

KALC NEWS

February 2021

It's The Time...

Renewing Your Insurance



“Many of you will be coming up for renewing your insurance cover. When you are renewing your insurance, it is essential that you check your policy carefully to ensure that you have the appropriate cover in place. To avoid the risk of under-insurance it is vitally important that your sums insured /indemnity limits are maintained at a correct level. You should therefore consider whether the policy coverage and sums insured / indemnity limits are sufficient to ensure that you will be adequately protected in the event of a claim.

Additionally, under the Insurance Act 2015 you now have a new duty to provide a ‘fair presentation’ of the risk to insurers, which replaces the previous duty to disclose all material facts. This means that you must now clearly disclose every material circumstance which

you, your Trustees or persons responsible for arranging your insurance, know or ought to know following a reasonable search. A material circumstance is one that may influence an insurer’s judgement over whether to take the risk and, if so, on what terms. If you are in any doubt as to whether a circumstance is material you are advised to disclose it.

Please note that failure to disclose a material circumstance may entitle the insurer(s) to impose different terms on your cover or reduce the amount of a claim payable. In some cases your cover could be invalidated, which would mean that a claim would not be paid.

We recommend you speak to your insurance provider for advice on this matter.

We will be running a Council insurance policy event in April, so please look on our website for further details. “



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The Census. 21 March 2021: Who's Ready?

The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. The next census takes place on Sunday 21 March 2021.



The
Census is
coming...

The UK Census takes place every ten years and is normally greeted with a flurry of publicity campaigns. This pandemic year, those campaigns have not been as visible. However, the national data taking exercise is still taking place.

The Census is a very important exercise and helps shape the way our society works. With the data given, the Office for National Statistics can see what we need, how our society is made up, and what is important for the future.

This year, everyone is being encouraged to complete their forms online by giving a special access code. Field officers won't come to your address unless they have a record of non completion and this will be appropriately socially distanced if a "visit" is necessary.

Everyone has to take part in the Census, and if you require a paper copy, it can be sent out. The Office for National Statistics would prefer that forms are dealt with online unless absolutely necessary.

Further information should have been sent out to households by mailshot, but for full details and resources for your community, you should visit this link:

[Census 2021](#)

Make sure you encourage your parishes and towns to complete the document as soon as possible for 21 March 2021 and if possible using the online option, rather than paper.



Local Elections - Full Steam Ahead!

As we are all aware, the Local Elections for England are going ahead on 6 May 2021 and includes those that were postponed last year. Local Councils are taken into account, so this will be a very busy time for some of our member councils. You should make sure that you are aware of all the changes that have been put in place as a result of the current pandemic.



There are several links that you should take a look at which are listed here:

- [The Government's approach to elections and referendums during COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-governments-approach-to-elections-and-referendums-during-covid-19) : How political parties, candidates, agents and campaigners can undertake COVID-Secure campaigning activity for the May 2021 poll.
- [COVID-secure election campaigning will go ahead - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-secure-election-campaigning-will-go-ahead) Individual activists will be able to campaign outdoors in a COVID-Secure way from 8 March 2021 ahead of the English local elections in May.
- Voting can be done by proxy in certain circumstances: [New measures to allow proxy voting in local elections for those self-isolating with coronavirus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-allow-proxy-voting-in-local-elections-for-those-self-isolating-with-coronavirus)
- A supplementary guide has been produced by the Electoral Commission to aid those



administrators who will be involved in their local election. It can be found here: [Guidance to support May 2021 elections during the coronavirus pandemic | Electoral Commission](https://www.electoralcommission.gov.uk/guidance-to-support-may-2021-elections-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic)

It is likely that there will be more alterations and changes announced in accordance with the proposed "Roadmap" that was produced on 22 February. This will be covered in the next issue of KALC News, and any other information that becomes available will also be sent to you via our normal channels in due course.

In the meantime, do keep yourselves up to date.

COVID 19 UPDATES

Further to the announcements made on 22 February, a Roadmap to Lead England Out of Lockdown has now been published and you can see the main points of that document on the next two pages. For the month of March, nothing much has changed and the message is still to “Stay at Home” with a couple of small modifications. That means we should all work from home if we can, and the instructions given on 4 January 2021 should still be followed broadly. Whilst it is clear that things are beginning to improve with the roll out of vaccinations, the pandemic still ensues and this should still be conveyed to your communities as much as possible.

To that effect, HM Government has now released further media resources to promote its current campaign and these can be found by following this link:

[Stay home - Lets Keep Going Assets - Google Drive](#)

HM Government

NHS

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



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

**STAY ALERT
CONTROL
THE VIRUS
SAVE LIVES**

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.

