

# TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL



## EXECUTIVE SERVICES

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### 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](mailto:committee.services@tmbc.gov.uk)

31 August 2018

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, 10th September, 2018 commencing at 7.30 pm

**\*\*There will be opportunity to table any questions at 7.25 pm\*\***

Yours faithfully

JULIE BEILBY

Chief Executive

## A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes

5 - 12

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of Tonbridge Forum held on 16 April 2018

3. Update on any action identified in the last Minutes
4. Update on Local Plan
5. Update on Waste Services Contract
6. Kent Police Update
7. Kent County Council Services Update
8. Tonbridge and Malling Services Update

## 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 V M C Branson  
Cllr D J Cure  
Cllr Mrs M F Heslop  
Cllr R D Lancaster  
Cllr M R Rhodes  
Cllr Miss G E Thomas  
Cllr F G Tombolis

### Members of the Forum:

Mr R Long (County Councillor)  
Mr M Payne (County Councillor)  
The Bridge Trust  
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  
University of the Third Age  
Women's Institute

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## TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### TONBRIDGE FORUM

Monday, 16th April, 2018

**Present:** 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 V M C Branson and Cllr F G Tombolis.

Together with County Councillor Mr M Payne and representatives from:

Society of Friends	Tonbridge Rotary Club
Tonbridge Art Group	Tonbridge Sports Association
Tonbridge Civic Society	Tonbridge Theatre and Arts Club
Tonbridge Line Commuters	Tonbridge Town Team
Tonbridge Lions Club	University of the Third Age and
Tonbridge Music Club	Women's Institute

Councillor H S Rogers were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D J Cure, Mrs M F Heslop, R D Lancaster, M R Rhodes, Miss G E Thomas, Mr R Long, The Bridge Trust, Kent Police (Tonbridge) and Tonbridge District Scout Council

#### **TF 18/1 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **TF 18/2 UPDATE ON ANY ACTION IDENTIFIED IN THE LAST MINUTES**

The following updates were provided:

##### **TF 17/9 (5) Chairman Announcements**

The Chairman advised that positive feedback had been received regarding the new round table format trialled at the last meeting. However, further feedback was requested on the frequency and number of meetings and responses were invited by the end of May. A further update would be given at the next meeting of the Tonbridge Forum.

##### **TF 17/15 Tonbridge Music Club – Recent Activities**

Tonbridge Music Club (Mrs Rena Pope) was pleased to report that since the last meeting of the Forum the future of the organisation was more secure as a new Committee Membership had been successfully

established. A number of musical events were planned for the coming year and arrangements were already in hand for Christmas 2018.

**TF 18/3 QUESTION FROM THE LOCAL MEMBER FOR TRENCH WARD**

In advance of the meeting Councillor Georgina Thomas had requested an update regarding the cycle path/access near the Slade School. Unfortunately due to other commitments Councillor Thomas was unable to attend the meeting to provide greater detail around the original question.

A response from Kent County Council would be progressed out of meeting and Forum Members would be advised accordingly.

**TF 18/4 UPDATE ON TONBRIDGE STATION IMPROVEMENTS AND HIGH STREET REVIEW**

The Senior Schemes Manager (Jamie Watson) summarised the progress on the improvements to Tonbridge Station. It was reported that significant work was being undertaken on a detailed design and this would be shared with Members and the public once finalised.

Particular reference was made to Southeastern's proposed cycle hub on Barden Road. This had resulted in design work being required on the junction with Vale roundabout. In addition, separate works were necessary to ensure that cyclists remained safe while accessing the hub and a contraflow cycle lane was proposed.

There were also plans to try and retain the kiss and drop layby outside the station, remove the right hand turn into Priory Road and provide a traffic signalled junction at Waterloo Road granting pedestrian access.

To minimise disruption to traffic it was intended to commence construction at the start of the summer holidays 2018. However, a final programme/timetable for the works had not yet been established.

With regard to the recent review of the High Street it was noted that the on-line public consultation had ended on 4 March 2018. Members were reminded that the aim of the scheme was to provide a more attractive environment for pedestrians, reduce congestion and encourage business to the town.

Unfortunately, the public responses to the consultation illustrated negative feedback towards the project and particular concerns had been expressed regarding online bus stops, the location of bus stops and their use by 'idling' buses.

Overall, there had been a variety of responses but the overwhelming view was that bus stops represented a significant challenge. In response, Kent County Council would continue to explore ways to

improve traffic flows in the town and whether there was the potential to convert the loading bay/layby into a bus stop.

Tonbridge Civic Society commented on the improved appearance of the High Street and thanked Kent County Council for the significant investment into the Town. However, they asked that consideration be given to the structure of bus stops, potential improvements to the unattractive buildings, granite steps and cobbles alongside the station.

It was noted that these buildings were owned by Network Rail and regular lobbying was undertaken by the Chairman and the Borough Council to encourage improvements to the area.

A number of points were raised by the Forum related to improved signage to divert traffic along the Bordyke and away from the High Street, the raised table in the High Street being repeatedly mistaken for a pedestrian crossing, the impact on cyclists of online bus stops and the traffic delays caused by online bus stops.

In response, Mr Watson explained that:

- The aim of the scheme was to encourage traffic away from the High Street and the County Council would review the signage again.
- The raised table in the High Street was a traffic calming feature intended to encourage drivers to consider their environment.
- Whilst the need to improve cycle facilities was recognised the current configuration of the High Street meant it might not be possible to retain all lay-bys.
- The use of appropriate materials would be considered carefully to provide an attractive environment and ensure longevity.
- Bus operators had responsibility to ensure that their timetable did not create 'idling' issues and there was ongoing engagement with service providers to resolve this issue.

