

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

30 August 2017

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, 7th September, 2017 commencing at 7.30 pm.

At the time of publication it is anticipated that this meeting will be held in the Committee Room due to ongoing works in the Council Chamber.

Yours faithfully

JULIE BEILBY

Chief Executive

A G E N D A

Part 1 - Public

1. Apologies for absence

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To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Partnership Panel held on 16 February 2017

3. Update on action identified in the last Minutes 15 - 16

4. Parish Charter 17 - 20

(requested by the Borough Council and the Kent Association of Local Councils)

5. Kent Police Services Update 21 - 22

Representatives of Kent Police to be present to:

- address crime prevention issues, including those raised by the Panel;
- update on the recent staffing changes in the Community Safety Unit; and
- address the issue of 'policing on our streets' (requested by KALC)

6. Kent County Council Services Update 23 - 28

7. Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Services Update 29 - 30

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 D Lettington
Cllr B J Luker
Cllr D Markham
Cllr R V Roud
Cllr T B Shaw
Cllr B W Walker

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
Trottiscliffe
Wateringbury
West Malling
West Peckham
Wouldham
Wrotham

County Councillors

Trudy Dean, Malling Central
Matthew Balfour, Malling Rural East
Sarah Hohler, Malling North
Peter Homewood, Malling Rural North East
Harry Rayner, Malling West

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Apologies for absence

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TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

Thursday, 16th February, 2017

Present: Cllr N J Heslop (Chairman), Cllr M A Coffin (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs J A Anderson, Cllr Mrs S M Barker, 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, Borough Green, Burham, East Malling and Larkfield, Hadlow, Kings Hill, Leybourne, Platt, Plaxtol, Shipbourne, Snodland, Trottiscliffe, Wateringbury, West Malling, West Peckham, Wouldham, Wrotham Parish Councils and County Councillor Mr P Homewood

Councillors O C Baldock, T Bishop and S C Perry were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R P Betts, Addington, Hildenborough Parish Councils and County Councillors Mr M Balfour and Mrs S Hohler

PART 1 - PUBLIC

PPP 17//1 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

PPP 17//2 UPDATE ON ACTION IDENTIFIED IN THE LAST MINUTES

There were no actions identified.

PPP 17//3 LOCAL SEWER SYSTEM

Representatives of Southern Water (Sarah Feasey, Stakeholder Engagement Manager and Jean-Paul Collett, County Manger) were in attendance to answer concerns raised by parish councils.

A number of issues had been raised by Borough Green and Plaxtol Parish Councils and shared in detail with Southern Water in advance of the meeting. These included concerns around a potential lack of maintenance at the Maidstone Road pumping station; localised flooding and sewerage overspill in Hillview Close, the problem of raw sewage overflowing outside the houses on the footpath alongside the River Bourne, near to the Pumping Station at the bottom of Plough Hill, Basted and the need to upgrade the old Victorian sewer which residents believed was inadequate with the ageing pumps unable to cope with the through flow.

In response, the Panel was advised that the generator fault at the Pumping Station had been rectified and the facility was now operating at full capacity. It was also indicated that the third pump was a standby for emergencies and was extremely reliable.

Significant investment had been made by Southern Water to put flood mitigation measures in place. However, before any measures were implemented the potential implications for other properties were fully assessed and would not be put in place if there was the potential for diverse impacts. With regard to Hillview Close, the installation of anti-backup valves had been the appropriate way forward for the affected properties and the gravity managed system should have no impact on houses further up the network.

The main sewer adjacent to the pumping station had been replaced several years ago and was expected to last approximately seventy-five years. Therefore, Southern Water did not anticipate any significant problems related to general wear and tear in the near future.

Southern Water recognised concerns around the potential for pollution to rivers and waterways and assured the Panel that maintenance was undertaken regularly to prevent problems.

