidents across the Borough where there has been anti-social behaviour linked to alcohol.</p> <p>This measure will not mean it is an offence to drink alcohol in a public place; however, it will be an offence to fail to comply with a request by an authorised officer to cease drinking or surrender alcohol. This will not apply to any premises, or its curtilage, which is licenced for the supply of alcohol.</p> <p>Proposal A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued for any person who continues to drink alcohol in a public place when asked to cease or surrender that alcohol.</p>
<p>Measure 6</p>	<p>Deterring public urination / defecation There are complaints about people urinating/defecating in public which is unpleasant and unhygienic for others. It makes people feel unsafe and can cause feelings of distress.</p> <p>Proposal To make it an offence to urinate or defecate in public (excluding public toilets). A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to anyone seen urinating or defecating in a public place (excluding public toilets).</p>



The map above shows the area where the council is considering introducing a Public Spaces Protection Order for Leybourne Lakes Country Park

Measure 1

No unauthorised BBQs

TMBC has received a number of complaints from the public that these are left on the ground and also are placed in bins causing them to burn out which the public then complain about. BBQs cause damage to the Country side, burning dry fields, hot coals placed in bins have been causing much damage to the bins and can result in unpleasant smoke drifting for some distance.

Proposal

No unauthorised BBQs within Leybourne Lakes Country Park. A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to anyone seen using an unauthorised BBQ.

Measure 2

No unauthorised Swimming, bathing or boating.

TMBC has received numerous complaints from the public about anti-social behaviour involving people swimming in the lakes in this area. Unauthorised swimming can have a detrimental effect on wildlife and interfere with authorised swimming activities.

Proposal

No unauthorised swimming within Leybourne Lakes Country Park. A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to anyone seen using the lake who has not been authorised.

Measure 3

Keeping dogs on a lead

The car park and access road for the Watersports has high volumes of vehicular traffic. Additionally on numerous occasions it has been reported that food has been taken from children and elderly people by uncontrolled dogs. This measure is to prevent distress to park users.

Proposal

To keep dogs on a lead within the signed area (see map for details). A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to anyone not keeping their dog on a lead in these areas.

Measure 4

No unauthorised camping

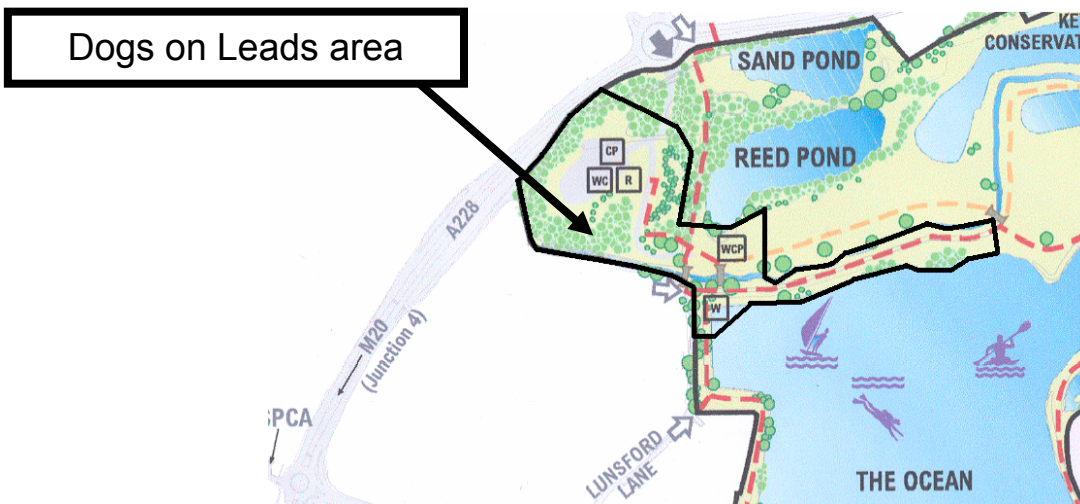
The Borough Council is satisfied that unauthorised camping in a public place is being carried out within this area or it is likely that this activity will be carried out and this is having, or it is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. People camping in this area have been known to set fires; leave rubbish and cause alarm or distress to others.

