

KALC NEWS

Kent Association of Local Councils



Your Front Page News

Boundary Commission review of Parliamentary Constituencies consultation

As highlighted in the 9 June Local Government Bulletin and the June KALC CEO Bulletin, the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) has published its initial proposals for new Parliamentary Constituency boundaries. BCE has produced a partner pack and anyone can respond to the consultation **which closes on 2 August**. The proposals include increasing the number of Parliamentary Constituencies in Kent from 17 to 18, with changes to existing boundaries in some areas. For further details, please visit <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/>

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We would strongly encourage all member councils to consider the proposal for their Parliamentary Constituency area and to respond directly to the BCE if it has any concerns/issues with the proposals. KALC's long-held position has been to not respond as an organisation to proposed Boundary changes, as they can be quite divisive between individual Parish Councils. Some might like a proposed change to a particular area, while other member councils might not as they have strong individual links with existing MPs/boundaries. We are encouraging all member councils to consider the proposals and for councils to respond from their own perspective, as the Boundary Commission must take into account the input of electors in reaching an equitable outcome.

Your Subscriptions to KALC



A big thank you to all the councils that have already renewed their membership subscriptions for this financial year. For those councils that have yet to renew, **please remember that the deadline is 30 June**. If your council is unable to meet this deadline, please let the KALC Chief Executive know as soon as possible (e-mail chief.executive@kentalc.gov.uk).

**get right up your nose,
twice a week**

twice weekly Covid-19 self test kits

Order online or collect from your pharmacy.

COVID 19 UPDATES



At the time of writing, the Lifting of Lockdown has been delayed, as detailed in the Press Conference given by the Prime Minister on the evening of 14 June. As such, the rules that we are now used to at this stage continue until 19 July 2021. You can read the Prime Minister's statement here: [PM statement at coronavirus press conference: 14 June 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) -

and the current restrictions that remain are listed here:

[\(COVID-19\) Coronavirus restrictions: what you can and cannot do - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Visual resources are very important at this stage of restrictions - and the Government has plenty that you can use in various settings. You can find these here: [Coronavirus Resources - Coronavirus Resource centre \(phe.gov.uk\)](#)

We will send you any amendments to that list as soon as possible after publication in the normal way.

LOCAL COVID 19 INFORMATION



The latest local updates for the current state of play concerning Kent and Medway's response to the COVID 19 pandemic can be found here:

[Protect Kent and Medway - Kent County Council](#)

This webpage is easy to navigate and has an abundance of information as to how Kent and Medway are now emerging from restrictions since 17 May 2021 when the next stage of the Lockdown Roadmap came into being.

Do keep up to date with these local updates on a regular basis.

For items that are specific to local councils, make sure you check both the NALC and KALC websites for up to date information.

You can do so here:

NALC: [National Association of Local Councils \(nalc.gov.uk\)](#)

KALC: [Home - KALC \(kentalc.gov.uk\)](#)

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT AT KALC

LEARNING



Our Learning and Development programme will continue to roll out via our online

platform until further notice.

Our current Summer programme includes some new events that are just launching - these are listed

below and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible!

We do not have any events scheduled in August as this is generally the time when Councils are “quiet”. Our schedule begins again in September, and we will let you know when we launch our Autumn event programme.

What's On...

Our July events are as follows:

- **Delivering Neighbourhood Planning for Local Councils. 1 July 2021 at 1400 hrs.**
- **Councillors' Networking Day. 10 July at 1000hrs**
- **Data Protection for Councils. 14 July at 1000hrs**
- **Cyber Security. 20 July at 1000hrs**
- **Managing your H&S risks and liabilities – an overview for Local Councils. 27 July at 1000hrs**

All events are online and can be booked by visiting our webpage here: [Training & Events - KALC \(kentalc.gov.uk\)](https://www.kentalc.gov.uk/training-events)

New Bitesize Courses Now Launched!

Take a look at our website for further details of our new Bitesize Learning Courses. There is no limit as to when you complete a course and they are all priced at a very reasonable £14 plus VAT. See the flyer overleaf for further details. Direct booking can be made here:

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



KALC BITESIZE LEARNING

Summer 2021 - Newly Launched Courses!

KALC has its summer programme of Bitesize Learning and Development courses in partnership with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and Nimble eLearning.