Work on Sevenoaks Road, including a large scale sewer rehabilitation scheme, had been recently completed and the structural condition of the public sewer was reasonably sound. High pressure jetting had been undertaken to clear the pipes and it was important to educate and raise awareness around proper waste disposal on a much wider scale.

The local Member for Borough Green asked that the following actions be considered:

- A single point of contact for local parishes with a senior engineer who would listen to local concerns and have the power to implement actions in a reasonable timescale; and
- Provide an emergency number for parishes to contact rather than rely on a call centre that had no local knowledge or authority to take action when required.

It was explained that Southern Water did not operate on an area catchment basis and there was one sewerage engineer for the whole County who provided support on specific issues. In addition, a single point of contact had the potential to create delays in responding to problems if that individual was uncontactable for any reason. The advantage of a call centre was that it was manned twenty fours a day, every day of the week. However, if parish councils were disappointed with the way a call was handled or the length of time it took to resolve a problem these could be raised with Sarah Feasey who would investigate the reasons for the delay. Long standing issues that had not yet been

resolved could also be forwarded on to Sarah Feasey, for further investigation.

The emergency call out number would be provided to parish councils for information.

Whilst Borough Green and Plaxtol Parish Councils appreciated Southern Water's attendance at the meeting and their technical knowledge regarding the sewer network, concern was expressed about the poor communication and customer service received.

In response, Southern Water advised that an improved communication strategy was in place and the organisation was committed to improving customer service. It was reported that written and escalated complaints had reduced by 80% since the adoption of the new strategy.

Members referred to new housing developments and asked whether Southern Water ever expressed concern about the impact of these additional properties on sewers. It was clarified that Southern Water was a statutory consultee on Local Plan proposals but not on individual applications. It was explained that Southern Water had a legal obligation to provide services to new properties if planning was approved. However, the Local Planning Authority had been asked to consult with Southern Water for developments over 20 properties, as the organisation had a duty to ensure that existing customers were not adversely impacted. Drainage Strategies were being developed in collaboration with other organisations and it was hoped that adequate planning would identify any problems going forward. The importance of having conditions related to water services applied to any planning permissions was also noted.

Southern Water was attempting to be more pro-active around development and growth and was asked to provide an update around any sites of concern. This would be circulated with the Minutes if available.

Finally, it was reiterated that Sarah Feasey, the Stakeholder Engagement Manager, was the point of contact within Southern Water to escalate outstanding issues.

Email: Sarah.Feasey@southernwater.co.uk

PPP 17//4 KENT POLICE SERVICES UPDATE

The Chairman referred to a question raised by the Kent Association of Local Councils (Tonbridge and Malling) in advance of the meeting asking if the 'lack of public engagement would improve if the proposed increase in the police precept was agreed'. This would be put to the Police and Crime Commissioner (Matthew Scott) and he would be

invited to attend a future meeting of the Parish Partnership Panel to address this concern.

Police Sergeant Jo Mott provided a verbal update on the achievements made in performance and the neighbourhood policing agenda. The main priorities for Kent Police remained safeguarding, human trafficking, child sex exploitation and modern day slavery.

Current and recent police initiatives included:

- Op Cactus: Offering advice and/or enforcement around dangerous parking at schools
- Op Milan: Tackling untaxed and illegal vehicles on the road
- Measures to deal with nuisance vehicles in Bellingham Way, New Hythe Lane, Larkfield
- Targeting criminal damage
- Targeting items thrown off bridges
- Successful use of dispersal orders during Summer 2016

Reference was made to the Community Policing unit, based at Kings Hill, which had four police officers, four Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and one sergeant who were available to implement local issues. Community policing remained an important focus for Kent Police.

Further restructuring of Kent Police was to take place although it was not envisaged that the public would see much difference. PCSOs would remain but were likely to have a greater role and responsibilities.

In response to a question about parking on pavements which forced pedestrians, pushchairs and mobility scooters into the road, it was indicated that Kent Police had insufficient resource to tackle this issue on a regular basis. Although it was recognised as a major irritant for the public it was extremely difficult to enforce and prosecute. However, specific concerns/problems could be addressed if raised as a complaint.

