

# Tonbridge and Malling Parish Partnership Panel

Thursday, 19 November 2015

## Kent County Council Services Update

### 1. Sign up to KCC's new mailing list and be kept up to date with the latest council information.

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](http://www.kent.gov.uk)

### 2. Apply for a Primary School Place now

You must apply for a primary school place now if your child is due to start school in September 2016. Most children begin primary school at the start of the school year in which they reach school age (5 years old). All schools must admit children from the September following their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday.

You must apply for a primary school place if:

- your child is due to start primary or infant school (reception year)
- your child is at infant school (Year 2) and is due to start junior school (Year 3)
- your child is at primary school (Year 2) and you want your child to move to junior school at the start of Year 3.

For more information visit: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-age>

### 3. Kent Country Parks

Visit one of KCC's Country Parks and discover something to do in the great outdoors. By subscribing to the Country Park's newsletter you can stay up to date with the latest news of events and activities.

For more information visit: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/parks-and-outdoor-activities>

### 4. 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. KCC no longer offers a generic email service as the improved online fault reporting tool has been designed to ensure all of the information is captured so that faults are responded to quickly. Residents can still call to report any complex or urgent matters on 03000 418181 and speak to one of KCC's trained highway specialists.

## 5. KCC Combined Member Grant Scheme 2015/16

KCC's Combined Member Grant scheme is open until 31 March 2016 with £25,000 available to every County Councillor to fund both community and highway projects in their electoral division. Tonbridge & Malling County Councillors have a total of £175,000 to allocate in 2015/16.

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

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

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

## 6. Flu and the Flu Vaccine

Flu is a highly infectious illness that spreads rapidly through the coughs and sneezes of people who are carrying the virus.

If you're at risk of complications from flu, make sure you have your annual flu vaccine, available each year usually from October onwards.

### Who should have the jab?

You are eligible for an NHS flu vaccination if you are in an 'at-risk' group.

There are two types of flu vaccine:

- [the injected flu vaccine](#) for adults and children under two
- [nasal spray flu vaccine](#) for children over the age of two

You can find out if you should have the flu jab by visiting:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/who-should-have-flu-vaccine.aspx>

## 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**.)

### **1. Street Lighting Consultation – Monday 21 September to Sunday, 29 November 2015**

Kent County Council recently has secured funding to convert all of its street lights to Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology. LED's are significantly more efficient than the existing lights. Improvements in LED technology and a reduction in prices mean that LED lights are now the first choice for street lighting.

The work will involve changing the lantern on the existing column and will start early in 2016. It will begin by converting the lights in residential areas, which will take about fourteen months, followed by the main routes and town centres. The work will take around three years and when complete these changes could reduce KCC's current energy and carbon emission costs by 60%, saving around £5.2m, each year.

As well as using much less energy, LED lights are more reliable and require less maintenance. When combined with a Central Management System (CMS) KCC will be able to monitor its energy use, detect faults, dim lights and control the time that the lights turn on and off.

**What is the purpose of the consultation?** As the new LED/CMS technology is more flexible, KCC has the opportunity to review the way it provides street lighting. KCC seeks your views on the options for street lighting across the county and your responses will be used to inform the Council Members' decision making process for a new street light policy.

KCC would like to know which of the following options you would prefer:

- part-night lighting– the current level of service
- all night lighting.

Along with these options KCC would like to hear your views on the dimming of street lights when road are less busy.

For more information and an opportunity to complete the online questionnaire please visit: <http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/streetlighting/consultationHome>

## **2. Budget Consultation 2016/17 – Tuesday, 13 October to Tuesday, 24 November 2015**

Each year KCC must set a budget to determine how much it will spend on services for Kent residents and businesses. The overall size of the budget is heavily determined by the amount of money received through Council Tax and central government grants.

The amount spent on individual services is influenced by a combination of statutory requirements, demands placed on services and KCC's strategic priorities. In recent years the amount of money available has been decreasing and yet at the same time, demands for council services have been increasing.

KCC expects this trend to continue for at least the next three to four years. It prioritises its resources to ensure that children and young people get the best start in life, that communities feel the benefits of Kent's economic growth, and that we fulfil our responsibility to vulnerable residents.

KCC is proposing a small increase in Council Tax (up to the permitted without having to arrange a formal referendum) to contribute towards the additional demands being placed on council services and to provide some protection for local services.