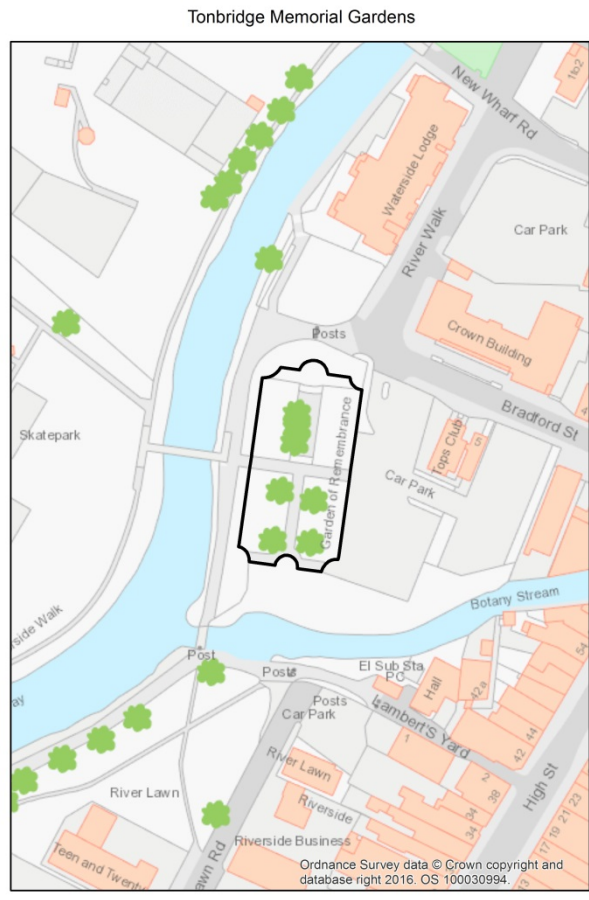
Proposal

A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to anyone who, when asked to remove an unauthorised encampment, does not do so.

Map showing dogs on leads designated area within Leybourne Lakes Country Park

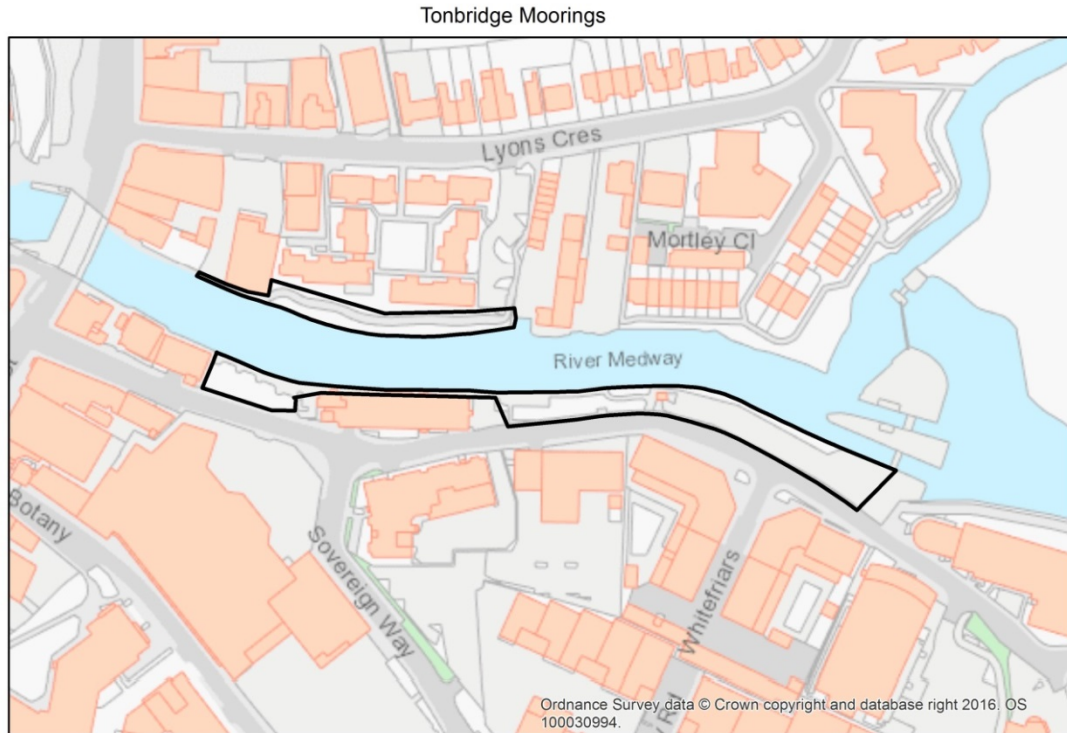
The area marked below is designated a 'Dogs on Leads' area. Please ensure your dog is on a lead at all times when in this area of the Park





The map above is the area where the council is considering introducing a Public Spaces Protection Order for Tonbridge Memorial Gardens

<p>Measure 1</p>	<p>No-wheeled-sports activities</p> <p>There have been numerous complaints to this Authority have come in regarding damage to this area adversely affecting peoples enjoyment of the memorial garden.</p> <p>Wheeled sports activities take place within the memorial garden; physical damage has been caused to the site which is detrimental to this very sensitive site where people come for peace and reflection.</p> <p>Proposal</p> <p>No-wheeled-sports activities to take place within the Tonbridge Memorial Gardens. Including, but not limited to, skateboards, BMX, in-line skating and scooters. A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to anyone not ceasing these activities when instructed to do so.</p>
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The map above is the area where the council is considering introducing a Public Spaces Protection Order for Tonbridge Moorings

Measure 1

No unauthorised Mooring

The Council has received a number of complaints from the public from people mooring boats without a licence, disposing of waste on the sides of the river, leaving generators running through the night and swimming in the river.

Unauthorised mooring impedes authorised users using spaces which can lead to conflict and anti-social behaviour.

Proposal

No unauthorised Mooring within the Tonbridge Moorings area. A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to anyone breaching this Order.