PPP 17//5 PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS

The Licensing and Community Safety Partnership Manager referred to the Cabinet report of the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer which gave details of the proposed Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs). Details of the borough wide restrictions, as well as restrictions for particular geographical areas were included.

It was reported that PSPOs were intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that was detrimental to the local communities' quality of life. They were designed to ensure that the law abiding majority could use and enjoy public spaces and reduce anti-social behaviour. PSPOs would replace dog control orders, designated

public place orders and gating orders and were being put in place to replace existing powers that were disappearing.

The definition of public space included any place to which the public or any section of the public had access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission.

After consultation with Borough Council and Kent Police officers it was recommended that a PSPO containing multiple restrictions should be progressed, details of which were set out in Annex 1 to the report. Some of the restrictions were borough wide, such as deterring dog fouling and dogs on lead by direction, and some were specific to particular locations like Leybourne Lakes Country Park.

The introduction of PSPOs meant that anyone failing to comply with the restrictions could be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Cabinet of 31 January 2017 had agreed to undertake public consultation on the proposals. This consultation period would end on 15 March 2017 and all Parish Councils were encouraged to submit a response, especially to highlight any potential concerns or sites that were not included in the proposals. However, it was explained that any potential suggestions for additional orders required sufficient evidence to demonstrate a need.

Reference was made to measures in place to address traveller incursions and the Licensing and Community Safety Manager advised that the Borough Council had an effective process in operation, which meant that these were dealt with quickly and efficiently. It was important to recognise that traveller incursion was not covered by the Public Spaces Protection Orders as different legislation was in place to address these.

Finally, the Chairman reiterated the importance of Parish Councils responding to the consultation outlining any concerns and specific sites and reminded that the deadline was 15 March 2017.

PPP 17//6 PARISH CHARTER UPDATE

The Chairman advised that, in his role as Leader of the Council, he had met with representatives from the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) to discuss the Parish Charter. A further meeting to discuss a number of options would be held in advance of the next Parish Partnership Panel, scheduled for June, where it was hoped to present a draft document for comment.

The newly appointed Chairman of KALC (Kent) advised that the next meeting of Local Councils was arranged for May and a draft document to review then would be appreciated.

It was recognised that there was confusion around the status of the current Parish Charter which had never been formally adopted. However, it had previously been agreed that this version of the Charter was no longer fit for purpose and it was recommended that both the Borough and Parish Councils would be best served by moving forward and creating a better framework to work with.

The Chairman indicated the Borough Council's willingness to take examples of best practice throughout the County into consideration and to create a new Charter for the benefit of Tonbridge and Malling and its parish councils.

PPP 17//7 MEMBERS' SITE INSPECTIONS - UPDATE ON LATEST POSITION

The Panel noted the arrangements in place for Planning Committee site inspections. These had been circulated with the agenda and explained that the purpose of a site inspection was for Planning Committee Members to view the site to provide context for the application proposals.

East Malling and Larkfield Parish Council expressed deep concern that the rights of parish councils, neighbours and other third parties had been diminished and felt it was wholly unacceptable that there had been no formal consultation with parish councils. In addition, the Parish Council queried whether the Borough Council was acting in a fair and reasonable way and challenged the decision making process. Reference was made to a recent request for information which had yet to receive a reply. It was requested that this now be treated as a formal FOI.

There was serious and in-depth discussion regarding these arrangements and it was observed that site inspections were not occasions for any debate, comment or the expression of views by any party. Members felt it was important that the Planning Committee were allowed to simply view the site. Any queries arising could be put to planning officers who would answer them or note for further investigation. Members of the public or other third parties had no 'right' to attend such site inspections as they had an appropriate right to make written representations and speak at a Planning Committee meeting when decisions were made.