Nimble eLearning courses are designed to be short: in most cases, no longer than an hour in duration. The emphasis is on subjects you would like to gain more information from, but don't want to spend too much time in doing so. KALC has handpicked several webinar based sessions that you can join, **and all of them come priced at a very reasonable price of £14 plus VAT. Non Member Councils are charged at £28 plus VAT**

What Can We Expect?

- An online course delivered by NALC and Nimble eLearning that you can work through at your own pace, that shouldn't take too much time.
- A learning outcome that is suitable for your needs and simple to achieve.
- Various subjects to choose from that enhance your Learning and Development aims for the Local Council tier.
- The opportunity to boost your Career and Professional Development (CPD) portfolio: most courses come with a validated CPD point system, and the minimum is 1.5 CPD Credits per course.

Visit our website here:

<https://www.kentalc.gov.uk/>

[Bitesize Training 31970.aspx](#) for further details

We will continue to add new subjects during the year and there will be no time limit as to when you sign up for the session.

Here are our latest courses:

- Team leadership essentials
- Data Protection Essentials
- Anti-bribery essentials
- Fire safety essentials
- Home working essentials
- Information security awareness
- Introduction to Local Councils
- Introduction to Planning for Parish Councils
- Display Equipment Assessment
- Managing and Reducing Stress

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



Serving Parish & Town
Councils in Kent

Kent Association of Local Councils

How to Book Our Events...

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 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.

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.



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Events guide: advice from Came & Company

See our resource webpage here for a Summer Event Checklist:

If your council or organisation is considering an event in the community please see this guide for things to consider:

[Resource Centre Council Insurance | Came & Company](https://www.parishinsurance.co.uk)

[Local Council Insurance \(parishinsurance.co.uk\)](https://www.parishinsurance.co.uk)

For events to be insured under the Councils' insurance policy; the Council, a working party or a sub-committee of the Council must be the sole organiser of the event.

We should be advised of any event with more than 1,000 attendees at any one time and the following is a guide to the information we would require:

A full list of activities and who is responsible for them. All Third Parties must have their own Public Liability insurance, for example: catering vans, fair rides, pony rides, bands and stalls that aren't organised by the Council. All Permits and Licenses must be in place and, if required, the Police and Fire Brigade should be notified.

For more information, please speak to a member of our team.

Please note all events must be organised in accordance with COVID-19 secure guidance and Government advice applicable at the time of the event. For further information please refer to the Government website www.gov.uk.

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.



NALC meets with local government minister Luke Hall MP



The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) chair, Cllr Sue Baxter, met with Luke Hall MP, minister for Regional Growth and Local Government at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on 19 May 2021.

Cllr Baxter spoke on and raised issues on several topics, including:

- She expressed her gratitude for his support in getting the Non-Domestic Rating (Public Lavatories) Bill over the line. However, she made it clear that local (parish and town) councils receive their backdated business rate as soon as possible. Mr Hall has written to billing authorities and is keen to understand the broader funding issues.
- She spoke on her disappointment with the government's decision on remote meetings, explained the issues councils were facing and urged the government to act now. Mr Hall defended the government's stance however urged councils to respond to the call for evidence.
- She highlighted the importance of having a practical standards regime and the problems with the current system. She pointed out that it's nearly three months since

Mr Hall said the government would respond to the Committee on Standards in Public Life report.

- She welcomed the Queen's Speech tone but stressed proposals to create a stronger, healthier, and more prosperous nation must ensure local councils are empowered. Previous commitments to do this and create new councils would form part of the Levelling Up White Paper. Mr Hall said that there was likely to be a section in the paper on devolution that would include local leadership, new councils and other reforms.

She pressed for the government to invest in building the capacity and capability of local councils, setting out work by NALC and county associations on training and development. Mr Hall was open to this idea and would welcome proposals.



Environment Bill must unleash a million green fingers to create more sustainable communities says NALC

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is pushing for changes to the government's Environment Bill to unleash the million green fingers of its movement of 100,000 local councillors to create a greener, more environmentally friendly and sustainable communities.

While NALC has broadly welcomed the bill – which recently completed its stages in the House of Commons and moved to the House of Lords. NALC believes a more community-friendly piece of new legislation could help England's 10,000 local (parish and town) councils do even more for their communities and the nation in tackling the climate emergency.

Research conducted by NALC as part of its [climate change work supporting local councils deliver on their environmental ambitions](#), shows areas of activity local councils are leading or involved in including solar panels, reusable energy, plastic-free initiatives, litter picks and clean-ups, electric cars, and charging points, wind farms and tree planting.