Out of Lockdown: A Guide for Everyone

STEP 1 8 March

29 March

EDUCATION

8 MARCH

- Schools and colleges open for all students
- Practical Higher Education courses

SOCIAL CONTACT

8 MARCH

- Exercise and recreation outdoors with household or one other person
- Household only indoors

29 MARCH

- Rule of 6 or two households outdoors
- Household only indoors

BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES

8 MARCH

- Wraparound care, including sport, for all children

29 MARCH

- Organised outdoor sport (children and adults)
- Outdoor sport and leisure facilities
- All outdoor children's activities
- Outdoor parent & child group (max 15 people, excluding under 5s)

TRAVEL

8 MARCH

- Stay at home
- No holidays

29 MARCH

- Minimise travel
- No holidays

EVENTS

- Funerals (30)
- Weddings and wakes (6)

STEP 2

No earlier than 12 April

At least 5 weeks after Step 1

EDUCATION

- As previous step

SOCIAL CONTACT

- Rule of 6 or two households outdoors
- Household only indoors

BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES

- All retail
- Personal care
- Libraries & community centres
- Most outdoor attractions
- Indoor leisure inc. gyms (individual use only)
- Self-contained accommodation
- All children's activities
- Outdoor hospitality
- Indoor parent & child groups (max 15 people, excluding under 5s)

TRAVEL

- Domestic overnight stays (household only)
- No international holidays

EVENTS

- Funerals (30)
- Weddings, wakes, receptions (15)
- Event pilots

Out of Lockdown: A Guide for Everyone

STEP 3

No earlier than 17 May

At least 5 weeks after Step 2

EDUCATION

- As previous step

SOCIAL CONTACT

- Maximum 30 people outdoors
- Rule of 6 or two households indoors (subject to review)

BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES

- Indoor hospitality
- Indoor entertainment and attractions
- Organised indoor sport (adult)
- Remaining accommodation
- Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances)

TRAVEL

- Domestic overnight stays
- International travel (subject to review)

EVENTS

- Most significant life events (30)
- Indoor events: 1,000 or 50% (plus pilots)
- Outdoor seated events: 10,000 or 25% (plus pilots)
- Outdoor other events: 4,000 or 50% (plus pilots)

STEP 4

No earlier than 21 June

At least 5 weeks after Step 3

All subject to review

EDUCATION

- As previous step

SOCIAL CONTACT

- No legal limit

BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES


- Remaining businesses, including nightclubs

TRAVEL


- Domestic overnight stays
- International travel

EVENTS


- No legal limit on life events
- Larger events




We must keep on protecting each other.



HANDS

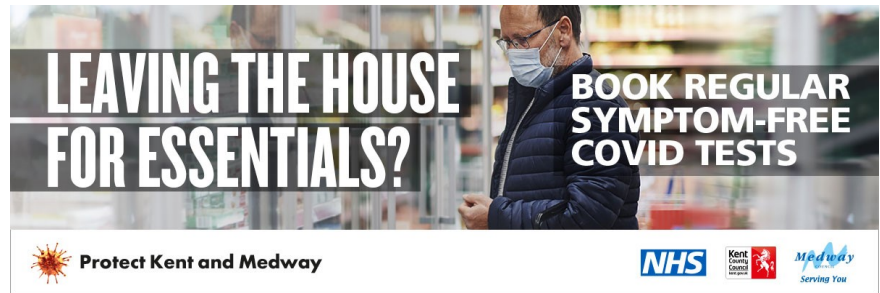


FACE



SPACE

STAY ALERT
CONTROL THE VIRUS
SAVE LIVES



Everyone without symptoms should get tested every 2 weeks, especially if you're leaving the house for a necessary reason, such as going to work or shopping for essentials. Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 have no symptoms, so get tested regularly to make sure you are not unknowingly spreading the virus.

You can [book an appointment](#) at any of the 22 sites across Kent.

These sites are in addition to the regional and local testing sites for people who have symptoms.

Symptom-free testing sites are being set up using funding from central government to support local councils and help reduce rates of COVID-19.

Further details regarding the Symptom Free COVID tests that are available by following this link:

[Symptom-free testing - Kent County Council](#)

Make sure your community knows all about them!

So You've Had Your First Shot of Vaccine...

Many people in Kent have already had their first dose of COVID-19 vaccination. We know that the roll out is proving very successful all over Kent. Your communities may well have some questions regarding their health once this has been done. The Government has now issued a leaflet that many may find helpful to them. It can be accessed by following this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-what-to-expect-after-vaccination>

Make sure you add it to your websites so that your residents have as much information on the subject as possible.

Our Learning And Development Programme

Our current Learning and Development programme is working well and we are always surprised, and delighted, that the online webinars are proving very popular with our membership.

We are still rolling out our Dynamic Councillor webinars on a monthly basis. These are particularly useful to new councillors, but will also prove beneficial to councillors who may need a refresher. The next one takes place on 23 March and we will shortly add a date in April to the website.

