

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

29 August 2018

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, 6th September, 2018 commencing at 7.30 pm

Yours faithfully

JULIE BEILBY

Chief Executive

A G E N D A

Part 1 - Public

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes

5 - 10

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Partnership Panel held on 14 June 2018

3. Update on action identified in the last Minutes
4. Local Plan Update
5. Waste Services Contract Update
6. Kent Police Services Update

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

7. Kent County Council Services Update 11 - 16
8. Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Services Update

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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Agenda Item 2

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

Thursday, 14th June, 2018

Present: Cllr N J Heslop (Chairman), Cllr M A Coffin (Vice-Chairman), Cllr R P Betts, Cllr R W Dalton, Cllr D Lettington, Cllr B J Luker, Cllr D Markham and Cllr T B Shaw.

Together with Addington, Aylesford, Borough Green, Burham, East Peckham, Hadlow, Hildenborough, Kings Hill, Leybourne, Offham, Platt, Plaxtol, Shipbourne, Snodland, Trottiscliffe, Wateringbury, Wouldham, Wrotham Parish/Town Councils and County Councillors Mrs S Hohler and Mr H Rayner.

Councillors O C Baldock, H S Rogers, M Parry-Waller and Miss J L Sergison were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J A Anderson, Mrs S M Barker, T I B Cannon, R V Roud and Birling, East Malling and Larkfield, Ightham and Ryarsh Parish Councils.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

PPP 18/9 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

PPP 18/10 UPDATE ON ACTION IDENTIFIED IN THE LAST MINUTES

The Chairman referred to Minute Number PPP 18/8 (Tonbridge and Malling Services Update) regarding the creation of a 'service directory' for parish councils and, although this continued to be a work in progress, comments on the draft version circulated in advance of the meeting were invited.

PPP 18/11 KENT POLICE SERVICES UPDATE

The Sub-Divisional Commander for Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge (Chief Inspector Pete Steenhuis) provided a brief overview of the new model of policing introduced by Kent Police. This included the amalgamation of Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells into one sub-division and the establishment of Specialist Investigation Teams to look at serious and complex crime.

With regard to general crime officers now followed cases through from first reporting, investigation and follow up and, whilst the central office was based in Tonbridge, officers were distributed throughout the sub-

divisional area as required. Meetings were held daily at 0830 hours to identify areas of concerns and actions for the day.

The Community Safety Unit continued to deal with local crime and safety issues and for Tonbridge and Malling this was based at the Borough Council offices in Kings Hill.

Particular reference was made to traveller incursions and whether the police had any powers to act if there was evidence of anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, fly-tipping or intimidation on those sites.

In response, Chief Inspector Steenhuis advised that Kent Police were able to remove unlawful encampments promptly and emphasised that crime would not be tolerated. Individuals would be prosecuted where possible but evidence was required to support the case.

Chief Inspector Steenhuis referred to the strong processes in place at Tonbridge and Malling which enabled a very quick response to traveller incursions, with 'directions to leave' served within 24 hours and an application to the court for a hearing (section 72) being applied for at the same time.

It was noted that for privately owned land it was the responsibility of that individual landowner to deal with a traveller incursion and not the local authority.

A Government consultation on seeking views on the effectiveness of powers for dealing with unauthorised development and encampments finished on 15 June and a response would be submitted on behalf of the Borough Council.

In response to a question on street gangs, Chief Inspector Steenhuis advised that a Serious and Organised Crime Board had been established to discuss, review and monitor this issue. Currently, there was no significant movement of street gangs from London into Tonbridge and Malling identified, although there had been some movement related to drug dealing and this had recently resulted in some arrests.

Other points discussed included:

- 'Red routing': Increased police visibility and patrols in areas identified with heightened activity, mainly related to anti-social behaviour, to act as a deterrent and to try and identify those causing problems;
- Police attendance at parish council meetings: There was a preference for PSCOs to be dealing with crime for the benefit of the community rather than attending numerous meetings. It was felt

that officers should only attend these meetings when there was something significant to report.

Finally, it was noted that Chief Inspector Steenhuis would be transferring to the Metropolitan police area in the future. He apologised for the lack of continuity this offered but that he remained the Sub-Divisional Commander until further notice.

PPP 18/12 LOCAL PLAN

The Chairman, in his role as Leader of the Council, opened the discussion by reminding Members that the Borough Council had a duty, prescribed by Government, to set out local planning policies which identified how land was used and determine what would be built where. A Local Plan enabled a local authority to retain control of potential development opportunities.