It was emphasised that the new procedure made provision for a relevant Parish Council representative to attend as an observer and their position as a statutory consultee was not affected nor was their right to speak at Planning Committees removed.

Finally, it was reported that the changes were ones of clarity for the benefit of Planning Committee Members, the proper conduct of site inspections and to ensure the robustness of decisions ultimately made by the Planning Committees. It was not a change that affected how the

Borough Council would look at planning applications and engagement with members of the public would continue through appropriate consultation.

Many Members welcomed the clarification of the protocols around site inspections and felt they represented a sensible approach with a fair compromise reached. Previous arrangements had created the potential for undue influence to be exerted in an uncontrolled environment.

The Kent Association of Local Councils (Tonbridge and Malling) believed that an appropriate position had been reached regarding the attendance of parish councils at site inspections, with their position protected. Other organisations had the ability to make representations and speak at planning committees in the normal way.

The value in the public attending site inspections, although thought beneficial by some in highlighting concerns about impact to neighbouring properties, was not appropriate as these views could be expressed by speaking at a Planning Committee. It was also observed that local Members had a detailed knowledge of their wards and an understanding of potential impacts on residents.

In summing up the discussions, the Chairman, as Leader of the Council, was not persuaded to change position as extensive research had been undertaken by Officers, the comments raised by KALC regarding parish council attendance had been taken into account and the arrangements were sound and took account of best practice and guidance.

PPP 17//8 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 key points made by the Leader of Kent County Council (Paul Carter) to Full Council on 8 December 2016 regarding the budget pressures being faced and the impacts of providing adult social care. Further to this, the County Council had set the budget on Tuesday 9 February and a Council Tax increase of 3.99% had been agreed, 2% of which was the social care levy.

Current consultation(s) included the Freight Action Plan for Kent (16 January – 12 March 2017) and the recently announced Mental Health Services. All Kent County Council consultations could be viewed online at:

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

The Apprenticeships for All was an ongoing campaign offering the opportunity to find rewarding jobs and careers through apprenticeships. An apprenticeship levy would be introduced from 6 April 2017.

As a result of the successful pilot it was planned to offer a full Volunteer Support Warden Scheme to all councils from April 2017, with costs shared between participating councils and KCC. The Chairman of the Kent Association of Local Councils (Kent) indicated that 26 councils within Kent had already applied. A recruitment date was arranged for 7 March 2017 in Tenterden.

Members welcomed the news that multi-million pound funding had been given to the Leigh Flood Storage Area and Hildenborough and East Peckham flood defences. The award was as a result of extensive work been Kent County Council, the Environment Agency and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council.

It was reported that the County Council had received an award for Britain's most improved road for the A227 between Tonbridge High Street and Borough Green.

Finally, the Community Engagement Manager reminded the Panel that she was happy to assist in addressing any issues and liaising with County Members.

PPP 17//9 TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL SERVICES UPDATE

The Chief Executive provided an update on key points relevant to Tonbridge and Malling. The headline messages included:

- Setting the Budget and Council Tax 2017/18:

Full Council at its meeting on Tuesday 14 February 2017 had approved the budget and council tax for 2017/18. The Chairman reminded the Panel that the 'special expenses' levy would be introduced to replace the financial arrangements with parish councils and this would be in place by April 2017.

Press statements around the budget, council tax and e-billing had been circulated to all parish councils and these contained further detail.

The meeting ended at 9.40 pm

Agenda Item 3

Update on action identified in the last Minutes

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TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

07 September 2017

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non Key Decision

1 PARISH CHARTER – REVIEW AND UPDATE

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The current Parish Charter was produced in 2008. An initial draft was circulated to Parish and Town Councils and a number of comments were received and taken on board. Parish and Town Councils were invited to formally 'adopt' the new Charter but only a number chose to do so at that time. It has been recognised by all parties at a previous meeting of PPP, that the previous Charter is no longer fit for purpose.