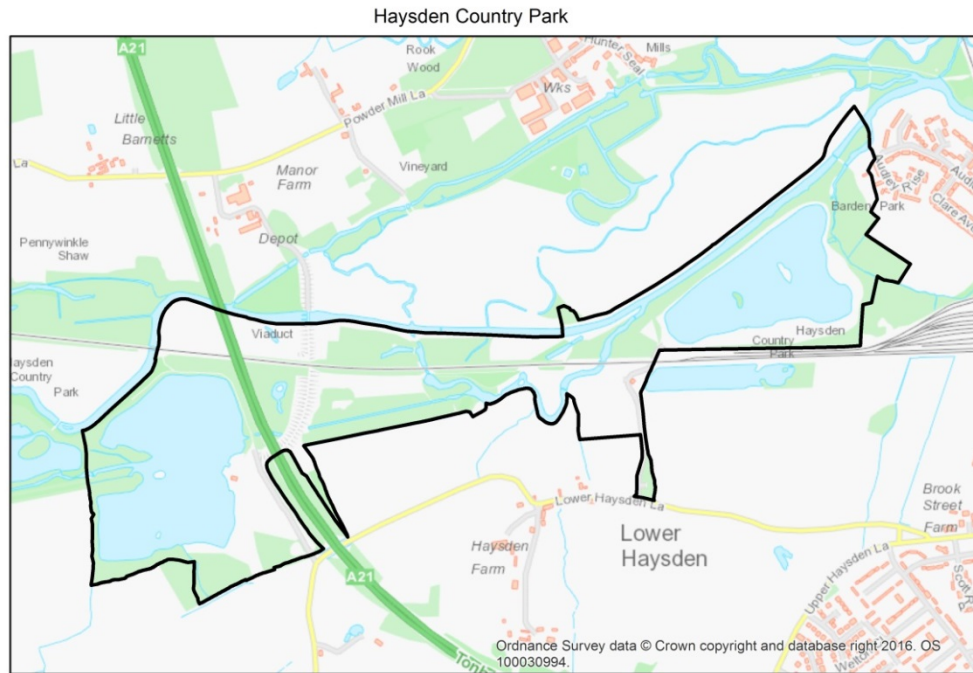
Measure 2

No unauthorised camping

The Borough Council is satisfied that unauthorised camping in a public place is being carried out within this area or it is likely that this activity will be carried out and this is having, or it is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. People camping in this area have been known to set fires; leave rubbish and cause alarm or distress to others.

Proposal

A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to anyone who, when asked to remove an unauthorised encampment, does not do so.



The map above is the area where the council is considering introducing a Public Spaces Protection Order for Haysden Country Park

Measure 1

No unauthorised BBQs

TMBC has received a number of complaints from the public that these are left on the ground and also are placed in bins causing them to burn out which the public then complain about. BBQs cause damage to the Country side, burning dry fields, hot coals placed in bins have been causing much damage to the bins and can result in unpleasant smoke drifting for some distance.

Proposal

No unauthorised BBQs within Haysden Country Park. A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to anyone seen with an unauthorised BBQ.

Measure 2

No unauthorised Swimming, bathing or boating activities

TMBC has received numerous complaints from the public about anti-social behaviour involving people swimming in the lakes in this area. Unauthorised swimming can have a detrimental effect on wildlife and can be linked to excessive noise and distress to others.

Proposal

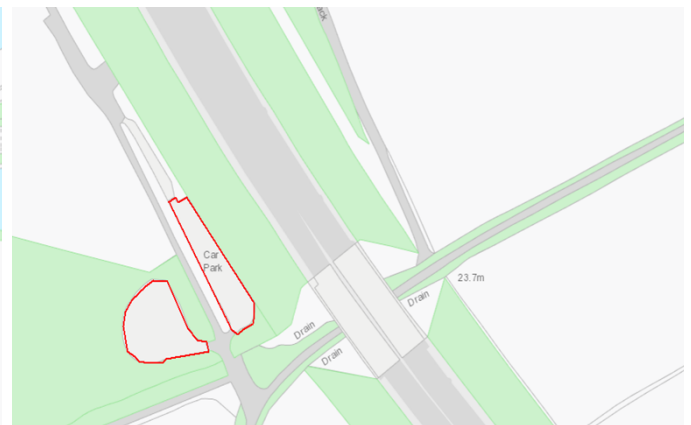
No unauthorised swimming, bathing or boating within Haysden Country Park. A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to anyone seen undertaking these activities without authorisation.

Proposed - Public Spaces Protection Order		Haysden Country Park
Measure 3	<p>Keeping dogs on a lead</p> <p>On numerous occasions it has been reported that food is stolen from children and the elderly by uncontrolled dogs. This measure is to ensure the safety of all users and prevent distress to anyone.</p> <p>Proposal</p> <p>To keep dogs on a lead within the designated areas in the car parks and at the catering unit at Haysden Country Park (see maps below). A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to anyone seen not following this Order.</p>	
Measure 4	<p>No unauthorised camping</p> <p>The Borough Council is satisfied that unauthorised camping in a public place is being carried out within this area or it is likely that this activity will be carried out and this is having, or it is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. People camping in this area have been known to set fires; leave rubbish and cause alarm or distress to others.</p> <p>Proposal</p> <p>A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to anyone who, when asked to remove an unauthorised encampment, does not do so.</p>	

Map showing dogs on lead area within main car park and catering area



Map showing dogs on lead area within Lower Haysden Lane Car Park



Map showing dogs on lead area within Audley Rise Car Park



Tonbridge Racecourse Sports Ground



Tonbridge Castle



The map above is the area where the council is considering introducing a Public Spaces Protection Order for Tonbridge Racecourse Sports Ground and Tonbridge Castle

Measure 1

No unauthorised BBQs

TMBC has received a number of complaints from the public that these are left on the ground and also are placed in bins causing them to burn out which the public then complain about. BBQs cause damage to the Country side, burning dry fields, hot coals placed in bins have been causing much damage to the bins and can result in unpleasant smoke drifting for some distance.