Our Breakthrough Communication webinars

are also very well subscribed, and we will be continuing these sessions on a regular basis, so keep checking our website for further details of these innovative events.

Lastly, we are still continuing the Bitesize Learning courses that give you an hour's tuition on subjects that are relevant to our tier. They don't have an expiry on purchase, which means you can complete them at your leisure. They are very reasonably priced at £14 plus VAT for KALC members. You can find the latest additions here:

[Bitesize Training - KALC \(kentalc.gov.uk\)](https://www.kentalc.gov.uk)

What's On...

- Delivering The Green Agenda for Local Councils. **Tuesday 9 March. Afternoon Event: Places Available**
- Beyond Facebook: Making the Most of Other Social Media Platforms. **Thursday 11 March. Afternoon Workshop: Places Available**
- The Dynamic Councillor. **Tuesday 16 March. Morning Event: Places Available**
- KALC Annual Planning Conference. **Wednesday 17 March. All Day Event SOLD OUT**
- An Introduction to Planning. **Thursday 25 March. Evening Event: Places Available**
- Develop an Effective Communication Strategy for Your Council. **Thursday 8 April. Morning Event: Places Available**

All our Events are now online and are via the Zoom Videoconferencing platform



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Tree Management: advice from Came & Company

Increasingly, an area of concern for Councils is trees for which they are responsible. The following are all key areas to bear in mind when considering the risks within your council.

All contracts that ask the contractor to provide information or advice should require them to hold suitable Professional Indemnity (PI) insurance. If something goes wrong, the council's insurer may ask for proof of the contractor's PI and, if not in place, then the claim will sit solely on the Council's insurance.

All tree inspections should be documented and kept on the council's files.

The council should review the inspection reports carefully. All advice given by professionals should be implemented (whether the council agrees with it or not) and, if something is considered low risk, then this should be categorised as a maintenance issue and a plan put in place to ensure that is carried out. If the council is unsure of time periods then they should speak to the inspector, in this case the arborist.

If the report states a review date then this date must be adhered to.

A risk assessment should be in place for tree inspections. These should be carried out by an arborist, not a tree surgeon, unless they have the correct qualifications.

Interim annual inspections should be considered by a person who understands the trees in your area; this can be a tree warden, volunteer or professional person. The inspection should be noted in writing and any work carried out in a timely fashion.

Hazardous trees are classified as those trees near the public highway, playgrounds and any other open spaces where people may gather or walk – it is important that these areas are inspected annually at a minimum and following periods of adverse weather conditions.

The arborist website www.trees.org.uk provides information and advice regarding the management of trees and you can also 'search' for qualified and registered arborists and tree surgeons in your area.

For more information please get in touch and this is just one guide available for free in the Resource Centre of our web site at <https://www.parishinsurance.co.uk/resource-centre/>

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The opinions and views expressed in the above articles are those of the author only and are for guidance purposes only. The authors disclaim any liability for reliance upon those opinions and would encourage readers to rely upon more than one source before making a decision based on the information.

News From Our National Association



#makeachange

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is very keen to bring public awareness to local councils during this Local Election year. Their campaign is called **#makeachange** and wants to promote all the things that make being a councillor a rewarding and satisfying role in the community.

NALC published some good resources recently that should help our villages and towns

promote the upcoming elections, and hopefully, this will bring new candidates for the elections on 6 May.

- Take a look here: [Elections — #MakeAChange \(nalc.gov.uk\)](#)

Whilst some of the video footage is pre - pandemic, the posters and leaflets are very relevant and could just bring you someone who wants to **#makeachange**.

NALC Star Councils Awards 2021



NALC's Star Council Awards are the only awards in England that recognise the local (parish and town) council sector's positive contribution to its communities, rewarding local councils, councillors, young councillors, county associations and clerks.

It has not been an easy 12 months. However, those in the sector have gone above and beyond their regular duties during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the theme of this year's awards will focus on projects that have positively impacted communities in the context of the pandemic. So please provide examples of your work concerning your response to COVID-19.

Winning a Star Council Award not only allows you to gain national recognition for the services you have provided to your community in challenging times but also to share your expertise with your peers and learn about best practice and successful initiatives in the sector. An award will also provide your community with evidence of your successful projects.

This year, NALC will also transform the winners' ceremony into an online event, which will take place in September.

Good luck with your submissions!

You can find out more about the awards and how to apply here:

[STAR COUNCIL AWARDS 2021 \(nalc.gov.uk\)](#)

News From Our National Association



LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

The Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) has been designed to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils and to provide a framework to support all local councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential. The scheme offers councils the opportunity to show that they meet the standards set by the sector, assessed by their peers, and to put in place the conditions for continued improvement.