1.1.2 It is now timely to review the Charter given the significant changes affecting Local Government and the new financial and organisational challenges which are now being faced. We also need to streamline the process for the adoption of the new Charter with the assistance of the Kent Association of Parish Councils.

1.2 The Draft Parish Charter

1.2.1 A revised draft Parish Charter is attached at Appendix 1 to this report. We have sought to carry forward key elements from the 2008 version and to update these where required. We have also scanned similar charters produced by other Kent district councils both to achieve some degree of consistency and to ensure that all relevant issues have been covered. The new draft charter is now shorter, more concise and focuses on key issues of mutual interest to the Borough and Local Councils.

1.2.2 In brief, it is proposed that the new charter focuses on the following key matters:

- future operation of the Parish Partnership Panel, encouraging a greater emphasis on items put forward by Local Councils provided these are of relevance to a wider audience;
- an agreed commitment to effective communication and the sharing of information;
- a protocol on how formal consultations are undertaken, giving sufficient time for responses to be submitted;

- a joint commitment to maintaining high standards of conduct and respect;
- joint working to address future financial challenges and resource issues. For example, following adoption of the new Charter, the Borough Council wishes to engage with parish councils on a number of issues including Gypsy and Traveller encampments, the operation of the Joint Standards Committee, and Parish Polls;
- monitoring and review of the Charter, with a suggested review period of five years.

1.3 Suggested Review Timetable

- 1.3.1 Local Councils are invited to send any comments they might have on the draft direct to their local Kent Association of Parish Councils representative in the first instance. The KALC branch will then assemble and discuss any comments received with the Borough Council and agree any revisions to the draft on behalf of the Local Councils. A revised draft will then be presented to the Parish Partnership Panel meeting in November for final consideration. The document can then be formally adopted by KALC and the Borough Council. Local Councils will therefore not be required to formally 'adopt' the Charter individually.

1.4 Legal Implications

- 1.4.1 As set out in the report.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.5.1 None

1.6 Risk Assessment

- 1.6.1 n/a

1.7 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.7.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.8 Recommendations

- 1.8.1 That the process for the updating of the Parish Charter, as set out in this report, **BE AGREED.**

Background papers:

contact: Mark Raymond

Nil

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive

Tonbridge and Malling Parish Charter

Draft

PURPOSE

This revised Charter has been drawn up jointly by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMBC) and the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) who represent the twenty seven Town and Parish Councils within Tonbridge and Malling.

Its key purpose is to set out how the Borough Council and local Town and Parish Councils (**named Local Councils for the purposes of this Charter**) agree to work together to deliver efficient services that meet local needs. By working in partnership, all parties will aim to avoid duplication of effort, achieve close co-operation over issues of mutual concern and develop a shared focus on addressing and resolving issues of most importance to our residents, local businesses and visitors.

Within such a partnership, the parties will recognise that each has statutory and other duties it will need to fulfil. Where possible the parties will strive towards agreed outcomes on a range of issues of common interest.

THE PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

The main forum for formal discussions between the parties will be via the Parish Partnership Panel. If there is insufficient business, the meeting will be cancelled. However, extra meetings might be called if there are urgent matters for discussion.

The Borough Council will give sufficient notice to Local Councils to enable them to suggest agenda items. The Borough Council will also ensure any items relating to Borough Council business of relevance to Local Councils will also be placed on the agenda. All agenda items must be of relevance to at least three Local Councils and not to a single Local Council only. The Panel will be chaired by the Leader of TMBC supported by other senior Members and Officers as required. Local Councils should nominate at least one representative each to attend Panel meetings or provide an alternative representative if he/she is unable to attend.

The format of Panel meetings will be kept under review to ensure there continues to be an effective exchange of views and information and that all participants feel able to take a full part in Panel discussions.

In addition to meetings of the Parish Partnership Panel, the Borough Council may attend meetings of the main KALC Area Committee for Tonbridge and Malling when invited to do so.