Proposal

No unauthorised BBQs within Tonbridge Racecourse Sports ground and Tonbridge Castle. A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to anyone seen with an unauthorised BBQ.

Measure 2

Keeping dogs on leads

The area around Tonbridge Castle is very popular and uncontrolled dogs can cause alarm and distress to those people using this area. By keeping dogs on a lead in this area it will prevent anyone from feeling distressed by an uncontrolled dog.

Proposal

To keep dogs on a lead within the Castle grounds (see map below). A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to anyone who is seen not following this Order.

Proposed - Public Spaces Protection Order

Tonbridge Racecourse Sports Ground and Tonbridge Castle

Measure 3

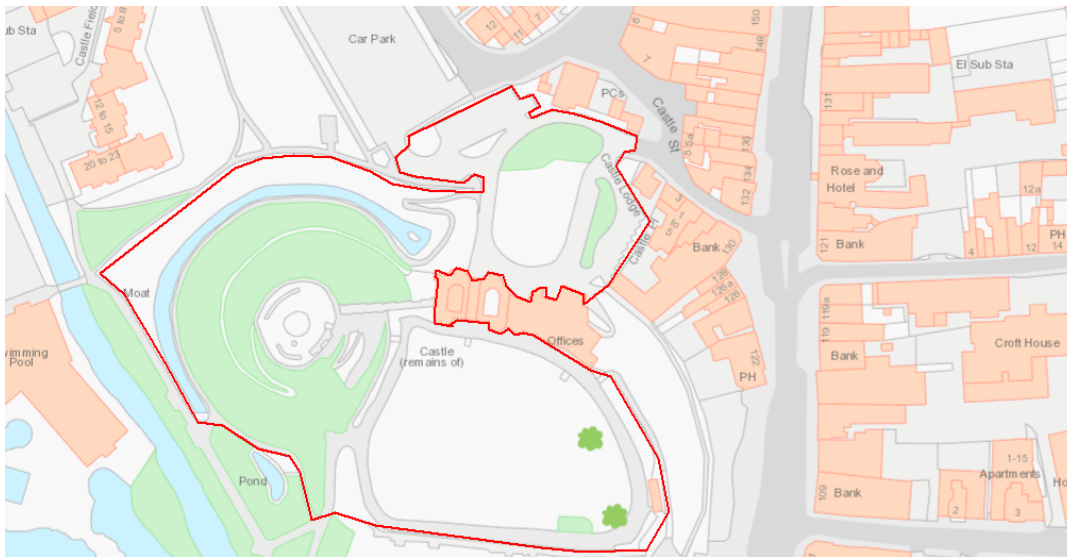
No unauthorised camping

The Borough Council is satisfied that unauthorised camping in a public place is being carried out within this area or it is likely that this activity will be carried out and this is having, or it is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. People camping in this area have been known to set fires; leave rubbish and cause alarm or distress to others.

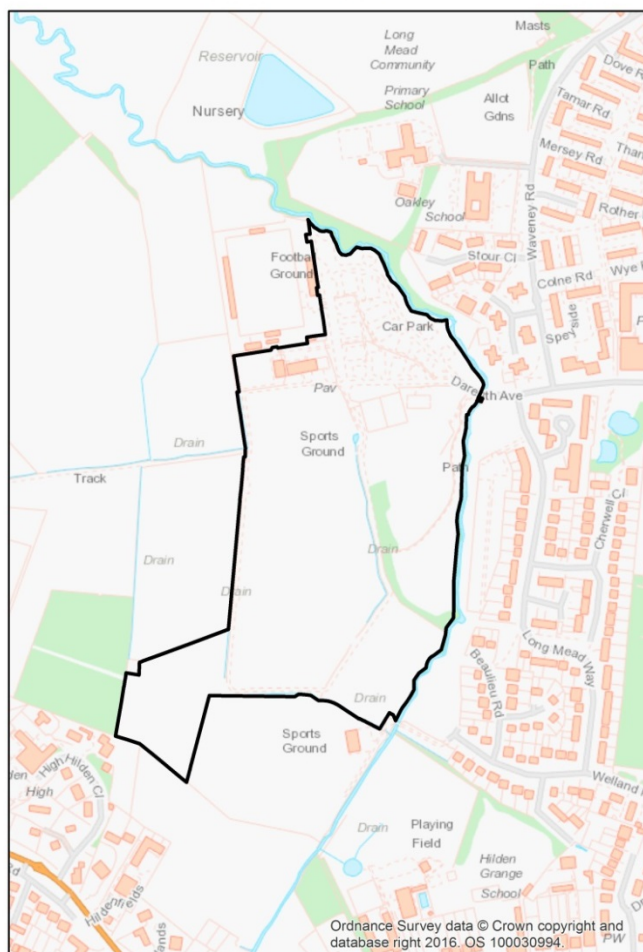
Proposal

A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to anyone who, when asked to remove an unauthorised encampment, does not do so.