Please take a few minutes to tell KCC your views on the proposal to increase council tax and about the council services you value the most, visit: [www.kent.gov.uk/budget](http://www.kent.gov.uk/budget)

## **3. Health Visiting and School Public Health Service – Monday, 2 November 2015 to Monday, 14 December 2015**

KCC is seeking views on the proposed service delivery models for Health Visiting and the School Public Health Service. Consultation responses will be used to improve services and ensure they are designed around the needs of Kent residents.

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

## **4. Health Improvement Services – Monday, 2 November to Monday, 14 December 2015**

KCC is consulting on a proposal to integrate Health Improvement Services to make them easier to access and more effective. Public Health is responsible for delivering effective prevention work via Health Improvement Services and in April 2015 KCC began a review of the use of the public health grant and the programmes commissioned through the grant. The review has provided a thorough understanding of the potential and the limitations of the current services, in the context of new legislative obligations and guidelines. This has presented a clear case for change and has identified opportunities for a new, more integrated approach. Kent will join many other Local Authorities that are proposing improved service models that deliver a more integrated and holistic approach to health improvement services, with the aim of helping residents live healthier lives with the appropriate support to make difficult lifestyle changes.

Public Health want to know whether you think the proposed model for Health Improvement Services will meet the needs of Kent's residents in an accessible and holistic way that will result in the desired outcomes. For more information please visit:

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

## **5. Grange Park School – proposed expansion**

The Governing Body with the support of Kent County Council would like to hear your views on the proposal to increase the designated number of places at Grange Park School, Borough Green Road, Wrotham, Kent TN15 7RD from 79 to 100 places from 1 April 2016.

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

## **KCC news**

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

### **Recent media releases**

#### ***Overpriced driveways lead conman to prison***

Investigations by KCC Trading Standards played a major part in bringing a persistent doorstep conman to justice. Between February and April 2015 Patrick Doran and his company, Quality Style Paving Limited, targeted four victim households in Kent, carrying out substandard and significantly overpriced driveway work.

If you consider that you need a new driveway, speak with friends and family who may know good tradesmen. Alternatively Checktrade are working with Kent County Council to provide a recommended trader scheme in Kent. Logon to [www.checktrade.com](http://www.checktrade.com) to find a Checktrade vetted business.

#### ***Be ready to beat the Norovirus bug***

Health officials are reminding Kent residents of some simple steps they can take to beat the Norovirus bug this winter.

Norovirus is the most common cause of gastroenteritis in England and Wales; it can affect people of any age and is more prevalent during colder months.

The NHS in Kent has a free web app to help you find the right treatment, especially when you are not sure what to do or who to contact. Health Help Now lists common symptoms and helps you find the best place for treatment for them in Kent.

It shows the nearest services, whether they are open or closed, and provides a map of their location and directions. Health Help Now also offers reliable health advice and links to other useful websites. Available at [www.healthhelpnow-nhs.net](http://www.healthhelpnow-nhs.net)

### **KCC calls for joined-up approach to support growth in the south east**

Long-term growth in Kent could be jeopardised by a chasm between housing and infrastructure, according to a new report commissioned by KCC.

The [Kent and Medway Growth Infrastructure Framework](#) (GIF) has been developed by the authority in collaboration with Medway Council, the 12 district authorities and health and utility sectors. The report highlights the significant growth anticipated in Kent over the next 16 years and identifies £6.74bn of infrastructure developments required to support it. It also recognises a funding gap of £2.01bn which, if not addressed, will impede the county's growth.

Kent County Council is taking action to address this and find innovative solutions with the government and other partners, including private sector investors, to meet the significant funding gap. **Give us your views on the framework.** We would value your input to the project to help us further develop and refine the framework. If you have any comments or enquiries, please email [GIF@kent.gov.uk](mailto:GIF@kent.gov.uk).

### **Ready for action – Kent's gritters on standby**

Kent's gritters are ready for action. At the beginning of October, the county's 60 gritters and five mini gritters warmed up their engines and took part in a dry run of gritting routes. They are now on standby for when the temperatures plummet.

On 27 October the winter service team got together to officially launch Kent Highways' Winter Service. They were joined at County Hall in Maidstone by Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Services and the NHS to showcase their preparedness for the cold months ahead.

A competition for children was launched inviting them to come up with a name for one of KCC's mini gritters which are designed to enable the gritting of narrow roads on the county's primary routes. The competition is run via Kent County Council's Twitter ([@Kent\\_CC](#)) and Facebook pages ([www.facebook.com/KentCountyCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/KentCountyCouncil))

For more information about Kent's Winter Service, visit: [www.kent.gov.uk/winter](http://www.kent.gov.uk/winter)

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

*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.*