INFORMAL COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SHARING

In addition to formal /statutory consultations, both parties will undertake to share information on an informal basis and to provide mutual assistance when the need arises and whenever practicable. Where relevant, Members of the Borough Council will be encouraged to attend meetings of their Local Council.

FORMAL CONSULTATIONS

When either party decides there is a need for formal consultation, or a statutory duty to consult arises, they will endeavour to ensure that sufficient time is allowed for the other party to consider and respond fully to such consultations, either by way of statutory timetable or, where none exists, a period of normally at least 6 weeks. If a shorter period is required then the party undertaking the consultation will explain the reasons why.

When undertaking a formal consultation with Local Councils, the Borough Council will acknowledge all responses received, liaise with Local Councils over any issues that need to be clarified and will inform Local Councils of the decisions which have been taken. Similarly, Local Councils should aim to adopt a similar approach to any formal consultations of their own which require a formal response from the Borough Council.

All parties recognise that there will be other formal consultations that need to follow statutory processes and time scales, such as consultation on planning applications and Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs)

STANDARDS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

The Borough Council and Local Councils share a joint legal responsibility for ensuring that the highest standards of conduct are promoted and maintained for both elected and co-opted Members and to this end have formed a Joint Standards Committee. Whilst the statutory responsibilities in relation to the investigation and determination of standards complaints rest only with the Borough Council, the Joint Standards Committee provides an opportunity for Local Councils to have a voice in the discharge of these responsibilities. The Borough Council and Local Councils will each be responsible for adopting and reviewing their own individual codes of conduct.

RESOURCES AND LEGAL ISSUES

On-going cuts to Local Government funding will mean that financial resources available are likely to be significantly reduced year-on-year. This will affect both the Borough Council and Local Councils. All parties will therefore work together to address such issues and respect the financial challenges faced by all. Funding arrangements between the Borough Council and Local Councils will therefore need to be kept under review and any proposed changes will be the subject of full and open consultation between the parties prior to any formal changes being agreed.

MONITORING AND REVIEW OF CHARTER

This Charter will be kept under review to ensure it remains relevant to the issues that need to be addressed jointly by the Borough Council and Local Councils. A review of the Charter will be undertaken every five years, or earlier should this be necessary. Reviews will be jointly led by KALC on behalf of Local Councils and by the Leader of Tonbridge and Malling. The KALC will consult all Local Councils on any review in accordance with the terms as set out above.

Kent Police Services Update

Representatives of Kent Police to be present to:

- address crime prevention issues, including those raised by the Panel;
- update on the recent staffing changes in the Community Safety Unit; and
- address the issue of 'policing on our streets' (requested by KALC)

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Tonbridge and Malling Parish Partnership Panel

Thursday, 7 September 2017

Kent County Council Services Update

Key points from the Report by Paul Carter, Leader of the Council to Full Council on 13 July 2017 (draft minutes)

- Mr Carter referred to the positive outcome of the **Ofsted inspection of Children's Services** which had put Kent County Council in the top 25% of all local authorities in the country and thanked Members, senior managers and staff for all their hard work to achieve this.
- An update was given on the progress of the **Sustainability and Transformation Plan**, bringing together health and social care integration across the county including Medway. The intention through that integration was to make better use of the National Health Service pound and the Social Care pound and, most importantly, to deliver a much more effective and efficient use of that resource and better health and care outcomes for all residents in Kent. In particular reference was made to the identification of three key elements of the STP which are prevention, local care and hospitals to avoid hospital admission wherever possible, and safely making a more effective and efficient hospital estate to deliver better hospital care.
- Mr Carter confirmed there would be a series of public consultations in spring 2018 where the exact re-configuration across the whole suite of hospitals in Kent was put together. Alongside this was the preventative care work strand which aimed to help support and encourage Kent residents to be as healthy as possible to avoid health provision intervention.
- Mr Carter stated that with help from NHS England, work was underway to find funding to invest across CCGs in Kent to begin delivering a model of local care. This would include evaluation of the pressure on hospital admissions and the support needed to get patients out of hospital as fast as possible into intermediary step down beds or back to their homes. It is hoped that Kent will lead a trail blazing pilot project across two of its co-terminus CCGs in the near future (Ashford and Thanet).
- Members were referred to the **KCC Budget's** first quarter report which estimated an overspend of £11.5 million, the unmet pressure in next year's budget which had risen to around £45 million and the challenge these additional savings created in order to balance the budget.
- Replying to other Leaders' comments on the **Grenfell Tower** tragedy, Mr Carter updated Members on the action taken in the immediate aftermath, which included initiating a full and thorough search of all KCC property, not just buildings over eight stories. In addition to external cladding the search also looked at thermal installation and methodology of the construction of new buildings for which KCC has responsibility. He stated that he had provided advice to the Secretary of State regarding extending testing beyond external cladding and referred to the detailed report given to the Scrutiny Committee on actions taken in response to the tragedy.

