



Merry Christmas Everyone!

December 2020

**BREAKING
NEWS**

Operation Stack in place as French border closes for 48 Hours

Operation Stack is being implemented on the coastbound carriageway of the M20 between Junctions 8 and 11.

It has been put in place as a contingency measure following the French government's announcement it will not accept any passengers arriving from the UK for the next 48 hours, and the subsequent closures of the Port of Dover and Channel Tunnel.

In addition, the Department for Transport is preparing Manston ready to support the Kent Resilience Forum's plans to manage disruption. Manston can accommodate up to 4,000 lorries, though the message to hauliers is to avoid travelling to Kent until further notice. See KCC press release for further details <https://kccmediahub.net/operation-stack-in-place-as-french-border-closes-for-48-hours745>



KENT AND MEDWAY GO INTO TIER 4 COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS

As of Sunday 20 December, Kent and Medway commenced the highest tier of COVID-19 Restrictions. The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, announced the commencement at a Downing Street Briefing on Saturday 19 December. You can read more about the new restrictions in the "COVID-19 Updates" inside this issue of KALC NEWS.

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Merry Christmas Everyone!



The KALC Team will be working remotely from their home settings for the foreseeable future. However, our Christmas opening hours will continue as in previous years so:

Open as normal from 9am to 5pm:

- ◇ Monday 21 December
- ◇ Tuesday 22 December
- ◇ Wednesday 23 December

On Thursday 24 December, Christmas Eve, we will be open for queries and technical support until 12 Middy.

We are then fully closed down for the Christmas and New Year period. We reopen at 9am on Monday 4 January 2021.

This year has been a challenging one for us all. We have seen our county rise to that challenge in the most marvellous way and this is continuing as we go into the Festive season. The efforts of so many in Kent and Medway have been truly wonderful over 2020 and we know that, whilst 2021 will also have its challenges, we will all be ready to do what is needed for our communities.

Our Chairman, Cllr Mrs Sarah Barker, along with all the Executive Committee of KALC would like to wish all our membership a very happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to a much better 2021 for us all.

The KALC Office Team

Terry, Clive, Laura, Tricia and Charmaine

Wish all our Membership a very Merry Christmas

And send best wishes to you all for a happy 2021

**We must
keep on
protecting
each other.**



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

**STAY ALERT
CONTROL
THE VIRUS
SAVE LIVES**

Caption
describing
picture or
graphic.

COVID 19 Updates

On 19 December 2020, the Prime Minister announced a new tier of restrictions for many parts of England. This is known as Tier 4. Kent and Medway have been put into this tier of restrictions with immediate effect. You can read about the new restrictions and what they mean for our county here:

[Prime Minister announces Tier 4: 'Stay At Home' Alert Level in response to new COVID variant -](#)

[GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

You can also read more about the current “Christmas Bubble” arrangements here:

[Guidance for the Christmas period - GOV.UK](#)

www.gov.uk which have been amended for Tier 4.

Make sure you keep up to date both nationally and locally by looking at the

- **NHS website** <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- **NALC website** <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/>
- **KALC website** <https://www.kentalc.gov.uk/>
- **Medway Council:** [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) | Medway Council](#)

Kent County Council: www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether or by calling on 03000 41 92 92.

The helpline – called **Kent Together** – provides a single, convenient point of contact for anyone in the county who is in urgent need of help during the Coronavirus outbreak. It is a collaboration between KCC, central Government, District, Borough and local councils, the voluntary and community sector, the NHS, emergency services and other partners to ensure help is at hand for vulnerable people.

It is also the place to report your concerns about the welfare of someone else.

Kent Association of Local Councils uses its website and Eventbrite to announce its events so that delegates can choose the workshop or conference they wish to attend. At the present time, all our events are delivered online via the Zoom video conferencing programme, which we find suits everyone's needs for when we cannot deliver traditional face to face venue events. Both Eventbrite and Zoom are easy to use with a few simple pointers.



- We will always send out a “flyer” to inform our membership of upcoming events, so look out for them in your inbox or on our website

www.kentalc.gov.uk

- There will always be a hyperlink for you to click on, which will direct you to our website in the first place.
- The date and time will be shown here, with a brief description of the event. Click on the relevant link and that will take you straight to the Eventbrite booking page for the event you would like to join.
- We strongly encourage individual Councillors to sign up for an event via the Clerk to the Council. However, when that is not possible, please check with your clerk before booking your own place.
- There are two sections that need to be completed. One is the “ticket buyer” - this is the Clerk or Responsible Finance Officer. Invoices are generated automatically from the site, so you should know what is payable to KALC immediately. You should insert the name and contact details of the Clerk/RFO here so they receive our invoice at once. KALC no longer sends out invoices for Training and Events.