Map showing dogs on lead area within Tonbridge Castle grounds



Tonbridge Farm Sports Ground



The map above is the area where the council is considering introducing a Public Space Protection Order for Tonbridge Farm Sports Ground

Measure 1

No unauthorised BBQs

TMBC has received a number of complaints from the public that these are left on the ground and also are placed in bins causing them to burn out which the public then complain about. BBQs cause damage to the Country side, burning dry fields, hot coals placed in bins have been causing much damage to the bins and can result in unpleasant smoke drifting for some distance.

Proposal

No unauthorised BBQs within Tonbridge Farm Sports ground. A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to anyone seen with an unauthorised BBQ.

Measure 2

Keeping dogs on leads

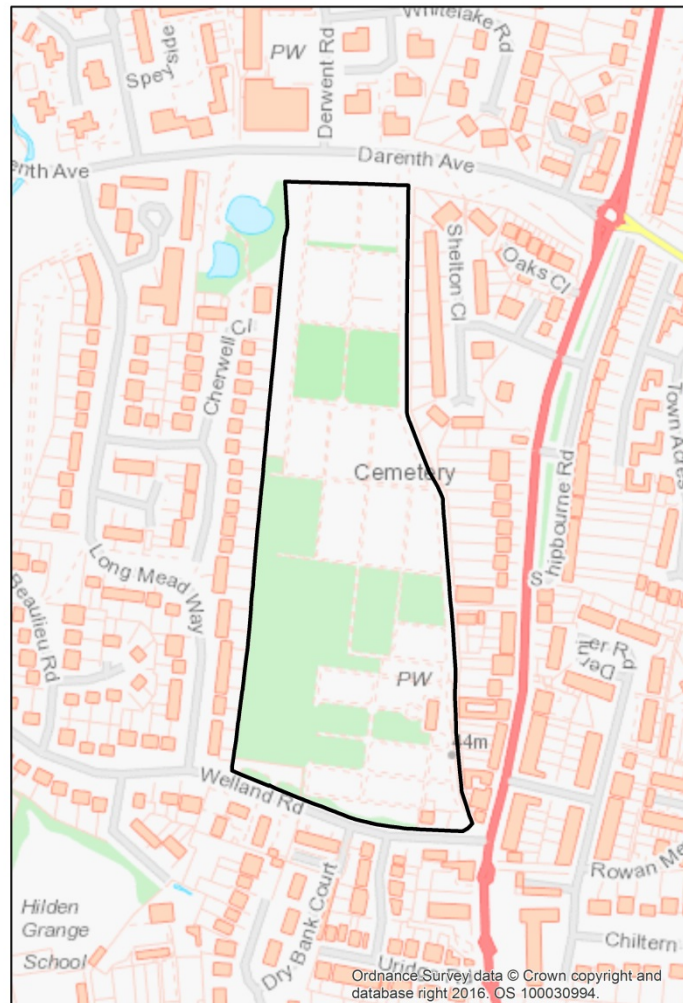
Tonbridge Farm Sports ground is very popular and uncontrolled dogs can cause alarm and distress to those people using this area. By keeping dogs on a lead in the car park area this will help to reduce feelings of distress by users of the park.

Proposed - Public Spaces Protection Order	Tonbridge Farm Sports Ground
	<p>Proposal To keep dogs on a lead within the car park of Tonbridge Farm Sports ground (see map below). A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to anyone who is seen not following this Order.</p>
<p>Measure 3</p>	<p>No unauthorised camping The Borough Council is satisfied that unauthorised camping in a public place is being carried out within this area or it is likely that this activity will be carried out and this is having, or it is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. People camping in this area have been known to set fires; leave rubbish and cause alarm or distress to others.</p> <p>Proposal A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to anyone who, when asked to remove an unauthorised encampment, does not do so.</p>

Map showing dogs on lead area within Tonbridge Farm Sports Ground



Tonbridge Cemetery



The shaded area of the map above is the area where the council is considering introducing a Public Spaces Protection Order

Measure 1

Keeping dogs on leads

Tonbridge Cemetery is a place of mourning and reflection and dogs that are not controlled can cause alarm and distress to those using the cemetery.

Proposal

To keep dogs on a lead within Tonbridge Cemetery. A Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued to anyone who is seen not following this Order.

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

Proposal for Public Spaces Protection Orders in the Borough

QUESTIONNAIRE



Visit: www.tmbc.gov.uk

Public Space Protection Order in Tonbridge & Malling

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced a range of new powers designed to address anti-social behaviour. Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is considering introducing Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) to cover the open spaces within the borough and at specific locations (Leybourne Lakes Country Park; Tonbridge Memorial Gardens; Tonbridge Moorings; Haysden Country Park; Tonbridge Racecourse Sports Ground and Tonbridge Castle; Tonbridge Farm Sports Ground; and Tonbridge Cemetery). This will allow the Council to introduce a range of measures to address anti-social behaviour issues and help improve public spaces in this area.