Lorry Watch

KCC works to mitigate the impact of freight in Kent and has introduced a scheme called Lorry Watch to tackle the issue of lorries using inappropriate rural routes in Kent. The scheme aims to support and empower local residents in areas where issues persist with the through traffic of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs).

In addition, KCC has completely overhauled Kent's lorry-route map and conducted many reviews of lorry directional and regulatory signs as well as updating mapping companies to ensure that the maps on sat navs are accurate.

The Lorry Watch scheme is run by local residents. Community volunteers record details of lorries that are suspected of using unsuitable roads or not sticking to the limits and restrictions.

Once the information is collected, it is passed to Kent Police who can find the vehicle's registered keeper. If the vehicle is ignoring the legal limits and restrictions, the police contact the company and warn them that if they continue, it may result in formal action.

If there is no limit or restriction but the road is thought unsuitable, Kent County Council will contact the company and advise them to use the [Kent Freight Gateway journey planner](#).

Setting up a Lorry Watch. Anyone can set up a Lorry Watch. To do this, follow these steps:

1. You will need at least two volunteers for your Lorry Watch team. They must be aged 18 or over. Parish Councils or other community groups can be good places to find volunteers.
2. Contact Lorry Watch by emailing freight@kent.gov.uk or on 03000 41 81 81 to discuss the idea, after which the necessary equipment will be delivered to you together with safety information and instructions on how the scheme works.

Apprentice Kent - 'Made in Kent'

'Made in Kent' is a KCC campaign for people in Kent to learn about the advantages being introduced for apprentices and for all employers in Kent to maximise the opportunities that the new, expanded apprenticeship programme provides.

Be an apprentice. An opportunity to gain skills while earning a salary, working alongside experienced staff while gaining a nationally recognised qualification for free.

Hire an apprentice. Apprenticeships are available to businesses of all sizes and sectors in England, lasting anything from 12 months to five years. Hiring apprentices is a productive and effective way for businesses to grow their own talent by developing a motivated, skilled and qualified workforce. From 1 April 2017 several improvements are being introduced which companies can benefit from, including hiring apprentices of all ages, upskilling existing staff, partnering with specialist training providers and commissioning apprenticeship training geared to a firm's business needs.

For more information contact KCC's new apprentice advice service on **03000 415 005** or email: kep@kent.gov.uk

Kent Fostering - Open your Heart

KCC urgently needs people to provide children and young people with loving homes.

A great way to find out more about what's involved when fostering children is to go along to a fostering information event. The next event in the Tonbridge & Malling area is on:

Thursday, 21 September at Ditton Community Centre, Kilbarn Road, Ditton, Aylesford, ME20 6AH.

For more information please contact 03000 420 002.

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>

Kent Public Health Observatory (KPHO) <http://www.kpho.org.uk/>

KPHO provides public health intelligence through data collection, analysis and interpretation. Its library gives access to knowledge, resources and evidence to support public health and social care.