Members were advised that failure to submit a Local Plan within the transitional period, proposed by the Government in the new draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), would result in significant risks associated with having to address a substantially higher provision of housing as a result of the introduction of a standardised methodology for assessing housing need. It would also cause significant further delays, which would place the Borough Council in a more vulnerable position in terms of land supply in responding to planning applications and facing planning appeals. This proposed transition period had prompted the need to revise the previous timetable and every effort was being made to submit the Local Plan to the Secretary of State in December 2018.

The Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health and the Planning Policy Manager provided an update on the preparation of the Local Plan. A draft document with a refined development strategy, policies and proposals had been considered by the Planning and Transportation Advisory Board on 5 June 2018. It was anticipated that the next meeting of the Advisory Board in July 2018 would review the final draft of the Local Plan with the formal public consultation, required under Regulation 19, to follow in September 2018. This offered parish councils and members of the public the opportunity to comment on the proposals. All responses received would be submitted to the Secretary of State with the Local Plan for approval in December.

It was reported that the policies in the draft Local Plan document outlined the key development requirements associated with each major site, including the need for significant infrastructure. Further work on completing and updating evidence was inevitable as the process progressed.

Particular reference was made to the major sites at Bushey Wood, South Aylesford, Kings Hill (Broadwater Farm) and Borough Green. All

of which had seen refined housing allocations in response to consultation and the emerging evidence, including further assessment on transport modelling and capacity issues. The extension of the green belt to the east of West Malling was welcomed and Planning Officers were confident that special circumstances could be demonstrated to support this case.

A number of concerns were raised and included:

- Infrastructure Funding and Delivery: Members were advised that an Infrastructure Delivery Plan would be prepared assessing and identifying funding opportunities;
- Congestion and increased traffic flows on roads and the effects on rural communities (particularly the A20, Hermitage Lane, Borough Green and Junction 4 of the M20);
- Duty to Co-operate: The Borough Council would robustly defend and challenge any request to meet development needs of nearby areas, although it was recognised that this issue was likely to arise at the Public Examination. The Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure and Planning (Councillor Howard Rogers) advised of the importance of understanding the challenges and needs of neighbouring local planning authorities and he would be meeting with his counterparts to discuss common themes;
- Early delivery of the new A25 relief road for Borough Green Gardens. This point had been raised by the Planning and Transportation Advisory Board in June and noted by officers for further investigation;
- Risks around alternative and/or additional sites being brought forward by other interested parties were noted;
- Regulation 19 representations: Responses would be made available when submitted to the Secretary of State and options would be considered to support availability to third parties; and
- A number of questions were asked about air quality and mitigation and these would be addressed out of meeting.

Finally, the next steps in the Local Plan process were reiterated and these included further evidence assessment of a number of sites. Comments would be welcomed as part of the formal public consultation exercise expected to take place in September.

PPP 18/13 KENT COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES UPDATE

Members noted the report of the Kent County Council Community Liaison Officer (Anne Charman), which set out details of a number of County initiatives and consultations.

All Kent County Council consultations could be viewed online at:

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

The Chairman referred to the Big Conversation programme on the future of rural bus services which aimed to find new potential opportunities in providing rural transport services. A meeting on this subject was to be held at Borough Green village hall on 5 July between 1900-2100 hours. If this was inconvenient a further meeting was arranged for 19 July in Sessions House, Maidstone between 1900-2100 hours. Parish councils were encouraged to attend to discuss and identify potential new opportunities for rural transport services.

It was also reported that the County Council continued to work on potholes and since March 2018 had filled 1,091 in Tonbridge and Malling.

PPP 18/14 TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL SERVICES UPDATE

The Chairman, in his role as Leader of the Council, provided an update on key points of relevance to Tonbridge and Malling. The headline messages included:

Larkfield Leisure Centre:

Investment in new gym, free weights area, two new dance studios and improved changing areas. The Leisure Centre had recently received an outstanding Quest award and this placed the facility in the top 2% nationally, together with Tonbridge Swimming Pool, which was a great achievement.

Leybourne Lakes Country Park:

Investment in new parking, interpretation and play structures. Consideration was also being given to future development opportunities.

In addition, the Borough Council continued to support, promote and run initiatives related to healthy living, business engagement and support, rural businesses, employment and skills and environmental initiatives. Further detail on these were set out in the presentation which would be attached to the Minutes for information.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm

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Tonbridge & Malling Parish Partnership Panel

Kent County Council Services Update

Thursday, 6 September 2018

Did you know that many of KCC's meetings are webcast?