We would like to hear your views, so please complete this questionnaire by XXX 2017 and return to PSPO Consultation, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4LZ.

There is more background information about this consultation and an online survey on www.tmbc.gov.uk

If you have any further questions please email csp@tmbc.gov.uk or telephone 01732 876151.

How to complete this questionnaire

- Please use a black or blue pen
- Please read each question carefully and cross a box to indicate your answer for example X
- If you make a mistake, just shade in the box and put a cross in the one you want
- Some questions may ask you to write in a box. Please try to keep your answer within the space provided.
- If there are any questions you do not wish to answer, please feel free to leave them blank
- Once you have completed the questionnaire; please return it by Tuesday 31 January 2017.

Annex 2

1. Are you responding as a ...? Please cross all that apply.

Local resident who lives in Tonbridge & Malling. Please add your postcode here:

Person who works in Tonbridge & Malling

Local business owner/manager

Visitor to Tonbridge & Malling

Local Town or Parish Councillor

Representative of a local community or voluntary group (please state the name of the group and postcode below)

Other (please state below)

2. Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a borough wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to deter dog fouling?

Yes

No

Don't know

Please give any further comments below:

Annex 2

3. Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a borough wide PSPO to exclude dogs from Borough Council owned and maintained children's play areas?

Yes

No

Don't know

Please give any further comments below:

4. Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a borough wide PSPO to ensure dogs are on a lead by direction?

Yes

No

Don't know

Please give any further comments below:

5. Do you agree with the proposed PSPO to restrict the number of dogs that one person can take onto a public place to six dogs to ensure that they have full control of these dogs?

Yes

No

Don't know

Annex 2

Please give any further comments below:

6. Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a borough wide PSPO for a controlled alcohol zone?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please give any further comments below:

7. Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a borough wide PSPO to deter public urination/defecation?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please give any further comments below:

Annex 2

8. Do you agree with the proposed PSPO for Leybourne Lakes Country Park?

Yes

No

Don't know

9. Is there anything else that you would like to see included in the PSPO for Leybourne Lakes Country Park?

10. Do you agree with the proposed PSPO for Tonbridge Memorial Gardens?

Yes

No

Don't know

11. Is there anything else that you would like to see included in the PSPO for Tonbridge Memorial Gardens?

12. Do you agree with the proposed PSPO for Tonbridge Moorings?

Yes

No

Don't know

Annex 2

13. Is there anything else that you would like to see included in the PSPO for Tonbridge Moorings?

14. Do you agree with the proposed PSPO for Haysden Country Park?

Yes

No

Don't know

15. Is there anything else that you would like to see included in the PSPO for Haysden Country Park?

16. Do you agree with the proposed PSPO for Tonbridge Racecourse Sports Ground and Tonbridge Castle?

Yes

No

Don't know

17. Is there anything else that you would like to see included in the PSPO for Tonbridge Racecourse Sports Ground and Tonbridge Castle?

Annex 2

19. Do you agree with the proposed PSPO for Tonbridge Farm Sports Ground?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

20. Is there anything else that you would like to see included in the PSPO for Tonbridge Farm Sports Ground?

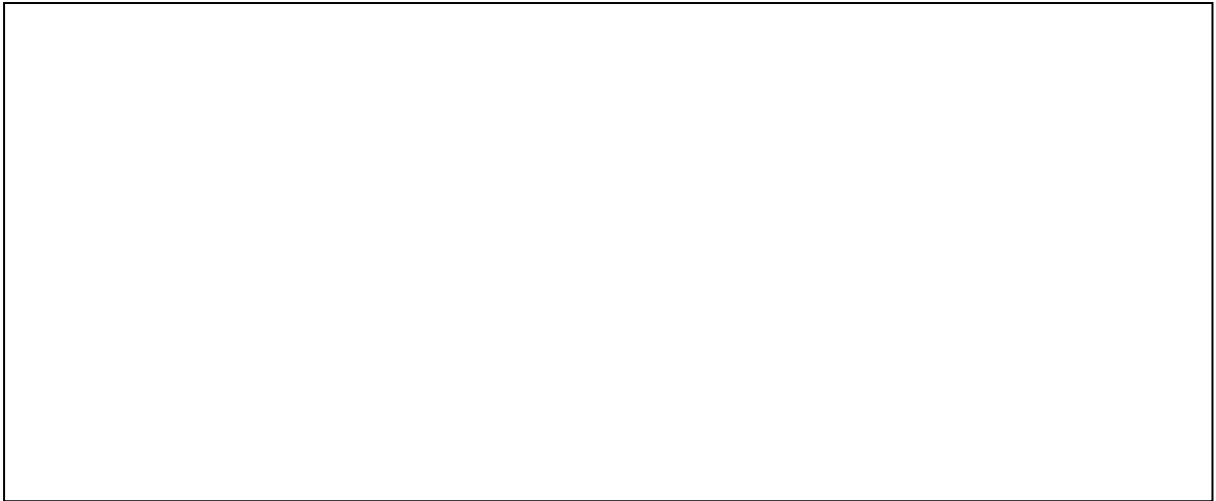
21. Do you agree with the proposal PSPO for Tonbridge Cemetery?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

22. Is there anything else that you would like to see included in the PSPO for Tonbridge Cemetery?

Annex 2

23. Is there anything else that you would like to see included within the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order?



