

A229 Blue Bell Hill Improvement Scheme

Public consultation: 15 September to 19 October 2020

Consultation Questionnaire

Kent County Council (KCC) is seeking your views on the proposals being put forward for A229 Blue Bell Hill Junction Improvement Scheme and have provided this feedback questionnaire for you to give your comments. Your responses will help us to develop the design of the scheme.

This questionnaire can be completed online at kent.gov.uk/a229bluebellhill.

If you are unable to complete online, please fill in this Word version and return to

Email: A229bluebellhill@kent.gov.uk

Address: A229 Blue Bell Hill Junction Improvement Scheme, Major Capital Programme Team, Kent County Council, 1st Floor Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

What information do you need before completing the questionnaire?

We recommend that you visit our virtual exhibition or view the consultation material online kent.gov.uk/a229bluebellhill before responding to this questionnaire.

If you have any questions you can email us at A229bluebellhill@kent.gov.uk or call 03000 42 14 37. This number goes to an answering machine. Please leave a message and someone will get back to you.

Please ensure your response reaches us by 23:59 Monday 19 October 2020.

Privacy: Kent County Council (KCC) collects and processes personal information in order to provide a range of public services. KCC respects the privacy of individuals and endeavours to ensure personal information is collected fairly, lawfully, and in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018. Read the full Privacy Notice at the end of this document.

Alternative formats: If you require any of the consultation material in an alternative format or language, please email: alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or call: 03000 42 15 53 (text relay

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service number: 18001 03000 42 15 53). This number goes to an answering machine, which is monitored during office hours.

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Section 1 – About You

Q1. Please tell us in what capacity you are completing this questionnaire:

Please select the option from the list below that most closely represents how you will be responding to this consultation. *Please select **one** option.*

- As a Kent resident
- As a resident from somewhere else, such as Medway
- A representative of a local community group or residents' association
- On behalf of a Parish / Town / Borough / District Council in an official capacity
- A Parish / Town / Borough / District / County Councillor
- On behalf of an educational establishment, such as a school or college
- On behalf of a local business
- On behalf of a charity, voluntary or community sector organisation (VCS)
- Other, please specify:

Q1a. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation (business, community group, residents' association, council or any other organisation), please tell us the name of your organisation: *Please write in below.*

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

Q2. Please tell us the first five characters of your postcode:

ME19 4L

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Please do not reveal your whole postcode. We use this to help us to analyse our data. It will not be used to identify who you are.

Q3. Please tell us how often you travel on the A229 Blue Bell Hill (including the M2 Junction 3 or M20 Junction 6 interchanges of the A229) using the following methods of transport.

*Please select **one** option for **each** type of transport. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please skip this question and move onto question 4.*

	Five or more times a week	A couple of times a week	Less frequently	Not applicable (e.g. never travel in this way)
Bicycle				
Bus				
Motorbike				
Private car – as a driver				
Private car - as a passenger				
Taxi – as a driver				
Taxi – as a passenger				
Van or lorry				
Walking				

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Other, please specify:				
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Section 2 – The Scheme

You can provide feedback on all or as many of the questions as you like. If you would rather not provide feedback on a question just move on to the next question.

The consultation material sets out why we think this scheme is necessary, please see exhibition board 2 and/or page 7 in the consultation brochure for more information.

Q4. To what extent do you agree or disagree that improvements are required to the A229 Blue Bell Hill, including the M2 Junction 3 and M20 Junction 6 interchanges?

*Please select **one** option.*

Strongly agree Tend to agree Neither agree nor disagree Tend to disagree Strongly disagree Don't know

Q4a. Please tell us the reason for your answer to Q4 in the box below:

We ask you not to identify yourself within your response.

TMBC strongly supports the improvement of Jn 3 of the M2 which includes the Taddlington and Lord Lees roundabouts in our borough, as well as the improvement of M20 Jn 6. These junctions currently perform poorly especially at peak times, and will require investment to accommodate the growth in traffic volumes, that are anticipated as a consequence of development in the adjoining boroughs of Tonbridge & Malling, Medway and Maidstone. In addition to this there will be significant demand arising from traffic that is seeking to cross the River Thames between Essex and Kent, as a consequence of the anticipated Lower Thames Crossing (LTC).