Finally, it was reiterated that the County Council would give further consideration to maintaining the free flow of traffic through the town and explore options around the online bus stops. A further update would be given at the next meeting of the Forum in September.

## **TF 18/5 TONBRIDGE FAIRTRADE TOWN**

Tonbridge Town Team (Howard Porter) and the Economic Regeneration Officer (Jeremy Whittaker) set out proposals aimed at making Tonbridge a Fairtrade town.

The benefits of becoming a Fairtrade town were outlined and included:

- A positive contribution towards sustainable development
- Positive benefit to the local community
- Increased engagement with some larger retailers
- Promotional opportunities for Tonbridge

Initial interest to the proposals had been expressed from retailers and community groups between November 2017 and January 2018, with a resolution to support Fairtrade Tonbridge passed by the Borough Council in February 2018.

Promotional activities had been undertaken during Fairtrade Fortnight in February/March 2018 and Fairtrade produce had been introduced at the monthly Tonbridge Farmers Market in March.

A number of next steps to be undertaken were set out and included:

- Continuing to work through the application process
- Encouraging more local businesses and community organisations to get involved

It was reported that a Steering Group would convene for the first time later this month (April 2018) and Borough Councillor Frixos Tombolis had agreed to act as Chairman. A final application would be submitted in 2018.

Members fully supported the proposal especially as there was evidence that Fairtrade initiatives increased tourism, motivated staff and was a brand that was easily recognised and trusted by the public. It was also suggested that consideration be given to supporting 'Direct Trade' which was often viewed as complementary to Fairtrade certification.

In response, it was explained that once Fairtrade certification was achieved there was no reason why 'Direct Trade' could not form part of this initiative.

The community aspect of the initiative and the need to involve local workplaces and organisations was emphasised. Volunteers willing to participate were asked to contact Tonbridge Town Team for more information.

#### **TF 18/6 KENT POLICE UPDATE**

This item was WITHDRAWN from the agenda as Kent Police were unable attend for operational reasons.



**TF 18/7 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.

Particular reference was made to a number of key messages and these included:

- Many Council meetings were broadcast live and provided residents with the opportunity to watch how decisions were made. Meetings from the past year were available to view online at the Kent County Council website.
- The Guide to Apprenticeships and Made in Kent campaigns offered careers advice, information about different types of jobs and continued to encourage employers to register vacancies as numbers of young people registering for apprenticeships were exceeding placements.
- The deadline for applying to the Kent and Medway Business Fund, which offered zero % loans between £50,000 and £500,000 to small and medium sized businesses was 30 April 2018.
- The Combined Member Grant Scheme 2018/19 had opened on 1 April with £20,000 available to every County Councillor to fund both community and highway projects in their electoral division. Anyone interested should contact either County Councillors Michael Payne or Richard Long, although it was noted that requests for and pressures on funding were already significant.
- Everyone was encouraged to register to the Kent Public Health Observatory which provided information on public health based on data collection, analysis and interpretation.
- More than 97% of children across Kent had been allocated one of their chosen primary schools, with 97% getting their first preference. As a result, only 3% of families would be allocated a school they did not name.

Finally, all Kent County Council consultations could be viewed online at:

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

Kent County Councillor Payne also reported on the refurbishment of Tonbridge library, the opening of the Nexus School in Upper Haysden Lane, reiterated the pressures on the recently opened Combined

Member Grant fund and encouraged everyone to use the online fault reporting tool for any problems on the roads and footways.

**TF 18/8 TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL SERVICES UPDATE**

The Chairman (in his role as Leader of the Borough Council) provided an update on key points relevant to Tonbridge. The headline messages set out in the presentation would be available online and circulated with the Minutes. However, in summary these included:

- Keep Kent Clean and litter picks: A significant number of events had taken place in Tonbridge during March and April and all volunteers who had participated were thanked.
- Street Monitors and Flood Wardens would join forces for a big rubbish clearance at Sovereign Way Car Park on 12 May.
- Plans were in place to recruit a One You 'your home' advisor to be based at Warders Medical Centre.
- Tonbridge Area Churches were running litter picking events for young people over the 6 week summer holiday.
- External funding had been secured from developer contributions and there had been investment and improvements made to a number of facilities including Haysden Country Park, Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground, Remembrance Gardens cycle way and Tonbridge Town Lock.
- Full time pay and display parking had been introduced around Tonbridge Castle Grounds car park to meet ongoing demand for public parking.
- Tonbridge Swimming Pool had received an industry standard QUEST award and was one of only 12 facilities who had received this rating. It was noted that both the Swimming Pool and Larkfield Leisure Centre had achieved this outstanding result and were in the top 2% nationally.
- The Borough Council had adopted a scheme in 2017 to pass on support to local businesses affected by the revaluation of business rates.
- The Borough Council was working in partnership to create a business hub for small and start-up businesses at the Castle Lodge and business engagement events had been established to help support local businesses.

- Support had been given to Tonbridge Creates to deliver a pop up shop on Tonbridge High Street at Angel Walk.

In response to a query regarding the introduction of car parking charges around Tonbridge Castle, the Chief Executive explained that these changes were to maximise the spaces available for public parking provision. The visitor spaces for those using the Castle offices were being retained.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm

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## Tonbridge Forum Monday, 10 September 2018

### Kent County Council Services Update

#### 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](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](http://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 March 1, 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](mailto:anne.charman@kent.gov.uk) or 07717 665893



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