Measures being proposed by NALC to improve and strengthen the bill include:

- Ensuring local communities have a strong voice and involvement in Nature Recovery Partnerships and the development of Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

New powers to enable local councils to protect and plant trees which will help deliver the government's [The England Trees Action Plan 2021-24](#), to promote and operate schemes to re-use and/or up-cycled goods and materials, and to be eligible to use the Localism Act's general power of competence.

- Introducing a new Community Environment Fund aimed at supporting local councils and community groups in unparished areas, along with a new power to provide ministers of the crown to grant fund local councils.

Delivering on the ambitions of the government's communities framework [by deeds and their results: strengthening our communities and nation](#) by levelling up local democracy and creating local councils across all of England so communities are not left behind in being able to take community-led action on climate change because they do not have a local council.

A requirement for all drive-through food outlets to print on all packaging of sold items the vehicle registration number from which occupants made the purchase and such printing include the time, date and venue of that purchase.

You can read the full response from NALC here:

[file \(nalc.gov.uk\)](https://www.nalc.gov.uk)

(with thanks to NALC for this article and for including the KALC motion from our last AGM on making it mandatory for drive-through food outlets to put the vehicle registration details on their packaging)

Future Online Events from NALC

NALC launch new ground-breaking online conference



NALC has launched its first-ever one-day online conference, Future Communities 2021, taking place on 2 December 2021.

The online conference will focus on why local (parish and town) councils are pivotal to building back stronger and better and shaping thriving, resilient future communities.

with 1-2-1 meetings available in real-time

- Meet the conference headline sponsors (BHIB Councils Insurance, Blachere Illumination and CCLA)
- All keynote and workshop sessions recorded and available after the event
- Two coffee breaks and a lunch break to refresh, network and visit the exhibition marketplace
- Online cafe to meet and connect with other attendees

The event is sponsored by BHIB Councils Insurance, Blachere Illumination and CCLA.

Further details and booking available via this link:

[FUTURE COMMUNITIES 2021 \(nalc.gov.uk\)](http://www.nalc.gov.uk/futurecommunities2021)



It will feature high-profile experts and leading figures from local and central government and national organisations. And will give attendees a chance to discuss and debate the key issues facing communities, network and share good practice with fellow councillors, clerks and council staff from across England, and connect with sector-specific suppliers at the innovative online exhibition.

The online conference includes:

- Opportunity to hear direct from the NALC chair
- Five inspiring and thought-provoking keynote sessions which include a Q&A segment
- Four practical workshops running simultaneously (repeated twice) providing advice, guidance and insights
- A dedicated sector-specific exhibition marketplace with information on products and services



Consultation, Consultation, Consultation...

- **Home Office consultation Protect Duty:** The Home Office is currently seeking views on how the Protect Duty can make the public safer at publicly accessible locations (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/protect-duty>) **The deadline for responses is 2 July.** One of the proposals is that it will apply to publicly accessible venues holding 100 or more people. The consultation is open to the public and is targeted at: venues; organisations; businesses; local authorities; public authorities; individuals - who own or operate at publicly accessible locations or others that a 'Protect Duty' would potentially affect. A publicly accessible location is defined as any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission.
- **Kent County Council consultation – HGV Parking.** As part of the wider post EU exit transition period plans, DFT granted KCC powers to introduce an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) prohibiting any heavy goods or large goods vehicle which has a gross vehicle weight in excess of 5,000kg (5 tonnes) from parking anywhere within 7 districts and boroughs likely to be most impacted by the traffic management plans. The areas included are Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Folkestone & Hythe, Maidstone, Swale and Thanet. This came into effect in January 2021. KCC is currently consulting on the ETRO which can be viewed on the KCC website via the following link – **the deadline for responses is 3 July 2021.** [Kent County Council Consultations \(inconsult.uk\)](http://inconsult.uk)



Local Voting Rights for EU Citizens Living in the UK



During the UK's membership of the European Union, it was a requirement of membership that EU Citizens living in the UK could both stand and vote in local elections across the UK. These rights were reciprocated to UK citizens living in all EU Member States.

Now that the UK has left the European Union, and Freedom of Movement has ended and a new points based immigration system has been introduced, EU citizens' voting and candidacy rights in local elections need to be updated to reflect our new relationship with the EU.