The underlying modelling and assumptions being developed for the LTC project do not currently take account fully of the combined impacts of the above, nor is the project anticipated to provide a wider package of mitigation measures for local roads. The borough council therefore strongly supports KCC in its bid to secure Large Local Majors scheme funding for Blue Bell Hill improvements.

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Q5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the objectives for the scheme?

Please select **one** response for each objective.

Objective	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
1. To improve journey time reliability at M2 Junction 3 and M20 Junction 6 interchanges of the A229	X					
2. To reduce congestion along the route	X					
3. To enable the local area to develop in accordance with population and housing growth predicated under Local Plans	X					
4. To reduce the impact of additional traffic from the Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) and allow LTC to maximise its potential	X					
5. To improve road safety and address known accident hotspots	X					
6. To make best use of existing infrastructure assets including land and highways	X					

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7. To provide suitable routes and facilities for public transport	X					
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Objective	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
8. To provide a safe and attractive route for pedestrians and cyclists	X					
9. To improve air quality in the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)	X					
10. To protect and enhance the local environment	X					

Q5a. Please add any comments you would like to make about the objectives in the box below:

TMBC is pleased to have been able to feed into the officer level workshop sessions which informed the identification of the above scheme objectives. We believe that these cover all of the relevant issues and should guide the development of preferred scheme options.

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This consultation provides details of three options for improvements. This scheme is still in an early phase of design and therefore the options are not definitive. The final option selected could be one of the three options currently proposed or it could involve a combination of works proposed under each of the different options.

Q6. Do you think that Option 1 would achieve the scheme objectives listed in Q5?

*Please select **one** option.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Partly
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know

Q6a. Please tell us the reason for your answer to Q6 in the box below:

We ask you not to identify yourself within your response.

Option 1 includes the upgrade of the current signalised junction at Taddington Roundabout, allowing traffic travelling from the M2 eastbound to A229 via a new bridge over the M2. This is likely to become a significant pinch point without a free flowing intervention between the M2 and the A229, as a consequence of demand arising from the Lower Thames Crossing, which will include traffic routing through to the channel ports.

The new bridge/through lane at the Taddington Roundabout is however, likely to be visually prominent, and would still result in M2 west bound traffic merging with east bound traffic at the Lord Lees Roundabout. The widened 4 lane arrangement between the two roundabouts could be an intimidating environment for some motorists and may encourage lane changing and vehicle conflicts.

The A229 northbound to M2 westbound free flow link and additional southbound lane on the A229 are supported, and would improve the capacity of the road and support the free flow of traffic.

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Q7. Do you think that Option 2 would achieve the scheme objectives listed in Q5?

*Please select **one** option.*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Partly
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know

Q7a. Please tell us the reason for your answer to Q7 in the box below:

We ask you not to identify yourself within your response.

The enhanced arrangement at the Bridgewater Roundabout, could provide the most direct and convenient route for traffic routing eastbound on the M2 then southbound on the A229. Subject to detailed design this could also be less visually prominent than option 1 which bisects the Taddington Roundabout.

The A229 northbound to M2 westbound free flow link and additional southbound lane on the A229 are supported, and would improve the capacity of the road and support the free flow of traffic.

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Q8. Do you think that Option 3 would achieve the scheme objectives listed in Q5?

*Please select **one** option.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Partly
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Don't know

Q8a. Please tell us the reason for your answer to Q8 in the box below:

We ask you not to identify yourself within your response.

Option 3 retains the same arrangement with an enhanced Bridgewood Roundabout at the northern end of Blue Bell Hill. It however includes a new grade separated junction at the southern end, where the existing Forstal Road bridge is currently located.

The southern end of Blue Bell Hill and related junctions with the M20 are situated at Sandling which is within Maidstone borough. Maidstone Borough Council is therefore best placed to comment upon the benefits and impacts of proposed improvements here.