It has a library based in Sessions House, Maidstone. Library membership is open to all working;

- in public health in Kent and Medway
- in social care in Kent County Council
- in Kent County Council

Non-members are welcome to use the library for reference and study purposes, although there may be a charge for this facility.

You can also subscribe to its weekly e-bulletin and receive a weekly summary of what's new with links to new reports, policy and resources organized by topic.

Fact and Figures about Kent

The Kent County Council Strategic Business Development & Intelligence Unit provides regular monthly updates on unemployment in Kent and other facts and figures, including area profiles, economy and employment data, population and census data, equality and diversity data, children and young people' data, land and property data, energy and environment data and deprivation and poverty data. Visit: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/Facts-and-figures-about-Kent>

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. 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 2017/18

KCC's Combined Member Grant scheme has now opened with £22,000 available to every County Councillor to fund both community and highway projects in their electoral division. Tonbridge & Malling County Councillors between them have a total of £154,000 to allocate in 2017/18.

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**.)

Active consultations:

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy – 16 August to 18 October 2017

KCC is the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for Kent. As the LLFA, it must produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (local strategy) that sets out how local flood risks will be managed in the county by the authorities involved.

KCC would like your views on the draft strategy in order to help it produce the final version by December 2017.

For more information email: flood@kent.gov.uk

Rights of way improvement plan – 10 August 2017 to 17 September 2017

Kent County Council's Public Rights of Way and Access Service is reviewing its Rights of Way Improvement Plan which will be consulted on in late 2017/early 2018. The Plan will cover how its rights of way are used and what changes are required to meet the needs of Kent's residents and visitors over the next 10 years.

Prior to this consultation, KCC has commissioned Lake Market Research, an independent market research agency, to conduct a research study about Public Rights of Way. KCC would like to hear views of Kent residents who use Public Rights of Way and those that do not. For more information visit:

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

Kent Country Parks Strategy – 10 July to 11 September

Kent County Council owns and manages a range of country parks and countryside sites which contain some of the highest quality natural habitats and landscapes that Kent has to offer. It has drafted a four year strategy which sets out how it intends to protect and manage these natural environments at the same time as providing high quality opportunities for individuals, families and communities to play, learn and relax.

KCC would like to hear your views on the strategy to ensure it meets the needs and expectations of Kent residents. For more information visit:

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

KCC news

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

Recent media releases

Hermitage Lane improvement scheme

Work is due to begin on the Hermitage Lane improvement scheme. It has been developed to ease the congestion at the entrance to the retail park and the new layout will provide a longer dedicated lane for vehicles turning right into the retail park.

Construction is due to be carried out from the beginning of September and be completed by December. Resurfacing works and traffic island modifications will be undertaken during the night. Lane closures will be kept to the minimum necessary to enable the scheme to be constructed.

For more information visit www.kent.gov.uk/hermitagelane

KCC urges improvements to rail services in government consultation

KCC has urged the government to provide more carriages on trains during peak periods, address overcrowding and improve connectivity in its response to a consultation on rail services in Kent.

The Department for Transport is consulting on rail services in the county ahead of a new franchise to run services coming into effect in December next year.

For the High Speed service, KCC has said the new franchisee will need to order 20 new trains to support increasing numbers of passengers. This would see an additional 12 on the Ashford, Canterbury and Dover service, three on the planned service to Rye and Hastings, and five on the Ebbsfleet service.

On Mainline services, KCC supports a DfT plan to send trains from the Thameslink service down to Southeastern to improve journeys and also to free up more trains for Metro services. Improved connectivity at Strood, Tonbridge, Otford, and Dover Priory is also highlighted.

Parking remains an issue at stations across Kent, with KCC saying Ashford International, Canterbury West, Maidstone East, Otford, Tonbridge and West Malling need additional spaces. To read the full response visit: [KCC Response to DfT Consultation on New South Eastern Franchise](#)

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.*



Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Services Update

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