Thank you for completing the survey. Please return it to the following address by 15 March 2017 or email csp@tmbc.gov.uk

PSPO Consultation
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council,
Gibson Building, Gibson Drive
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent ME19 4LZ

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Police Liaison

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

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Agenda Item 7

Kent Fire and Rescue Services

Representatives of the KFRS to be present to provide an update on recent activities and to answer questions raised by Members.

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Tonbridge and Malling Tonbridge Forum

Monday, 27 February 2017

Kent County Council Services Update

Key points from the Report by Paul Carter, Leader of the Council to Full Council on 8 December 2016 (presented by Mr Simmonds, Deputy Leader)

- The annual settlement was awaited from the Government. In the Autumn Budget Statement from the Chancellor a significant omission was any mention of help for Adult Social Care and in particular, meeting the pressures Local Authorities were facing in providing care for the elderly. KCC is lobbying hard and has spoken with Kent MPs regarding the scope of the problem in meeting the demands of adult social care. These are inextricably linked to the problems in the Health Service relating to bed occupancy and ensuring there is a support infrastructure for those in hospital and needing continuing care. KCC's approach to this is fully supported by the Local Government Association.
- Sajid Javid MP (Minister for Communities and Local Government) and Chris Grayling MP were lobbied strongly when they attended the County Council's Network (CCN) Conference. CCN (Chaired by Paul Carter) has fully endorsed the request to Government to look again at providing this essential support.
- Reference was made to the very real budgetary problems that many Local Authorities had experienced which have been triggered by the need to prop up their adult social service budget. One of the options mentioned was that Government might allow an additional County Tax precept. An additional 1% Council Tax precept for Kent would produce roughly £5.6m which would help but would not meet entirely the pressures KCC was facing. The CCN has made it clear to Government that although this 1% would only be an additional £10 per annum for a band C taxpayer, which did not sound unreasonable, it would be in addition to the 1.9% council tax rise which KCC would be seeking and the 2% social care levy.
- There is a huge difference in care available between East and West Kent. In West Kent despite active recruitment there are simply not enough carers to meet demand despite premium payments from self-funders in the wealthier districts. As the aging population increases the situation will get worse. It is hoped the financial strain will begin to ease with the monies from the new Better Care Fund in 2018/19, but there may be additional obligations placed on local authorities with this additional money.
- Reference was made to the change over to the business rate. The Government is being lobbied to ensure the balancing formula for those local authorities who could not generate sufficient business rates was sensible and did not only favour the London Boroughs who did so much better than the shire countries.
- KCC is lobbying for restraint on London Boroughs, particularly those that are seeking to solve their housing problems by acquiring Kentish accommodation, which was so badly needed for its own Council Tax payers.

Apprenticeships for All

KCC wants to offer more people than ever the opportunity to find rewarding jobs and careers through its apprenticeships. So it's making it easier for everyone to take their first steps, no matter what experience or qualifications they have.

If you think you or someone you know is ready to take up an apprenticeship right now, you can read about and apply for apprenticeships in all areas of work through [Apprentice Kent](#).

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/college-sixth-form-employment-and-training/options-at-16-and-beyond/apprenticeships-for-all>

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.

Fostering events are also a great way to find out more about what's involved. The next event in West Kent will be at 7.00pm on Thursday, 23 February at Broadmead Church, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5RF

Keep well, keep warm this winter

For advice on how to keep well, including how to protect yourself from flu, keep yourself warm, how to book a Winter Home Safety Visit, and find out what health services are open in your local area visit:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/healthy-living/winter-health>

Options after 16

Find out about the options available to young people once they turn 16, including education, employment and training:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/college-sixth-form-employment-and-training>

Volunteer Support Warden Scheme

This scheme was piloted as part of the Kent Community Warden Service in seven areas across Kent. As a result of the success of the pilot, it is planned to offer a full scheme to all local councils from April 2017, with costs shared between participating councils and KCC.

Kent and Medway Business Fund

The fund offers 0% loans between £50,000 and £500,000 to small and medium sized businesses in Ashford, Canterbury, Dartford, Dover, Gravesham, Maidstone, Medway, Sevenoaks, Shepway, Swale, Thanet, Tonbridge & Malling, and Tunbridge Wells.

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/business/business-loans-and-funding/kent-and-medway-business-fund>

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

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

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>.

KCC Members agree a 3.99% council tax rise

KCC Members agreed the budget for 2017/2018 at a meeting on Thursday, 9 February at County Hall, Maidstone. Councillors approved a 3.99% increase in council tax after a six-hour debate on spending plans for the coming financial year. The decision was made against the backdrop of falling central government funding and increasing social care costs

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**.)

Active consultations:

Mental Health Service: Promoting Independence – 10 February to 24 March

KCC is consulting on a proposal to combine contracts for Housing Related Support and Supporting Independence into one integrated Mental Health Service - Promoting Independence when the existing contracts expire in October 2017.

The Housing Related Support and Supporting Independence Service both work to enable people with mental health issues to live independent lives in the community. The proposal is to join up these services to allow for more flexible support, a more person focused system which is easier to access and promotes independence.