Our initial impression is that the provision of a new roundabout over the M20 a junction 6, would have the benefit of intercepting eastbound M20 traffic travelling towards Maidstone via the A229. The proposed roundabout would prevent this traffic from joining the A229 at the Cobtree Roundabout, therefore freeing up capacity at that junction for traffic routing south along the A229 then eastbound M20 towards the channel ports. This is however likely to have greater visual impact in comparison to extended Running Horse Roundabout and related slip widening that is included in options 1 and 2.

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Q9. Do you have a preferred option for the A229 Blue Bell Hill Junction Improvement Scheme? Please select **one** option.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Option 1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Option 2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Option 3
<input type="checkbox"/>	None, I don't like any of the options
<input type="checkbox"/>	No preference, I don't mind which option is selected
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know

Q9a. Please tell us the reason for your answer to Q9 in the box below:
We ask you not to identify yourself within your response.

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Our initial impression is that option 2 could have the least visual impact, and could provide the most direct and convenient link for traffic routing between the M2 and M20 between the LTC and channel ports.

TMBC would welcome further information regarding the traffic flow and junction waiting time benefits of the options presented, in addition to other relevant information such as requirement for third party land and landscape impact, before providing further comments.

TMBC understands that the development of a preferred option will be subject to further modelling and site investigations. We would wish for this work to be undertaken and for that to inform a further design consultation, which includes targeted engagement with the communities that will be immediately affected by the proposals, in addition to local ward councillors.

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As we are in the early design phase, the environmental impact of the three options is in the process of being identified. See exhibition board 7 and/or page 18 of the consultation brochure for more information.

Q10. We welcome your feedback on any potential environmental impacts. Please add any comments below:

We ask you not to identify yourself within your response.

The Borough Council is mindful of the potential combined implications of local growth and the Lower Thames Crossing upon the local environment, including air quality and noise arising from vehicular traffic. Understandably these combined implications are not addressed within the evidence base which supports our emerging Local Plan, as this predates proposals for the LTC and growth in the neighbouring boroughs of Medway and Maidstone. We however hope that due to the increasing use of ultra-low emission vehicles, that going forwards despite a growth in traffic volumes on the A229, related emissions may actually decrease.

We are mindful of the potential consequences of an increase in traffic upon human health and wellbeing, due to noise and emissions which include nitrogen dioxide and particulates. Going forwards we would expect a full environmental impact assessment (EIA) to accompany the development consent order (DCO) for the junction improvements, and for appropriate mitigation to be provided where this is necessary, e.g. the provision of suitable surfacing, earth bunds, landscaping and acoustic fencing to reduce the cause and spread of noise.

The borough council has responsibility for air quality monitoring, and has 52 active monitoring sites across the borough. Whilst no part of the A229 within Tonbridge & Malling is currently a dedicated AQMA, our environmental protection team would be willing to discuss any relevant monitoring which may be necessary to support junction improvements delivered.

The North Downs Woodlands Special Area of Conservation, an area of protected semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland, is within the vicinity of the A229 Blue Bell Hill. The borough council seeks reassurance that the combined increase in traffic volumes, in particular HGVs, will not lead to a detrimental impact upon the woodland and its biodiversity, due to an increase in pollution.

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Opportunities should be considered to provide a net gain in biodiversity terms from the infrastructure improvements delivered, and support ambitions for net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 (HM Government), as anticipated in the emerging Environment Bill 2020. These matters should be addressed in the EIA. Suitable enhancement of facilities for pedestrians and cyclists should be integrated into the junction improvements, dedicated cycle routes are currently limited in the vicinity of the A229 which connect with adjacent communities.

The borough council supports the additional investigations proposed, that will be used to inform the EIA going forwards. In addition to the preparation of a habitats regulations assessment (HRA) and landscape strategy to support the preferred scheme option.

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To help ensure that we are meeting our obligations under the Equality Act 2010 we have undertaken Equality Impact Assessment (EqIAs).

An EqIA is a tool to assess the impact any proposals would have on the protected characteristics: age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, race, religion, and carer's responsibilities. The EqIAs is available online at kent.gov.uk/a229bluebellhill or in hard copy on request.

Q11. We welcome your views on our equality analysis and if you think there is anything we should consider relating to equality and diversity. Please add any comments below:

We ask you not to identify yourself within your response.