The scheme has been designed to provide the tools and encouragement to those councils at the beginning of their improvement journeys, as well as promoting and recognising councils that are at the cutting edge of the sector. It is only through the sector working together, to share best practice, drive up standards and supporting those who are committed to improving their offer to their communities that individual councils and the sector as a whole will reach its full potential.

LCAS undergoes a review every year. Local councils must meet the criteria of the guidance that is in place at the date they submit their completed application form to their local accreditation panel.

The LCAS criteria has recently been updated — **see the**

updates. This document should be used in conjunction with the LCAS guide.

The word document will be incorporated into the Local Council Award Scheme guide in due course.

Read the Local Council Award Scheme guide

News from Kent County Council

Gully sensors gathering data across the county aims to reduce flooding

Kent County Council is trialling the use of gully sensors as part of the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) SMART Places Live Labs programme.



Working with three sensor providers, UK Flood Defence Alliance (UKFDA), KaarbonTech Asset Management and Map 16, Amey and KCC are trialling the live sensors that have been strategically placed in gullies, to provide data on whether a gully needs cleansing. The sensors measure the level of silt and the water level inside, feeding this information instantly back to a control centre managed by Amey via web-based visualisation software.

The sensors are located at various points across the county. These include on the A251 (near Lichfield), Surrendon Court (Staplehurst), A20 (West Kingsdown), Harvel Road (Meopham), Whitepost Lane (Culverstone) and Fox Lane (Faversham). Each of the sensors monitor data differently and collect from either inside the gully or above the surface. By trialling three different sensors in one gully location, provides the team with different data feeds that is then analysed side-by-side.

Giles Perkins, Live Labs Programme Director said: “Kent are demonstrating the value in using technology to help manage essential assets, meaning that local road networks are safer, available for use more of the time and importantly, future ready for all customers.”

Kent County Council Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport Michael Payne said: “This is another exciting opportunity for Kent to utilise some of the latest technology to help us have a much better understanding of our drainage systems. It will provide Kent Highways with data alerting us when maintenance is required and helping us to plan future work around potential flooding and also to be able to alert drivers to surface water flooding.”

The gully sensors have been in position and collecting data for the past month. Results gathered so far have enabled the teams to understand the water patterns in some of the sensorised gullies. Over the course of the next five months the team will be building gully profiles, comparing results and feeding live data and flooding event notifications to the KCC drainage team to enable them to make live-operational decisions.

Sunita Dulai, Head of Business Improvement for Transport Infrastructure at Amey, said: “The trial of gully sensors in Kent aims to reduce cyclical gully cleansing, reduce flooding emergencies and improve safety for road users. This smart, knowledge-driven, risk-managed approach to gully asset maintenance provides the teams with timely data that enables them to carry out both immediate maintenance and provides better information for planning future works.

Working in collaboration with KCC, the three sensor providers and our local highways team, provides the teams with opportunities to share best practice and learnings. It is hoped that moving forward, gully sensors will be used to aid root cause analysis of flooding situations and to notify drivers when on-road water or ford levels are too high. The use of data not only here with gullies but across multi channels is transforming the way we deliver our service.”

KCC is responsible for the inspection and maintenance of 5,000 miles of road and 4,000 miles of footpaths; along with 122,000 streetlights, 500,000 trees, 250,000 drains and 2,200 bridges. Each year, the council has over 100,000 enquiries about highways.

ADEPT represents local authority, county, unitary and metropolitan Directors. The ADEPT SMART Places Live Labs programme is a two-year £22.9 million project funded by the Department for Transport and supported by project partners SNC-Lavalin's Atkins business, EY, Kier, O2, Ringway and WSP. Nine local authorities are working on projects to introduce digital innovation across SMART mobility, transport, highways, maintenance, data, energy and communications. Live Labs is part of ADEPT's SMART Places programme to support the use of digital technology in place-based services.

News from Kent County Council

Kent County Council and Amey install traffic insight sensors

A trial using state of the art traffic sensors is being carried out by Kent County Council and its partners at Amey to monitor traffic patterns to help make future transport decisions for the county.

32 sensors have been placed across the county which are able to classify what is using the highway, for instance pedestrians, cars, buses, bicycles, and count those users and record their speeds.

Kent County Council Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Michael Payne, said: “We have been working on several trials as part of the Live Labs programme which tests the very latest technology to see how it can help us save money, find and fix problems quicker, and make stronger evidence-based decisions about our road network.

“We’ve already piloted drones to spot highway defects, fitted cameras to buses and highways vehicles to provide road condition data and we’re now running this trial with Vivacity.

“When compared to traditional data collection, such as loops in the road, these sensors are considerably more efficient and accurate in analysing pedestrian and bicycle usage, giving us data on the interactions between pedestrians, cyclists and road traffic.

