

Tonbridge and Malling Parish Partnership Panel

Thursday, 16 November 2017

Kent County Council Services Update

Minutes are not yet available for the KCC Full Council meeting held on 19 October 2017 but for details of the agenda and a reports pack visit:

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=113&MId=7567&Ver=4>

Primary School Places

Applications for children due to start primary and junior school in September 2018 open at 9am on **6 November 2017 and close on 15 January 2018.**

You can apply online or by post.

For more information read KCC's [guide to primary school applications \(PDF, 2.5 MB\)](#). Or for advice please call 03000 41 21 21 or email primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk.

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 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.

Guide to apprenticeships

For careers advice and information about different types of jobs visit:

<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.

For example:

- start a career and start earning at 16 – the currently weekly wage is £100 at 16 and £170 for 18 and over,
- choose from more than 250 careers - from health and social care to management, construction and engineering to banking and media, leisure and tourism,
- choose from three levels of qualification - from GCSE and A-Level equivalent up to degree level,
- boost career prospects - 85% of former apprentices remain in employment and 32% are promoted within 12 months,
- boost earning potential - former apprentices can earn on average £100,000 more than other employees during their lifetime,
- get the same benefits and discounts as college or university students but avoid the costs of further education.

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>

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

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 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:

Draft Budget Strategy 2018/19 – 12 October to 3 December 2017

KCC is consulting on its draft budget strategy for 2018/19 and the associated council tax proposals.

For full information on KCC's budget strategy and for information on how to take part in this consultation, please visit: www.kent.gov.uk/budget

Community Infant Feeding Support – 23 October to 3 December 2017

KCC is consulting on proposed changes to how Community Infant Feeding Support is provided in Kent. Currently generic support is provided by the Health Visiting Service and specialist support is provided by PS Breastfeeding CIC. The proposed model is that from 1 April 2018 the Health Visiting Service (provided by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust KCHFT) will deliver all infant feeding support.

For more information, an opportunity to read the consultation documents and to respond using the online questionnaire or to send your response to a local Children's Centre please visit: <https://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/Infantfeedingservice/consultationHome>

KCC news

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

Recent media releases

Thousands more children eligible for flu vaccine this winter

Kent County Council is supporting calls by Public Health England for parents whose children have not yet been vaccinated against flu to do so before the winter flu season begins.

For the first time, children in school year 4, along with children aged four and over in school years reception, 1, 2 and 3, can get their free flu vaccination, in the form of a nasal spray, in school.

To get your vaccine or find out if you are eligible, contact your GP, pharmacist or midwife for more information. Visit nhs.uk/staywell for more details on how to help you and your family to stay well this winter. The flu vaccination programme will be extended gradually to older age groups in primary school in future years.

UK first to clamp down on illegally parked HGVs

Kent County Council and Ashford Borough Council have joined forces in a UK-first to clamp down on illegally parked HGVs.

The scheme, which allows the authorities to clamp and fine drivers, has been developed by working with the Department for Transport (DfT).

The DfT agreed to change the current clamping policy for HGV's so that a clamp can be fitted for first time offences.

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.