The second section refers to the “Attendee”. This is for the individual who will be attending the event. It is particularly important that the email address for that person is entered and is correct as this is where all joining instructions will be sent. Do double check the form before you hit the “Send” button.



If all your details are correct, you will receive a notification via Eventbrite (not KALC) one week before and again within 48 hours of the event that informs you of:

- The date and time of registration
- What you might need to read beforehand and any links that will provide that information
- The joining instructions - a link to the Zoom account and Meeting ID should that fail.
- We also provide contact details so that if you encounter any issue on the day, we can help you as much as possible.

That should mean that you get the best outcome from attending one of our online courses.

We are always happy to help if you have any problems in booking your place but hope that this guide will help you to book an event at your own leisure.

A bright blue rectangular button with a yellow speech bubble shape on the left side. Inside the speech bubble, the words 'JOIN US' are written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

JOIN US



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OUR LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



Our online Learning and Development programme is now well established and we have been very pleased at the uptake and feedback that we have received for all the courses we have offered in the last few months. We are continuing the bitesize learning webinars on a monthly rolling basis and as we have previously said, there is no limit as to when and how delegates decide to do the course.

We have just launched an online version of our popular “Introduction to Planning” workshops. We welcome a new tutor, Flo Churchill, who has taken over from Lindsay Frost who has now retired. The sessions are bound to be popular so make sure you book a place soon. We look forward also to our “Getting In Front of the Camera” workshops which are also rolling out in the second part of January.

- **The Dynamic Councillor - KALC’s foundation course for the new councillor or for those who may need a refresher**

- ⇒ Thursday 7 January at 0930hrs
- ⇒ Thursday 21 January at 1830hrs



- **Getting in Front of the Camera - Learning to Harness the Power of Facebook Live for your Communities**

- ⇒ Thursday 14 January at 1830hrs
- ⇒ Thursday 28 January at 1000hrs

- **An Introduction to Planning**

- ⇒ Tuesday 12 January at 1800hrs
- ⇒ Friday 29 January at 1000hrs



- **4 February 2021 - The Dynamic Councillor Workshop: from 10am - 1pm**
- **11 February 2021 - Using Facebook to enhance your Council’s Communications – from 10am to 12pm.** In association with Breakthrough Communications
- **11 March 2021 - Beyond Facebook: how Councils can make the most of Instagram, Twitter and other Social Media platforms to get their message across from 2pm to 4pm.** In association with Breakthrough Communications

Missing From Your Inbox



Virtual Training Opportunity in January

We are pleased to highlight the 3 FREE virtual training events below for Parish and District Councils on volunteering. They are being organised by the Ashford Volunteer Centre, who coordinate volunteer centres across the county. The events will be held on Zoom and have been split into 3 areas: East Kent, Mid Kent and West Kent. The 3 events will cover:

- What the research tells us about volunteers
- What resources are available to you
- Next steps for accessing support in your area

To book, just click on the relevant link below:

- East Kent districts volunteering workshop – 11 January 2021 10.30-12 midday:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/east-kent-only-volunteering-workshop-for-parish-and-district-councils-tickets-130572141791>
- Mid Kent districts volunteering workshop – 11 January 2021 2.30-4pm:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/131040641085>
- West Kent districts volunteering workshop – 13 January 2021 10.30-12 midday
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/west-kent-only-volunteering-workshop-for-parish-and-district-councils-tickets-131041802559>

FREE!

News from Our National Association...

nalc

On 17 December the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) published the [Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2021/22](#) which includes the welcome confirmation of no referendum principles for local (parish and town) councils in 2021/22. As you know, we have continued to lobby for this, including through our spending review submission. We will be responding to this consultation, as well as a further consultation on COVID-19 funding for local authorities. And the chancellor of the Exchequer has announced the [Budget will be on Wednesday 3 March 2021](#) setting out the next phase of the plan to tackle the virus and protect jobs.

The National Association of Local Councils has launched *The Good Councillor's guide to community business*, in partnership with the Plunkett Foundation and Power to Change.

The guide for parish, town and community councillors will set out the principles of what a community business is and help local (parish and town) councils to consider whether this form of business could be appropriate in their community.