“We’ll be able to use this anonymised data to get a real feel of how people are getting around the county and any issues that could be addressed by us as the highways authority and these sensors will be providing us with considerably more evidence to help that decision-making.”

Sunita Dulai, Account Director for Transport Infrastructure at Amey, said: “Working in collaboration with Kent County Council and Vivacity it is our goal to provide the tools to help improve transport systems. The use of these sensors will help the local authority to make decisions that will improve road user safety, ease congestion and identify areas for transport infrastructure improvements.”

Giles Perkins, ADEPT Live Labs Programme Director said: “By taking a scaled approach to the deployment of digital sensors, local roads managers can deliver much improved outcomes for their networks. Live Labs is helping prove that new technologies can manage our essential assets in a more cost effective and informed way, keeping people, goods and supplies moving across our roads”

The sites are:

Multiple sites around Tonbridge and Faversham - to monitor compliance with the new 20mph speed limit that has been installed and to understand whether additional measures need to be put in place or whether it has been a success

Ingress Park Avenue, Tiltman Avenue, and Greenhithe train station - to understand the use of buses, taxis, cars, bicycles and trains and to gauge the uptake of the Fastrack bus service running between Greenhithe station and Bluewater.

Running Horse Roundabout, Aylesford – to monitor near miss and collision analysis to drive safety improvements

Dover Town Centre – to monitor pedestrian, cycle, car, motorcycle, HGV and bus movements in and around the town of Dover, including the impacts of Brexit on port-related traffic. The cameras will help to understand usage and potential improvements that can be made to the experience of those choosing to travel actively. We intend that the data gathered will help us to monitor and deliver schemes that will ultimately help to reduce congestion, support economic growth and improve the accessibility and experience for residents and visitors travelling within the town

Tunbridge Wells, Margate and Hythe - will be looking at how the cycle lanes are used.

Vivacity Labs co-founder Mark Nicholson said: “Our sensors are able to anonymously monitor journey times, vehicle paths and counts of pedestrians to cyclists, cars to HGVs, and everything in-between. Crucially, they don’t record or stream footage and are fully GDPR-compliant.”

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Council**
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News from Kent County Council

“Our sensors are able to use the image data and run an analysis on the imagery, extracting the journey times, journey paths and classified counts, with the video imagery deleted within one second of capture.

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“Very rarely, about 0.1% of the time, an image will be captured and sent to the server, but not before face blurring and number plate blurring has been applied to the image.

“Local governments are tasked with improving our transport systems, targeting billions of pounds of spend to ease congestion, improve safety, and keep up with the rapid evolution of technology. Our goal has been to provide the tools to help improve this system.”

The trial, which is part of the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) SMART Places Live Labs programme, will look at how effective the technology can be for highway inspections with the project potentially proving the case for it to be used more widely in the future.

Highway Drainage reporting

KCC's highway drainage team are currently receiving a high number of enquiries due to significant above average rainfall over the last few months. On average we receive 300-500 new enquiries every week, on top of existing enquiries and programmed work. Some enquiries are being sent directly to the engineers and managers within the team by email which means these are unfortunately these may not be formally logged nor actioned if staff are unavailable.

All Highway Drainage issues must be reported through the correct formal channels. Less urgent issues can be reported quickly and easily via our website via www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults. This form of reporting will provide a unique reference number to enable tracking of our progress. However, if the issue is urgent due to it causing a highway safety issue or where there is an imminent risk of internal flooding occurring, it must be called through to us via 03000 41 81 81 (or 03000 41 91 91 out of office hours).

At times of high demand, we can't always deal with flooding issues immediately. However, we do collect information to plan future works. If you've previously reported this issue, please do report it again so we can build up a record of the most seriously affected areas. These records are used to support the future works programmes and assist in future bids for funding.

Please note we receive many enquiries relating to highway drainage or a flooding event which are often caused by extreme weather conditions beyond the reasonable capacity of the drainage system and in these circumstances, where there is no threat to public safety, we are unfortunately unable to intervene.

News from Kent County Council

Please note the Highway Authority are not responsible for:

- Public or private sewers, drains or water mains
- Water service pipes or internal pipework
- Rivers or Watercourses



The level of service we offer for highway asset management can be found via the following link:
https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/91240/Well-managed-highway-infrastructure-service-level-risk-assessments.pdf

Local Flood Risk Management:

Where surface water from land creates a risk of flooding to the highway or properties, please be assured that we will continue to do our best from a highway drainage perspective to reduce the flood risk insofar as we can in line with our Service Level. However, we must stress whilst these may help to alleviate some of the issues, there may always be a risk of flooding at locations originating from the surrounding land in such circumstances. Whilst the Lead Local Flood Authority is Kent County Council, our Flood Risk Team is the statutory strategic lead on local flood risk management. The best way for residents to contact this team is via the link below. We recommend that residents themselves log a report via the link below and complete the online survey so the Flood Risk Team can better understand the problem and they have all the details from resident affected directly and within their management system.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/flooding-and-drainage/report-flooding#tab-2>

The problem of the land drainage and ditches on private land and flooding from them can be a little more problematic and often we recommend enlisting the help of the local Parish Council to help track down the owners and see if they can encourage landowners to complete the necessary maintenance. However, where this does not work and where severe flooding occurs our Flood Risk team can often help and more details can be found on the link below:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/flooding-and-drainage/owning-and-maintaining-a-watercourse>.

