

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](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 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](mailto: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](http://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](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.*