This publication contains 12 sections and aims to help councillors learn about the development stages of a community business, consider their role and that of the local council and also learn from examples of where collaboration has succeeded in other areas. Furthermore, seven case studies of local councils are included along with a resource list of useful websites, to facilitate further learning about this form of business.

Community businesses are locally rooted, community-led, trade for community benefit and make life better for local people. There are 9,000 community businesses across England employing 33,600 people with assets of £890m. From pubs to libraries; shops to bakeries; swimming pools to solar farms; community businesses are creating great products and services, providing employment and training and transforming lives.

NALC chairman, Cllr Sue Baxter, said: "I'm delighted for the launch of *The Good Councillor's guide to community business*. Local councils play a significant role as service deliverers for their communities, through supporting local economy and business. It is encouraging that the sector already engages with community businesses and hope this latest publication will empower councillors with information to support community businesses and extend their take-up across the country"

Health and Wellbeing: Everyone's Responsibility

Asymptomatic test sites in Kent



"Targeted asymptomatic testing launches in Kent on Friday, with the first sites in Swale and Thanet to be followed by a rolling programme across the county to try to reduce the rates of Covid-19.

These sites are in addition to the DHSC run regional and local test sites for people who have symptoms. The asymptomatic testing will find people who don't currently have symptoms who may be unknowingly spreading the virus.

People will be invited to testing by a letter or email and we encourage everyone who is invited to go and get a test.

KCC has been working closely with Swale Borough Council and Thanet District Council to identify the sites at the Sheerness East Working Men's Club in Halfway, and Ramsgate Port, which will be opening on Friday (18th Dec) and this is the start of a roll out of asymptomatic testing sites across the whole of Kent.

Residents attending this testing will undergo a lateral flow swab test and will receive their result within half an hour of attending the test. If they are positive, they will be told to self-isolate, follow the national guidance and they will be instructed to have a PCR test to confirm their positive result. If they are negative, they must still continue to observe social distancing guidelines, wear a mask in public and regularly wash hands.

All Kent residents are urged to keep following the tier three restrictions and limit their social interactions and people are reminded of the importance of self-isolating, not only when they have received a positive test but also while they are awaiting their test results.

KCC Director of Public Health, Andrew Scott-Clark said: "As many as one in three people who have coronavirus have no symptoms and could be spreading it without realising it. We want to identify as many positive cases as possible, especially those who may not have any symptoms and are unknowingly transmitting the virus.

We will ask anyone who tests positive to stay at home for 10 days and self-isolate, to help break the chain of transmission. This is vitally important to stop COVID-19 from spreading in the community, particularly to people who could become very sick if they catch the virus."

Staff have been recruited to the asymptomatic testing sites using funding from central Government to support local councils in tier 3 to help reduce rates.

Health Minister Lord Bethell said: "We've already come so far since first setting up a national testing programme at an unprecedented pace to help counter COVID-19, but we continue to strive to go further, faster.

"Roughly one in three people have the virus without symptoms so could be spreading the

Health and Wellbeing: Everyone's Responsibility

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disease without knowing it. Broadening testing to identify those showing no symptoms will mean finding positive cases more quickly, and break chains of transmission.

“I’m delighted that Kent County Council, Swale Borough Council and Thanet District Council are working with us roll out community testing in Swale and Thanet, and I look

forward to seeing the results.”

Baroness Dido Harding, Interim Executive Chair of the National Institute for Health Protection, said: “NHS Test and Trace continues to play a leading role in the fight against COVID-19. Increased community testing is a vital additional tool at our disposal to help identify those who are infected and infectious, but unaware that they might be spreading the disease.

“The work of Kent County Council, Swale Borough Council and Thanet District Council will be essential in driving down transmission rates. I urge all those living in areas where community testing is offered to come forward and get tested.”

For more information, go to www.kent.gov.uk/protectkent

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Highway Soft Landscape Team



2020 Tree Planting

There has been a real increase in positive public interest in tree planting this year and Tree Officers have received lots more enquiries from the public to say how they are noticing trees being planted in their streets and requesting more.

- We are on target to plant over 900 street trees during the 20/21 planting season ending next March.
- Almost 600 trees were planted before Christmas time. The most we have ever done.
- The majority of the new planting is part of larger schemes where we are focusing on particular areas or streets to deliver gains in our tree stock.



As part of our approach to highway tree planting, we welcome input from Parishes on possible sites or schemes and document these to be considered as part of our ongoing future planting strategy.