Know your flood risk:

You can check the long-term flood risk for an area by visiting the GOV.UK flood warning information service. This has maps to show the risk of flooding from rivers and the sea, surface water and reservoirs. Please visit <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk> for more information.

Areas at risk from rivers and the sea may also receive flood warnings which you can sign up for by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>. This is a free service that provides flood warnings directly to you by phone, text or email. Early flood warnings allow you to take appropriate actions and prepare for the possibility of flooding.

KEEP KENT

CLEAN

**YOUR WASTE,
YOUR RESPONSIBILITY**

**FLY TIPPERS
GET FINED**

**NO EXCUSES.
YOU COULD GET AN
UNLIMITED FINE.**



**BEFORE YOU HIRE A WASTE
DISPOSAL SERVICE ASK:**

- for their Waste Carrier Licence
- where they dispose of their waste
- for a receipt or invoice



#KeepKentClean

Kent
Councils
Working
Together



News From Kent Fire And Rescue Service



Kent Fire &
Rescue Service



Safe and Well Campaign



Kent Fire and Rescue Service is still offering Safe and Well home visits and providing fire safety advice during the lockdown. We'll have a chat with you on the phone to start with, which will take about 20 minutes. Then if you need a home visit, we'll arrange one with you. Any visit to your home will be

done as safely as possible, to protect you and our team.

If you would like to talk to us about a Safe and Well visit or have any fire safety worries about your home, please call our Safe and Well team on 0800 923 7000 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, voicemail outside these hours) and we will be happy to get in touch.

We offer a free Safe and Well home visit service for people living in Kent and Medway

From testing, fitting and relocating smoke alarms, to looking out for potential fire hazards and planning escape routes - one of our friendly home safety officers can help to make your home fire safe. Book a free visit for yourself or a loved one today."

Missing From Your Inbox...



Many of you have been enjoying our wonderful countryside through the pandemic, walking the public rights of way around your parish or town and perhaps in neighboring parishes. The health and wellbeing benefits of walking and connecting with nature are now well documented and you are

encouraged to enjoy those benefits in a safe and enjoyable way.

If you take your dog on a walk with you then there are various things to be aware of so that you can enjoy the countryside safely:

- Anticipate where livestock may be on your walk and keep your dog on its lead near to and in the fields with livestock in, even if you believe you can control your dog off the lead.
- Cows can become protective of calves and see a dog in the field as a threat. In this case, and the dog is on the lead, the cows will run at the owner and the dog so let your dog off the lead and walk calmly to safety. If you let the dog go it can keep ahead of a cow, or a herd of cows.
- Always clear up your dog faeces on all farmland as dog faeces can pass worms and parasites onto sheep. These worms and parasites can exist for a long time so even if the field is not currently being grazed you should clear up the faeces in a "poo" bag and dispose of it at home or in a suitable bin. Please do not leave faeces in the hedge or leave full poo bags behind. Please also respect other crops such as cereals, fruit and vegetables.
- It is a legal requirement that all dogs must wear a collar with an identity tag that shows the owner's name address and telephone number, and the dog must also be microchipped. Please ensure that the microchip database is updated if you move to a new house. This is important as wherever you are, if you lose your dog, anyone who finds it can firstly call the number on the collar and as a backup can take the dog to the local vet who may be able to read the microchip and contact you. If the finder of the dog is unable to contact you, it is likely that you will end up paying a release fee from the dog warden and may be fined for not being compliant.
- Respect other public rights of way users: if they also have a dog and it is on a lead then also put your dog on a lead to pass.
- Take care on bridleways and byways. Although walkers have priority, and cyclists and horse riders should give way, horses can be unpredictable so dogs should be kept on a lead as they pass.

Some other useful thoughts to stay safe and enjoy the countryside:

Obtain a map and read it: know where you can walk and know where you are on the map
Follow the way markers and any other signs.

Follow the countryside code Respect – Protect – Enjoy <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code/the-countryside-code>

Jeremy Boxall – Chair of the Kent Countryside Access Forum

Missing From Your Inbox...