KCC broadcasts some of its council meetings live online, giving you the chance to see council decision making in action.

Webcast council meetings from the past year are also available to view:

<https://kent.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcasts>

Key points taken from the Report by Paul Carter, Leader of the Council to Full Council on 12 July 2018 (minutes not yet published).

- Mr Carter focused on KCC's medium, three-year capital programme which currently amounts to around £790m of 'traditional' investment, including maintaining schools, expanding schools, maintaining roads and building new roads alongside office and library estate needed to ensure the effective delivery of a complex array of services.
- Mr Carter stated the challenge now for KCC is to be more ambitious in its future capital programmes while remaining prudent. This new approach has been made possible through significant opportunities using the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) to borrow long term at very reasonable rates.
- By taking advantage of these preferential rates KCC can now focus part of its building programme on enablement strategies/projects that create income, add to social value and have the potential to provide significant capital gains for the authority. The County Library and Archives Centre is a perfect example of an enabling development where a new County Library and Archive Centre was needed and by building significant residential accommodation around it, this substantially brought down the costs of building.
- Regarding other income generating opportunities, there is a need to deliver another 1000 extra care homes across the county and demand is rising. Mr Carter asked if KCC should consider a bolder approach and take advantage of PWLB preferential interest rates to meet this demand, borrowing a bit more against the rental income stream that will flow from this capital build rather than relying on others. This would meet the rising demand for good quality accommodation as well as adding social value by keeping people behind their own front doors, following Ashford Borough Council's example of the housing delivered at its Farrow Court development.
- Mr Carter asked also whether KCC should consider investing in another Kings Hill development. In June 2018 Dominic Raab, the then Housing Minister, announced new powers to allow local councils to launch new towns and new villages through development corporations, subject to government approval. When the detail is published it will give local authorities the power to determine the locations of new communities with the potential to harvest a significant proportion of land value

capital. (Obviously there will be a need to satisfy the 151 officer that rigorous and robust business plans will be in place to ensure where money is spent and that income will flow resulting in capital growth.)

- In conclusion, Mr Carter believes all these options should be explored to increase the social value of capital investments, income streams and maximum capital receipts and capital growth to help support delivering some of the essential infrastructure needed against the massive housing growth taking place across the county.

To view the whole meeting visit:

https://kent.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/348503

Kent and Medway Business Fund

The Kent and Medway Business Fund **will re-open to new pre-applications on 1 September 2018.**

This scheme aims to deliver investment to small and medium sized businesses in Kent and Medway, offering 0% loans between £50,000 and £500,000.

It is funded by loan repayments from previous Regional Growth Fund schemes (Expansion East Kent, Tiger and Escalate).

To register your interest please visit:

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

Click on the link for information on other [business funding and loan opportunities](#).

Guide to apprenticeships / 'Made in Kent'

Visit [Guide to apprenticeships](#) for careers advice and information about different types of jobs.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/jobs/starting-your-career/be-an-apprentice/guide-to-apprenticeships>

Apprenticeships are an excellent way to get work-based training, working with real employers, training on the job and working towards an industry-standard qualification.

The 'Made in Kent' campaign continues to encourage employers to register vacancies as numbers of young people registering for apprenticeships still exceeds placements.

Sign up to One You Kent

See what small changes you can make to your health and wellbeing by following this [link](#) and filling in a short questionnaire about yourself to help KCC determine what support is available based on your preferences.

Kent Fostering - Open your Heart

KCC urgently needs people to provide children and young people with loving homes. KCC is recruiting 200 new foster carers and urgently needs to fill the remaining 120 vacancies. For more information please contact 03000 420 002 or visit <http://www.kentfostering.co.uk>

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 anyone who works in Kent County Council or public health in Kent and Medway.

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: [Facts and Figures about Kent](#)

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 2018/19

As agreed at the Budget County Council meeting on 20 February 2018, KCC's Combined Member Grant scheme opened again on **1 April 2018 with £20,000** 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 £140,000 to allocate in 2018/19.

Please contact your [local County Councillor](#) for more information.

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: [Community grants and funding](http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/community-grants-and-funding)
<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 closed, 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.**)
- to view and comment on planning applications that the County Council determines please visit the **planning application site.**

Current consultations:

Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2018-2028 – 20 June to 12 September 2018

The vision of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan is to provide a high quality, well maintained Public Rights of Way network that will support the Kent economy, encourage active lifestyles and sustainable travel choices and contribute to making Kent a great place to live, work and visit.