Bringing these services together and working differently with KCC's service providers, enabling them to meet people's needs in a person centred and more responsive way, will mean that people receive the support they need, when they need it and will enable KCC to deliver the efficiencies required.

KCC would like to hear your views on how the new service should work to best meet the needs of the people of Kent. For more information please visit:

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

Freight Action Plan for Kent – 16 January to 12 March 2017

Kent is unique in its strategic location in the country as a gateway to mainland Europe. Despite the positive economic benefits road freight brings to the county and UK, the negative implications are felt across the county. The Freight Action Plan for Kent includes nationally and locally important priorities such as Operation Stack and the provision of overnight lorry parking as well as looking into HGV routing and the powers that KCC can use to reduce the negative impacts of road freight. The plan incorporates a refresh of the original Freight Action Plan but brings it up to date with what we have already achieved and what we will plan and continue to do to mitigate the negative impacts of road freight in Kent.

The Freight Action Plan sets out what KCC has already achieved, the roles and responsibilities of the major stakeholders of freight traffic in Kent and outlines five key actions to help mitigate the negative impacts of road freight to the county which are as follows:

- to tackle the problem of overnight lorry parking in Kent,
- to find a long term solution to Operation Stack,
- to effectively manage the routing of HGV traffic to ensure that such movements remain on the strategic road network for as much of its journey as possible,
- to take steps to address the problems caused by freight traffic to communities,
- to ensure that KCC continues to make effective use of planning and development control powers to reduce the impact of freight traffic.

This consultation is an opportunity for people and organisations within Kent to express their views, including the extent to which they agree with our actions and approach to freight issues.

For more information:

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

KCC news

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

Recent media releases

New seeds of growth for Kent Sheds project

Kent residents are being encouraged to take up funding for new Kent Sheds projects, tackling mental health and wellbeing by encouraging people to make friends, share skills and support their local community through shed-based venues.

The Kent Sheds project started in 2014, jointly funded by Libor, building on the success of the international Men's Sheds movement, in a bid to tackle issues such as loneliness, social isolation and mental health problems.

Almost 30 sheds in Kent have so far received Kent County Council support to develop their projects in a range of locations including boats, lakes, shopping centres and community venues. Each Shed is unique to reflect local interest and skills of those attending. Very few are actual 'sheds', with most have fun and engaging themes and venues such as fishing lakes and allotments.

For more information about Kent Sheds, go to www.kentsheds.org.uk and for funding details go to <http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/community-grants-and-funding/kent-sheds-grant>

KCC Leader welcomes flood defences funding

Kent County Council has welcomed news that multi-million pound funding has been given to the Leigh, Hildenborough and East Peckham flood defences.

The £4.6 million will go towards the flood defence schemes and joins the committed £2.5m for the Leigh from KCC. It comes after extensive work between Kent County Council, the Environment Agency, Maidstone, and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councils on the schemes.

The EA identified improvements to the Leigh and Hildenborough Flood Storage Areas, and a new flood alleviation scheme in East Peckham, as the best way to reduce the risk of flooding to as many people as possible.

Funding for this six year programme will see improvements to the Leigh Flood Storage Areas and new embankment in Hildenborough and will cost an estimated £17.1 million.

This will be funded by central government, Kent County Council and Tonbridge Malling Borough Council, together with other contributions.

A separate flood alleviation scheme in East Peckham is estimated at £7.5 million and is reliant upon a successful application for funding from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership.

The funding is part of £34.2m of government cash announced recently to help create jobs, support businesses and create new growth opportunities.

Kent County Council plans to stop illegal lorry parking on Kent's roads.

Kent County Council is looking into the feasibility of a number of small lorry parks across the county to help alleviate the blight of illegal lorry parking.

The new parks would be run as a private and public partnership and KCC will work closely with the private sector to identify what funding options exist to deliver the sites.

Strengthening Community Organisations in Kent.

More than £1 million is being pumped into developing and strengthening community organisations. Following the publication of Kent County Council's Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) policy in September last year, a new service is being introduced to provide support to voluntary sector organisations in the county.

The service is being funded by KCC, and will be delivered by Stronger Kent Communities, a consortium of organisations, starting on January 1 covering the whole county.

Stronger Kent Communities is made up of a number of partners including Funding for All, Kent CAN, Action with Communities in Rural Kent and a number of the Volunteer Centres from across

Kent. It is funded for at least three years, although it is intended to create a sustainable model of support for the VCS in Kent in the longer term.

For more information:<http://www.kentcan.org/welcome-to-the-temporary-landing-page-for/>

Award for Britain's most improved road

Kent County Council has been awarded a Prince Michael International Road Safety Award for Britain's most improved road.

The award was presented for the council's highway safety improvements on the A227 between Tonbridge High Street and Borough Green. Prince Michael International Road Safety Awards are presented to organisations in recognition of their outstanding contribution to improving road safety.

KCC was nominated by iRAP, a registered charity dedicated to preventing the more than 3,500 road deaths that occur every day worldwide.

For more information on any of these subjects please contact:

Anne Charman, KCC Community Liaison Officer

anne.charman@kent.gov.uk or 07717 665893

*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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