Voting rights for UK citizens living in EU Member States are now not the same across all countries and some EU Member States have not retained voting rights for our UK citizens living abroad. Each individual EU Member State has the authority to make their own voting agreements with the UK

What are the proposed changes?



- All EU citizens who have been living in the UK since before the end of the Implementation Period, which ended at 2300 on 31 December 2020, will retain their local voting and candidacy rights, provided they retain lawful immigration status. This is in line with the Government's commitment to respecting the rights of EU citizens who chose to make their home in the UK before the end of the Implementation Period.

The local voting and candidacy rights of EU citizens who arrived in the UK after this point will rest on the principle of a mutual grant of rights, through agreements with EU Member States, ensuring we are protecting the rights of British citizens living in EU countries in turn.

Further information on the changes can be found by visiting GOV.UK here:

[Local Voting Rights for EU Citizens Living in the UK - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

These changes will affect the rules in Section 79. In particular councils will have to have regard to these new rules in co-option. No date for the implementation of these new rules has been announced.

News from Kent County Council...



This year, for the fourth year running, Kent County Council is taking part in the NHT Public Satisfaction Survey on highways and transport services. Whilst the main survey is being carried out by Ipsos MORI, who will be sending forms to a representative sample of households, we have also opted to take part in six web-based surveys on specific issues:

live or work in Kent, so please feel welcome to complete any of the surveys which interest you. If you have any issues or concerns then please feel free to contact us on RaFAT@kent.gov.uk.



- Highway maintenance
- Accessibility
- Walking and cycling
- Public transport
- Road safety
- Tackling congestion

These surveys are publicly available online, and will remain open until the end of February 2022. They may be accessed via our website using this link:



[https://
letstalkkent.uk/engagementhq.com/
national-highways-and-transport-
survey-2021-22](https://letstalkkent.uk/engagementhq.com/national-highways-and-transport-survey-2021-22)



The greater the take-up of the surveys, the more useful they will be in helping us to understand the priorities and concerns of people who

Together we make a difference



Kent Fire &
Rescue Service

together

At Kent Fire and Rescue Service, we're fortunate to have the support and commitment of our volunteers.

This year marks 10 years of KFRS' Volunteers, and the team continues to grow from strength-to-strength, both in size and in the variety of roles available, to help create a safer future for Kent and Medway. The volunteer team is looking to expand again, with a range of vacancies which went live on 4 June.

Dedication, motivation, collaboration and compassion sum up the spirit of volunteering at KFRS. They lie at the very heart of our volunteers, and are reflected in everything they do in their role as part of the wider KFRS family.

Our volunteers take on a range of important roles within KFRS, including supporting our teams with tasks, such as research and organising resources, and customer-facing responsibilities.

Their invaluable contributions help to ensure we deliver a high quality service to all of our customers, in a variety of situations and scenarios.

[Please, take a look around and hear from more of the volunteers themselves](#) about why they enjoy being part of the KFRS family, and find out how you could join the ever-growing team.

More information regarding roles available can be found here: [Our roles - Kent Fire and Rescue Service \(fire-uk.org\)](#)

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers

we couldn't do it without you



Kent Fire & Rescue Service

Grass, crop and woodland fires can have a devastating impact, injuring or killing wildlife, destroying property and livelihoods, and even putting people's lives at risk.

As we enter peak season for these types of incidents, residents, workers and visitors are being urged to do their bit to reduce the number of accidental grass fires across the county.

Most happen between May and September when grassland can get very dry, and many are caused by out of control bonfires, as well as careless disposal of hot smoking materials, and disposable barbecues.

In a bid to crack down on these largely avoidable types of incidents and make the county safer for everyone, KFRS has launched an accidental grass fire prevention campaign which will educate the public about what they can do to help and stay safe.

These types of fires can have devastating consequences"

Colin King, KFRS' Assistant Director for Customer Engagement and Safety, said: "In 2020 our crews responded to 617 accidental grass fires, many of which were preventable.

"Grass, crop and woodland fires have the potential to take hold and spread rapidly, especially in warmer months when grassland can be very dry – 83% of last year's accidental grass fires happened between May and September.

"These types of incidents can have devastating consequences, therefore it's important that everyone living, visiting and working in the county plays their part in preventing them from happening in the first place – something we hope this campaign will help to achieve."