Step by Step Project – Men's Sheds in Kent



Step by Step (SBS) Kent Sheds is an established project designed to bring men together to connect with others and take part in a range of activities to improve men's health. The Men's Sheds movement originating from Australia is an internationally successful phenomenon with a focus on improving mental health and reducing social isolation for men. Kent Sheds have built upon this model and are now bringing the benefits of men's sheds to Kent residents.

Men on average are 20% less likely to seek prompt medical attention than women, along with rising rates of suicide and depression among men, there is a need to reduce these health inequalities. SBS Kent Sheds is a project designed with both men's physical and mental health in mind. The sheds address mental health by providing a space to create a community and find fulfilment in learning new skills, as well as supporting physical health needs by encouraging members to take part in hands-on activities.

SBS Kent Sheds is an EU funded project run by Activmob for Kent County Council. As part of the SBS programme, sheds have been set up in Kent and Hampshire in the UK as well as in France, Belgium and the Netherlands, with the aim of bringing the SBS Men's Sheds model to local communities in these countries. There are also opportunities for this larger shed network to keep in touch with each other, meet up for events, and get inspiration and support from one another on how to run their sheds.

Each shed is unique and reflects the interests of its members. Some sheds take part in traditional shed activities such as gardening and woodwork, others have alternative interests such as boat maintenance and some focus on health. No previous experience is necessary, they are places to learn new skills. They are also great places for those with experience in hands-on activities to teach their skills to others. Above all, sheds are about creating a sense of belonging, having fun and meeting new people.

Additionally, in true shed spirit, members have pushed the boundaries of what it means to be a shed and found a way to carry on through the pandemic. Virtual sheds have been set up so that members can continue meeting regularly and safely online. The virtual sheds have been a great success and have ensured that members stay in contact and can join in with various weekly activities.

Looking forward, Kent Sheds have plans to return to their normal activities when Covid restrictions are lifted. With a year of finding creative ways to stay connected and sheds coming together online from all over Kent, Kent Sheds believe they will come back stronger than before with a better-connected shed community.



Kent Sheds are aimed at older men, but anyone is welcomed to join a shed who feels they may benefit, including women and younger people. If you think this is something you or someone you know may be interested in, please visit the Kent Sheds website to join or connect with your local shed. Alternatively, visit the Kent Sheds Facebook page to see what the guys have been up to:

www.kentsheds.org www.facebook.com/kentsheds1

Missing From Your Inbox...



EXPLORE KENT - FULL OF RESOURCES

Explore Kent is a [Kent County Council](#) led partnership initiative with public, private and voluntary sector partners that promote and actively encourage Kent's residents to access, enjoy and benefit from the great natural resources that Kent has to offer. They also work alongside [Visit Kent](#) to promote Kent to the wider UK and European community as an outdoor leisure destination.

The website is a mine of information about our county and has much to offer in our local communities in terms of tourism and the local economy. Likewise, it strives to promote local nature initiatives, which of course can improve our health and wellbeing.

At the moment, its blog has a lovely article about bees and what happens in the winter.

You can read it by following this link: <https://explorekent.org/blog/2021/01/28/where-do-pollinators-go-in-winter/>. The team is hoping this will be a regular feature on the website.

Do take a closer look at the website and promote it in your towns and villages. It is amazing what Kent has to offer, and we could all do with something different to do that doesn't cost a fortune and helps our county to thrive both now and later on in the year.

Further information can be found by visiting the home page of the website here:

[Get Out and Explore Kent - Explore Kent](#)

In Your Neck of the Woods - Your COVID 19 Stories continue!

We asked you for your "Lockdown Support Stories" at the beginning of the year. We were delighted that so many of you responded to us and you have given us enough material for us to make this a regular feature over the next couple of issues of the KALC News.

Don't worry if you are not mentioned this month—your day will come! Here are a few of your stories, and we are always happy to have more. As we are all aware, this a story that will run for quite some

time.

We know that local councils have really harnessed their communities in the last year, and we are keen to shine a light on you all. As always, Thank You for your help, keep up the sterling work and pat yourselves on the back!

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Capel Le Ferne Parish Council

When the previous Tier 4 restrictions came into place, Capel Le Ferne enhanced its already successful "Capel Cares"

scheme. This initiative means that neighbours can help neighbours with the essentials that some cannot do by themselves. From collecting prescriptions to delivering

much needed essential shopping, the programme is working well and is co-ordinated via the Parish Council. It is continuing throughout the pandemic, and includes giving lifts to those who need to attend hubs for vaccine roll out. It is a much needed resource for the village community which is between Folkestone and Dover.

NEIGHBOURS HELPING NEIGHBOURS

A local organisation that aims to support people living in Capel

Hadlow Parish Council



Hadlow is situated just outside Tonbridge. It has been very proactive over the pandemic

and is now working with the Hadlow Hospital Driving Service. The Council has coordinated a scheme whereby volunteer drivers are taking those who are vulnerable to receive their vaccine at Tonbridge Baptist Church,

where there is a hub. Those without transport can also avail themselves of the service. This has become vital in the village and has a very good uptake of offer.