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Section 3 – The Consultation

Q12. How did you find out about this consultation? *Please select **all** that apply*

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Postcard delivered to my home / business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Email notification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Newspaper article |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | From my Parish / Town / Borough / District Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | From a friend or relative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Social Media (Facebook or Twitter) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Kent.gov.uk website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Saw a poster |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | From a local business |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other, please specify: |

Direct officer contact

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For this consultation we used a virtual consultation hub to create an [online exhibition](#) with a video and exhibition boards. This is the first time we have used this software and we would welcome your feedback.

Q13. Did you find the virtual consultation hub easy to use?

Please select **one** option.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Partly
<input type="checkbox"/>	I didn't look at it
<input type="checkbox"/>	I wasn't able to access the virtual consultation hub

Q13a. Please add any comments on the virtual consultation hub in the box below:

We ask you not to identify yourself within your response.

The use of an online virtual format is welcomed and has made the consultation more accessible and engaging.

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Section 4 – More About You

We want to make sure that everyone is treated fairly and equally, and that no one gets left out. That's why we are asking you these questions. We won't share the information you give us with anyone else. We'll use it only to help us make decisions and improve our services.

If you would rather not answer any of these questions, you don't have to.

It is not necessary to answer these questions if you are responding on behalf of an organisation.

Q14. Are you....? Please select *one* option.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Male
<input type="checkbox"/>	Female
<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say

Q15. Which of these age groups applies to you? Please select *one* option.

0-15	<input type="checkbox"/>	16-24	<input type="checkbox"/>	25-34	<input type="checkbox"/>	35-49	<input type="checkbox"/>	50-59	<input type="checkbox"/>
60-64	<input type="checkbox"/>	65-74	<input type="checkbox"/>	75-84	<input type="checkbox"/>	85+ over	<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Equality Act 2010 describes a person as disabled if they have a long standing physical or mental condition that has lasted, or is likely to last, at least 12 months; and this condition has a substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. People with some conditions (cancer, multiple sclerosis and HIV/AIDS, for example) are considered to be disabled from the point that they are diagnosed.

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Q16. Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010?

Please select **one** option.

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to say

Q16a. If you answered 'Yes' to Q16, please tell us the type of impairment that applies to you.

You may have more than one type of impairment, so please select all that apply. If none of these applies to you, please select 'Other' and give brief details of the impairment you have.

- Physical impairment
- Sensory impairment (hearing, sight or both)
- Longstanding illness or health condition, or epilepsy
- Mental health condition
- Learning disability
- I prefer not to say
- Other

Other, please specify:

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A Carer is anyone who cares, unpaid, for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support. Both children and adults can be carers.

Q17. Are you a Carer? Please select **one** option.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say

Q18. To which of these ethnic groups do you feel you belong? Please select **one** option. (Source 2011 Census)

White English	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed White & Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Scottish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed White & Black African	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed White & Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Northern Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed Other*	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black or Black British Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Gypsy/Roma	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black or Black British African	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Irish Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black or Black British Other*	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Other*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arab	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian or Asian British Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian or Asian British Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

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Asian or Asian British Other*

*Other - If your ethnic group is not specified on the list, please describe it here:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire; your feedback is important to us. All feedback received will be reviewed and considered in the development of our proposals.

We will report back on the feedback we receive, but details of individual responses will remain anonymous and we will keep your personal details confidential.

Closing date for responses: 19 October 2020

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Last updated: 13 January 2020

Who are we?

Kent County Council collects, uses and is responsible for certain personal information about you. When we do so we are regulated under the General Data Protection Regulation which applies across the European Union (including in the United Kingdom) and we are responsible as 'controller' of that personal information for the purposes of those laws. Our Data Protection Officer is Benjamin Watts.

The personal information we collect and use

Information collected by us

In the course of responding to Consultations published by Kent County Council we collect the following personal information when you provide it to us:

- Postcode
- Email address if you want updates on a specific consultation
- Feedback on the consultation
- Equalities Data - Ethnicity, Religion, Sexuality, Disability or if you are a Carer
- Cookies – we use three types of cookies when you use our website. For more information about the cookies and how they are used please visit <https://kahootz.deskpro.com/kb/articles/kahootz-cookie-information-ci>

We use cookies to remember who you are and a few of your preferences whilst you use the website.