The plan sets out in KCC's vision for the Rights of Way network and how it will work towards delivering this over the next 10 years.

KCC would like your views on the rights of Way Improvement Plan 2018-2028 to ensure that it meets the needs and expectations of Kent residents.

To respond to the consultation please visit:

<https://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/rightsofWayImprovementPlan2017/consultationHome>

KCC Media

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

Recent media releases

KCC continues work on £7.5 million pothole blitz (17 August 18)

Since 1 March '18, KCC has filled in 48,635 potholes and carried out 165,429sqm of resurfacing where multiple potholes were found.

The issue remains the number one priority for Highways and dedicated teams are assigned their own district to focus the work.

Kent County Council is responsible for most of the roads in Kent except motorways and trunk roads.

KCC has contracted the work out to local companies in the districts to ensure quicker response times to reports of problems.

The companies are O'Rourke Contracting in Dartford and Gravesham; SCG Kent Ltd in Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells; Dukes Contractors Ltd in Tonbridge and Malling and Maidstone; Amey LG in Swale and Canterbury; Steadline Ltd in Ashford and Folkestone and Hythe; and A R Cook Contracting in Thanet and Dover.

KCC launches new select committee on loneliness and social isolation (2 August 18)

Kent County Council's (KCC) Scrutiny Committee has established a Loneliness and Social Isolation Select Committee to identify ways it can support the county's older residents.

The committee will investigate the current services available and identify initiatives and strategies to prevent or reduce the impact on residents.

The committee is cross-party and independent from the council's executive. It will gather information via several hearing sessions with relevant witnesses, off-site visits and the collection of written submissions from experts and interested stakeholders.

You can find out more information about the select committee and [read the published agendas here](#).

Gold award for KCC's support for the military (2 August 2018)

Kent County Council's support for ex-service personnel and Reservists was recognized on 2 August with the Ministry of Defence Employers Recognition Gold Award – just one year after receiving the Silver Award.

KCC's close relationship with the Military was cemented by the re-signing of the Kent Armed Forces Community Covenant in 2017 to enable the armed forces community to access public services without fear of disadvantage.

The council says it is firmly committed to addressing countywide issues relating to the Armed Forces Covenant including school admissions, employment, housing, health and welfare issues as it widens the understanding of the needs of the military and veterans including the above relating to families of current or ex-servicemen and women

KCC backs commuters over threat to high-speed trains (26 July 2018)

KCC has put its weight behind a campaign by Maidstone commuters who are mounting a last-ditch attempt to save high-speed train services to London.

More than 2,200 people have delivered a petition to the Department for Transport opposing plans to scrap the early-morning journeys from Maidstone West to St Pancras International.

Commuters say the proposed changes will add at least 20 minutes to their journeys every morning and evening.

KCC Leader Paul Carter said in a statement:

“I fully support the cause for the retention, and indeed the enhancement, of high-speed services to Snodland and Maidstone West. Kent County Council’s response to the Department for Transport’s public consultation in May 2017 included the case for retaining peak high-speed services at Maidstone West and adding an hourly off-peak service.

“This latter proposal was not taken up by the DfT, which I expressed my huge disappointment over.

“In even stronger terms, I have made it very clear to the DfT that the reduction of high-speed services or the proposed replacement of these services with a connecting service between Maidstone West and Abbey Wood would be unacceptable, as it would represent a circuitous journey with dubious benefit, and that elected members at both KCC and Maidstone Borough Council want the retention of high-speed services at Maidstone West.

“While demand at Maidstone West and Snodland will continue to grow with the delivery of substantial amounts of new housing, the benefit of running more frequent and higher capacity (12-car) trains on this service is that it would also provide the capacity required to meet the substantial demand at Strood and Gravesend, and therefore offer relief to the already overcrowded high-speed service via Medway.

“Given the substantial growth across Kent and Medway, more frequent and higher capacity high-speed services are required, and it is essential that the DfT and the operator of the new rail franchise, which is due to commence in April 2019, recognise this and provide the level of service that Kent commuters need. Work/life decisions have been made based on this service operating for a number of years now and it must continue to do so.

“KCC will continue to make this case to the DfT and the new franchise operator, whom we will meet for discussions once the award has been announced.”

For more information on any of these subjects please contact:
Anne Charman, KCC Community Liaison Officer
anne.charman@kent.gov.uk or 07717 665893