In Your Neck of the Woods - Your COVID 19 Stories continue!

Chart Sutton Parish Council

CHART SUTTON
PARISH COUNCIL

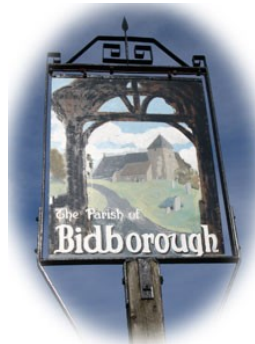
During the latest national lockdown, the Chart Sutton Community

Together team were successful in their bid for funding through the Maidstone Borough Council Winter Grant scheme. After identifying those in most need (approx. 25 residents), vouchers were issued in December to be spent on essential goods in the Chart Sutton Community Shop. This

was very successful, and a second tranche of vouchers will be made available in January/February, to see them through the winter.

In addition to this, the Community Together team continues to offer support to those in need for shopping, collection of prescriptions and so on.

Bidborough Parish Council



Bidborough Parish Council swung into action early on in the COVID 19 national emergency.

It launched a scheme called "Bidborough Call and Care" which was in conjunction with the local church, school, shop and businesses.

Giving its community a well rounded level of response, the scheme offers shopping delivery, prescription pick up and other essential tasks that some may not be able to do themselves, because of vulnerability or self

isolation due to virus. Again, the programme is ongoing and is still very successful in this small village just north of Tunbridge Wells.

Fundraising Opportunity

Climate Action Fund Second Round

“The Climate Action Fund (CAF) is supporting communities across the UK to take action on climate change. These communities will demonstrate what’s possible when people lead in this work. With National Lottery funding, they’ll work together, share their learning and be active participants in a broader movement of change.

CAF is part of The National Lottery Community Fund’s Environment Strategy. Since April 2013, the Fund has awarded more than £450 million, through over 7,500 grants, to projects that focus on improving the environment to enhance communities and people’s lives.

In 2020, we awarded funding to 23 projects across the UK as part of the first round of the CAF programme, supporting communities to respond to the climate emergency.

This second round will focus on supporting medium-scale to large-scale projects addressing waste and

consumption. Our focus remains on place-based, community-led partnerships that will make the changes in their community they believe will have the biggest impact on climate change.

At this initial application stage, we’re interested in hearing about your project, the long-term vision and aims, and how your community has been involved in shaping and deciding what you’ll do. This application should come from one lead partner, which should be one of the eligible types of organisation listed in ‘Who can and cannot apply’.

With the COVID-19 pandemic still with us, we’ll continue to work flexibly. This will also need to be the same for projects in adapting to any new guidance or restrictions.”

Further information can be found by following this link:

[Climate Action Fund - round 2 | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/round-2)

Kent Association of Local Councils

Dover District Council Offices
White Cliffs Business Park
Whitfield, Dover
CT16 3PJ

Email: kalc@kentalc.gov.uk
Web: www.kentalc.gov.uk

For KALC specific issues contact Terry Martin:
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For legal & technical advice contact Clive Powell:
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For Finance, Events, KALC website and general enquiries contact Laura Dyer:
manager@kentalc.gov.uk or phone 07475 066155

For Events, KALC News and general enquiries contact Tricia Casey-Green:
communications.officer@kentalc.gov.uk or phone 07577 058306 (9.00am to 12:00pm – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)

Learning & Development Support Officer –
Charmaine Keatley: support@kentalc.gov.uk or phone 07378 175948

Vacancies in Our County



Please take a look at our current Vacancy page on our website. There are several positions available at the current time with ample closing dates for application.

You can find the page by following this link:

[Vacancies - KALC \(kentalc.gov.uk\)](http://www.kentalc.gov.uk/vacancies)

Vacancy: Action with Communities in Rural Kent (ACRK)

We are looking to recruit a Village and Community Halls Adviser to help ensure good governance of community-owned buildings (particularly, but not exclusively, village and community halls) across Kent and Medway.

This post is for 22 hours per week. The hours worked can be flexible and spread over the week in agreement with the CEO. Within this role you will be expected to ideally have an understanding of the legal and legislative requirements for community hall trustees. You must be able to travel across Kent, including for occasional evening meetings and often to rural communities where public transport is limited. Travel expenses are paid and we operate a time off in lieu system so hours worked can be flexible.

For an application pack, please visit www.ruralkent.org.uk/news. For more information contact us on 01303-813790 or by email to info@ruralkent.org.uk. Closing date for application is Tuesday 9th March 2021. Interviews will take place on Thursday 18th March 2021.