We do not use cookies to collect personally identifiable information about you, track your behaviour or share information with 3rd parties.

Our cookies do not contain any of your personal information and only take up about one-thousandth of the space of a single image from a typical digital camera.

All of the cookies we set are strictly necessary in order for us to provide the online service to you.

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You do not need to submit any equalities information if you do not want to. KCC is committed to the principle that all our customers have the right to equality and fairness in the way they are treated and in the services that they receive. Any information you do give will be used to see if there are any differences in views for different groups of people, and to check if services are being delivered in a fair and reasonable way.

No personal information which can identify you, such as your name or address, will be used in producing equality reports. We will follow our Data Protection policies to keep your information secure and confidential. Your equality data will be anonymised before sent to other teams.

How we use your personal information

We use your personal information to inform you of the outcome of the consultation, if you have requested updates.

We may use your postcode to carry out a type of profiling to estimate which one of a number of lifestyle groups you are most likely to fall into. We do this using geodemographic segmentation tools. We do not make any decisions about individual service users based solely on automated processing, including profiling.

How long your personal data will be kept

We will hold your personal information for up to 6 years following the closure of a consultation.

Reasons we can collect and use your personal information

We rely on *'processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest'*

And

'processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject.'

The provision of contact details, including name, address or email address is required from you to enable us to respond to your feedback on consultations.

We rely on *processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest* as the lawful basis on which we collect and use your special category data for the purpose of equalities monitoring.

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Further, the processing is necessary for the purposes of identifying or keeping under review the existence or absence of equality of opportunity or treatment between groups of people with the view to enabling such equality to be promoted or maintained.

You can read KCC's Equality Policy on our website <http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/equality-and-diversity>

Who we share your personal information with

Kent County Council will share your details with services within the Council who are responsible for management of this consultation. Responses will be shared with a third-party supplier who has been contracted to independently analyse the consultation responses. Any information given will not be used to identify you. We ask you not to identify yourself within your consultation response.

We will share personal information with law enforcement or other authorities if required by applicable law.

We use a system to log your feedback, which is provided by a third-party supplier.

Your Rights

Under the GDPR you have a number of rights which you can access free of charge which allow you to:

- Know what we are doing with your information and why we are doing it
- Ask to see what information we hold about you
- Ask us to correct any mistakes in the information we hold about you
- Object to direct marketing
- Make a complaint to the Information Commissioners Office

Depending on our reason for using your information you may also be entitled to:

- Ask us to delete information we hold about you
- Have your information transferred electronically to yourself or to another organisation
- Object to decisions being made that significantly affect you
- Object to how we are using your information
- Stop us using your information in certain ways

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We will always seek to comply with your request however we may be required to hold or use your information to comply with legal duties. Please note: your request may delay or prevent us delivering a service to you.

For further information about your rights, including the circumstances in which they apply, see the guidance from the UK Information Commissioners Office (ICO) on individuals' rights under the General Data Protection Regulation.

If you would like to exercise a right, please contact the Information Resilience and Transparency Team at data.protection@kent.gov.uk.

Keeping your personal information secure

We have appropriate security measures in place to prevent personal information from being accidentally lost or used or accessed in an unauthorised way. We limit access to your personal information to those who have a genuine business need to know it. Those processing your information will do so only in an authorised manner and are subject to a duty of confidentiality.

We also have procedures in place to deal with any suspected data security breach. We will notify you and any applicable regulator of a suspected data security breach where we are legally required to do so.

Who to contact

Please contact the Information Resilience and Transparency Team at data.protection@kent.gov.uk to exercise any of your rights, or if you have a complaint about why your information has been collected, how it has been used or how long we have kept it for.

You can contact our Data Protection Officer, Benjamin Watts, at dpo@kent.gov.uk. Or write to Data Protection Officer, Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ.

The General Data Protection Regulation also gives you right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority. The supervisory authority in the UK is the Information Commissioner who may be contacted at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns> or telephone 03031 231113.

For further information visit <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/about-the-website/privacy-statement>