The campaign will highlight simple things people can do to avoid accidentally starting grass fires, and as a result protect themselves, the local community, property and wildlife. Such as:

- **When lighting a bonfire, keep it to a manageable size, make sure it's well clear of greenery and property, and always supervise it while it's burning. Avoid having a bonfire in windy weather.**
- **Dispose of smoking materials responsibly, making sure they're fully stubbed out and cooled before being put in a bin - consider using a portable ashtray when on the go.**
- **Place disposable barbecues on a sturdy, non-flammable surface when cooking, away from greenery and property, and only place in a bin once fully cool.**

Colin added: "Grass fires often require a large amount of fire service resources and can take hours, days or even weeks in complex cases, to fully extinguish. This campaign is all about working together with the public to drive the number of accidental grass fires down, keeping people safe and freeing up our crews to respond to other, less-preventable emergencies.

"While everyone can play their part in this, it is inevitable that grass fires will still occur and we advise people not to try and tackle grass fires, or any fire, themselves - instead to move to a safe place and call 999. We will always be here to respond when people need us."



Kent Fire & Rescue Service



Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) has a message for anyone thinking about starting fires deliberately in the county –

'We're watching you'.

In a bid to crackdown on acts of arson across Kent and Medway, the service has joined the national initiative, FireStoppers, inviting local people to join in the anonymous fight against deadly fire setting.

FireStoppers encourages residents to share intelligence about people they suspect are responsible for incidents of arson, anonymously, 24/7, 365 days a year.

As part of the initiative, areas identified as arson hotspots will be honed in on by KFRS, with signage and targeted social media campaigning used to educate and deter arsonists, or those considering setting fires.

In the last five years, crews have attended 8,988 deliberate fires, involving buildings, vehicles and outdoor areas.

Colin King, Assistant Director for Customer Engagement and Safety, said: "Not only do arsonists put their lives and the lives of others at risk, but they take firefighters away from other emergencies unnecessarily. It's a criminal offence to start a fire deliberately, and we want arsonists to know that the fire service, together with the residents of Kent and Medway, are watching and will report them.

"By joining FireStoppers, we hope members of the public can help us to reduce the number of deliberate fire incidents, by sharing valuable information completely anonymously.

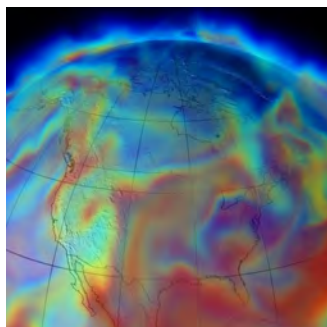
"The reporting service is available both online and over the phone, and is free to use at all times of the day, all-year round.

"Ongoing emergencies should still be reported by calling 999."

It's a criminal offence when someone intentionally starts a fire in order to destroy or damage something, whether that's a building, or outdoor areas such as grasslands and woodlands.

Call FireStoppers on 0800 169 5558 or report online – it's always free and always anonymous.

Climate Change Article from Terry Martin



Helping to achieve net zero across the County

As members will know, Kent County Council, Medway Council and the 12 District/Borough/City Councils have all declared climate emergencies and are looking at how they can help the county achieve net zero by 2050.

Member Councils also have a key role to play in this important issue, by working closely with their principal authorities to raise awareness of climate change with local residents, local businesses and other local organisations, as well as looking at how the council can reduce its own carbon footprint.

Climate change is one of our priority areas. Our Climate Change Advisory Committee held its inaugural meeting on 9 June to agree its Terms of Reference and to start taking a strategic look at climate change challenges and opportunities for member Councils across the county. The Climate Change Advisory Committee is submitting recommendations to our July Executive Committee on actions that KALC can take to reduce its own carbon footprint. In taking this important agenda forward, we will be working closely with MPs, Kent County Council, Medway Council and the District Councils Climate Change Network.

Alongside this, we are refreshing our climate change webpage this summer to provide a hub of information at national, county and district level. There is also a raft of information on the NALC website. We are working with our Environment Consultant to produce a simple carbon footprint calculator that member councils will be able to use for free to measure their own carbon footprint, which should provide helpful baseline data on which to measure performance going forward. In addition, we are keen to collect case studies as we know some of our member councils are already taking action on helping to tackle climate change in their area. If you are one of those councils, please send details of what you are already doing to Charmaine at support@kentalc.gov.uk.

Climate change will be the theme of this year's **KALC AGM** on Saturday 13 November and we are aiming to follow this with a Climate Change Conference in December. Further details will follow later in the year.