Highway Tree Planting Projects

We are also looking at ways of incorporating the many benefits that trees provide into other projects:

- We are currently investigating sites where we can increase our highway conservation verges in Kent. This is called 'Plan Bee' and as part of this we will be looking at where we can include tree planting to encourage bees and butterflies.
- We are working on a project to look at how we can increase tree planting densities in some highway locations in Kent. High-density tree planting can deliver significant environmental gains in very small spaces.
- We also continue to work to see where tree planting can be used to assist in areas prone to flooding.



2021 Tree Planting

The highway tree team are now working on where they want to focus for the 20/21 planting season. A lot of background work needs to be undertaken including highway ownership checks, highway safety checks, underground utility and services checks and preparation of hard sites.

If you would like to fund further street trees or have schemes that that you think are appropriate for tree planting in the 21/22 season, then please have a discussion with the Highway Soft Landscape team or your District Manager.

You can make a request for tree planting by visiting our website at:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/what-we-look-after/soft-landscape-maintenance>

News from Kent County Council

Completion of KCC's 2020 Road Resurfacing Programme

**Kent
County
Council**
kent.gov.uk



A £24.2 million road resurfacing programme has come to an end, resurfacing around 550,000 square metres with new tarmac and replacing 50 miles of Kent's roads. To put these figures into context, this is the equivalent of resurfacing the area of 77

Wembley Stadium football pitches or the length of road between Maidstone and Brighton.

Following a decision to significantly increase investment in road maintenance to prevent potholes, our resurfacing contractor Eurovia has delivered around £60m of surfacing work in Kent in the last 30 months. The work has included medium to large scale resurfacing jobs and a number of projects involving full reconstruction of roads, reducing potholes on these roads for years to come.

When temperatures rise again in the new year, Kent Highways aims to deliver a further £5.3m of resurfacing by the end of March, taking the total spend between January 2020 and March 2021 to over £29.5 million for resurfacing alone.

Combined with the special treatments programme, which extends the life of roads and also prevents potholes, KCC's investment in planned road maintenance will total around £40 million, a significant increase on past years.

Leader announces new powers to penalise inappropriate and illegal lorry parking in Kent

New powers have been given to Kent County Council to help keep roads in the county clear of illegally parked HGVs.

For the first time, KCC will be allowed to clamp and issue penalty notices to drivers in Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Folkestone and Hythe, Maidstone, Swale and Thanet.

The new powers will come into effect on January 1.

Inappropriate and illegal lorry parking will potentially be an issue in the areas in and around the M2 and A2, as well as the M20, A256 and A299 in the east of the county, impacting the lives of residents.

KCC Leader Roger Gough said: "We recognise that antisocial HGV parking is already a problem in Kent and something that will most likely become worse once we have left the EU.

"I'm grateful to the government for giving us these temporary powers which will act as a deterrent to any HGV driver and ensure that compliance is greater, meaning key routes on Kent's road network are kept clear.

News from Kent County Council



, Leader announces new powers to penalise inappropriate and illegal lorry parking in Kent

Eurotunnel or from the Manston or Sevington sites if paperwork is not in order. Though we have worked hard on traffic management plans in conjunction with our partners, we cannot guarantee there will not be a certain amount of freight turned back from the Port of Dover.

“If this is the case HGV’s are expected to return to their base of operation but it seems more likely they would simply move onto the local road network and wait to become ready – these powers help highlight that this is not acceptable.”

KCC is now arranging contracts to ensure the seven boroughs can be patrolled and is also arranging for signage to be installed on all relevant roads.

KCC’s Director of Highways Simon Jones said: “Drivers who are taking short statutory breaks will be exempt from enforcement, and we will endeavour to work with HGV drivers to help and encourage them find safe and appropriate locations to park for longer periods.

“As such we will be taking a reasonable but targeted approach to enforcement, for example, if an HGV was parked up in an official location and not causing an obstruction or nuisance, we would be seeking not to enforce.

“Keeping Kent’s roads safe and clear is our priority and these powers will encourage HGV’s drivers using our network to consider other road users and Kent’s residents.”



Serving Parish & Town Councils In Kent

Kent Association of Local Councils

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CT16 3PJ

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Web: www.kentalc.gov.uk



The current vacancies for Officers in our County can be found by following this link:
[Vacancies - KALC \(kentalc.gov.uk\)](http://www.kentalc.gov.uk/vacancies)

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