

Tonbridge Forum

Monday, 8 February 2016

Kent County Council Services Update

1. 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

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 4th 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.

KCC will process applications between 16 January and 17 April 2016.

If you apply online an email will be sent to you on **18 April 2016** after 4pm to tell you which school you have been offered. You can also [log in](#) to view your offer from 5pm.

If you applied by post, KCC will send your offer by first class post on 18 April 2016.

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

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 Councillors 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. Winter Health

For health information on everything you need to know for you and your family this winter please visit:

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

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. Mobile Library Service – 21 January to 4 March 2016

Kent County Council (KCC) has been looking at how it can make the Mobile Library Service more efficient and provide a better service for residents across Kent.

In recent years improved public transport links, growth of car ownership, as well as greater access to services available via the internet have meant that the way people access all KCC services, including library services, is changing and there is a need to adapt to meet its customers' needs.

To ensure that KCC's mobile libraries stop in the places where they will benefit its customers most, KCC has looked at a range of criteria when planning routes and stops and it is now asking for your views on its proposals for the service.

You can view a list of Mobile Library stops for each district and find out more about the impact these proposals may have on your local Mobile Library stop by visiting: <http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/mobilelibraries/consultationHome>

2. Tonbridge Gateway – 11 January to 21 February 2016

In 2009, Tonbridge Gateway opened in Castle Street, Tonbridge. Since then, people have visited the Gateway to access a range of Kent County Council (KCC), Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (TMBC) and partner services.

To make sure every pound spent in Kent is delivering better outcomes for its customers, communities and businesses, KCC must review the services it provides and where it provides them from to ensure it is getting value for money.

KCC is now considering whether the Tonbridge Gateway is the right location from which to provide its services. While the services that Kent County Council provides will not change, it is possible that

they could be accessed from Tonbridge Library and the Adult Education site. This would reduce property costs, helping to offset the unprecedented savings the council faces and will continue to face over coming years.

KCC provides or commissions the following services from the Tonbridge Gateway:

- Kent Supported Employment clinics
- Carers First
- Life Choice Independent Living
- Smoking Cessation
- Sexual Health

To find out more or to have your say on these proposals please visit:

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

3. Proposed Changes to M20 Junction 10a (Ashford) – 14 January to 17 March 2016

This is a Highways England Consultation on a proposal to provide a new M20 junction 10A and link road to the A2070 at Ashford in Kent with a new dual carriageway link road to the existing A2070 Southern Orbital Road (Bad Munstereifel Road) and also connect to the A20 Hythe Road.

To find out more about these proposals or complete an online questionnaire visit:

www.highways.gov.uk/m20j10a

4. Lower Thames Crossing – 26 January to 24 March 2016

Highways England is consulting on options for a Lower Thames Crossing; a new road crossing for the River Thames connecting Kent and Essex.

A new crossing is needed to reduce congestion at the Dartford Crossing and unlock economic growth, supporting the development of homes and jobs in the region.

Highways England proposes a tunnel crossing under the Thames located east of Gravesend and Tilbury. There are three route options north of the river and two south of the river.

This is a Highways England Consultation. You can find out more about these proposals and complete an online questionnaire by visiting: <http://www.lower-thames-crossing.co.uk/>

KCC news

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

Recent media releases

Contract awarded to convert Kent's street lights to LED

The contract to convert Kent's 118,000 streetlights to energy-efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology has been awarded to engineering and infrastructure firm Bouygues Energies & Services.

The newly upgraded lighting will be connected to an individual central management system (CMS) that will allow Kent County Council to monitor and adapt lighting levels in the future.

Work to convert streetlights to LED is due to begin in residential areas in March 2016 and will be completed within 38 months. Once completed, this will save Kent taxpayers up to £5.2 million a year.

Further consultation on disposal of land

Following the response to the publication of notices in respect of Parkwood, Preston Hill, Bluebell Hill Picnic site, The Larches and Dryhill, KCC is proposing to suspend the process pending a further consultation in due course.

Since 2008, Kent County Council has been looking at its visitor offer across its country parks and smaller sites, including picnic sites and has identified that there are a number of parks with a relatively small number of annual visitors compared to other sites.

In the current financial climate the Council has had to consider very carefully its Country Park Offer to ensure that resources are focused where it can make the biggest impact for its residents. KCC will therefore be seeking local stakeholders and community views on the future public use of the sites.

As part of this KCC would welcome proposals from local communities as to how it can best ensure that the sites remain open to the public and are financially viable. www.kent.gov.uk/publicnotices

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.*