Missing from Your Inbox - Stories You May Have Missed



Eviction protection extended for businesses most in need

Businesses that have had to remain closed during the pandemic and are unable to pay rent on their commercial property will continue to be protected from eviction, giving them the breathing space they need and helping to protect jobs, the government announced on 16 June 2021.

The legislation will help tenants and landlords work together to come to an agreement on how to handle the money owed – this could be done by waiving some of the total amount or agreeing a longer-term repayment plan.



- **New rules to be established to ringfence COVID-19 commercial rent arrears and guide tenants and landlords to agree repayment plans**

This agreement should be between the tenant and landlord and, if in some cases, an agreement cannot be made, the law will ensure a binding arbitration process will be put in place so that both parties can come to a formal agreement. This will be a legally binding agreement that both parties must adhere to.

- **Measures to protect commercial tenants extended until new rules come into force**
- **Announcement welcomed by the hospitality sector**

In order to ensure landlords are protected, the government is making clear that businesses who are able to pay rent, must do so. Tenants should start paying their rent as soon as restrictions change, and they are given the green light to open.



In order to give places such as nightclubs and other hospitality businesses the help they need to recover from the pandemic, Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick has announced that legislation will be introduced in this session to ringfence outstanding unpaid rent that has built up when a business has had to remain closed during the pandemic. Landlords are expected to make allowances for the ringfenced rent arrears from these specific periods of closure due to the pandemic, and share the financial impact with their tenants.

The existing measures in place to protect commercial tenants from eviction will be extended to 25 March 2022. Further information on the Eviction Protection Scheme can be found by visiting this webpage of the GOV.UK website:

[Eviction protection extended for businesses most in need - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/eviction-protection-extended-for-businesses-most-in-need)

Missing from Your Inbox - Stories You May Have Missed

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service - Time for Nominations



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK. The Award is the MBE for volunteering groups.

Eligibility

Any group of 2 or more people doing volunteering work can be nominated for the award. The majority of the group must be volunteers, and more than half the volunteers must have the right to live in the UK.

To be nominated they should do work that:

- provides a service and meets a need for people living in the local community
- is supported, recognised and respected by the local community and the people who benefit from it
- is run locally

If your organisation is volunteer led and you are looking to significantly raise the profile of your organisation amongst the most influential people in the county including key funders, the Kent Community Foundation is running a webinar on the subject on *Friday 9th July at 1pm.*

You will hear from the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, The Lady Colgrain and her team about the

exciting opportunities to achieve a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service this year.

In partnership with the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Ashford Volunteer Centre and Kent Community Foundation are hosting a webinar to share with you the process and the myriad of benefits associated with the honour of receiving a QAVS.

Organisations will hear from the Lord Lieutenant about the eligibility criteria, what the process for being nominated is and what makes an organisation successful in receiving the Award.

Further information and booking can be found by following this link:

[Queen's Award for Voluntary Service Webinar Tickets, Fri 9 Jul 2021 at 13:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Want to improve your digital skills?



Would you like to learn new digital skills or improve on the skills you have? Kent County Council's EMPOWERCARE Project has created a team of Digital Ambassadors who are ready to help you learn.

All skills training will be tailored to you, so whether you are a complete beginner or would like a refresher, we can support you.

To be eligible for support you just need to be:

- 65+ (or 50+ with a chronic health condition)
- Be based in Kent



OUR DIGITAL AMBASSADORS CAN HELP YOU:

- Improve on your existing skills.
- Start from the beginning and learn the basics.
- Make the most of the technology you have.
- Make the most of nearby hotspots and digital services e.g. KCC libraries.
- Connect you to interests important to you.

If you are interested, please complete our [online form](#) or contact empowercare@kent.gov.uk or call [0300042222](tel:0300042222) for support.



EMPOWERCARE is a cross-border project partnering 13 organisations from across the UK, France, Belgium and the Netherlands and is funded by the Interreg 2 Seas Programme (cofunded by the European Regional Development Fund) and will run until Sept 2022.

Contacting Us...

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For KALC specific issues contact Terry Martin:
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For Finance, Events, KALC website and general
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For Events, KALC News and general enquiries
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Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)

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

www.kentalc.gov.uk

Vacancies in the County

This month we are advertising several vacancies in Kent and Medway local council settings. Do take a look at our webpage here for further information:

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

