

Kent Association  
of Local Councils



# KALC NEWS

November 2020

## Our Annual General Meeting

Welcome to our November issue of KALC News. We were delighted to see so many of you at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday 28 November. Our event for 2020 was a very different but innovative function because of the current restrictions that are in place, but this did not detract from the procedure - the only thing missing was the usual good catering that we are so used to but we hope that will return next year. We had an extremely good turn out at our first virtual AGM. We counted over 100 delegates who registered on the day, which is a real testament to modern technology! It also shows that we are all more comfortable with using alternative formats in order to connect with each other.

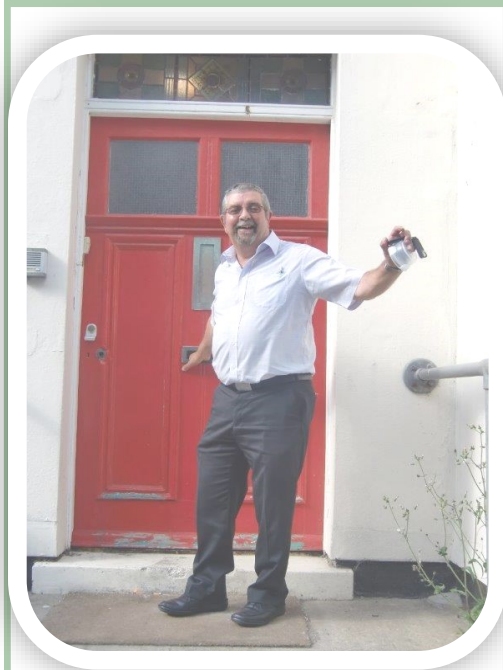
All in all, the AGM went very smoothly, with much participation, few technical issues and very positive feedback.

Many thanks to all who attended, and our very best wishes to all our Membership.

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## Some Sad News...



It is with great sadness that KALC was sorry to hear of the sad loss of Rodney Williamson, who was a long standing and much respected employee of KALC for 20 years and was KALC's County Secretary for many of these years.

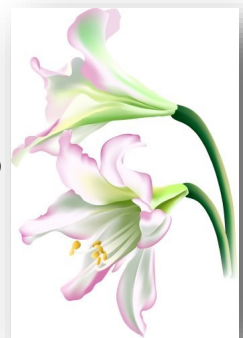
He was a key player in the set up of the Kent Association of Local Councils as members know it today. He had been a Royal Marine Bandsman since the age of 14 in a career lasting 30 years, before changing to

local government management. He lived for many years in Whitstable with his late wife, Mary, and had a son and a daughter who were brought up in Kent. He left KALC when he retired in June 2011 and eventually moved up to Edinburgh to be nearer his family after his wife predeceased him.

Many of our current members will remember him as a friendly and dynamic man who was always keen to modernise and transform the Association that we now have.

Along with Clive and Laura, the Association brought in the Learning and Development workshops we now roll out as a standard.

Rodney leaves a son, daughter and 4 grandchildren who are in our thoughts. Our sincere condolences to Rodney's family at this sad time.



## OUR LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Our Learning and Development programme continues to thrive as an online venture. Our “Dynamic Councillor” events will continue to run on a monthly basis (on the first Thursday of the month as a morning workshop) as long as there is demand for them, and there will be regular updates so that members are aware of the next scheduled time and date.

Our bitesize courses are also proving very popular. *These are being run on rolling basis so there is no limit as to when you book or when you decide to do the course.* Here’s what you can 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.

You can book these courses by visiting our webpage here: [https://www.kentalc.gov.uk/Bitesize\\_Training\\_31970.aspx](https://www.kentalc.gov.uk/Bitesize_Training_31970.aspx)

## What’s On...Our Current and Future Events

- **Chairing Virtual Meetings: Skills for Councillors**
  - \* Thursday 10 December
  - \* Wednesday 16 December
  - \* Thursday 17 December

**ALL SOLD OUT**
- **Getting In Front of the Camera: Best Practice for Facebook Live**
  - \* 14 January 2021
- **An Introduction to Planning**
  - \* Tuesday 12 January 2021
  - \* Friday 29 January 2021

*(these events will shortly launch and we will inform you when they are available for booking online)*
- **The Dynamic Councillor - KALC’s foundation training module for new councillors and for those who need a refresher**
  - \* Thursday 7 January 2021



The revised Legal Topic Note (LTN) 57 “Easements over Common Land and Village Green” from NALC is now available for viewing and downloading from the members area of our website under the topic of Legal Issues where you will find all other LTNs

Caption describing picture or

## News from Our National Association

### MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A COUNCILLOR

NALC has launched its local election campaign for 2021. With thousands of councillor seats up for renewal on England’s local (parish and town) councils, the campaign aims to help local councils promote the elections and encourage more people – those undiscovered community heroes – to put themselves forward for election. We all know how important it is to

produce a successful campaign that actually recruits new people to an interesting and fulfilling role in their communities. NALC has produced all kinds of resources to help you do that and you can find the information you need by visiting this link:

[Elections — #MakeAChange \(nalc.gov.uk\)](https://www.nalc.gov.uk/elections)

## Closing the Lid on The Toilet Tax...

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) used World Toilet Day 2020 on 19 November to urge the government to finally close the lid on the toilet tax through new legislation.

The Non-Domestic Rating (Public Lavatories) Bill is currently making its way through Parliament, taking forward the Budget 2018 commitment to legislate to exempt public conveniences, including those owned or managed by local (parish and town) councils, from paying non-domestic rates.

However, while the Bill has safely completed its passage through the House of Commons – receiving cross-party support – it is currently awaiting a date for its remaining stages in the House of Lords before receiving Royal Assent.

Cllr Sue Baxter, chairman of NALC, said: “On this World Toilet Day I have written to the communities minister, Lord Greenhalgh, urging him to set a date for the toilets bill to complete its passage through Parliament and become law. I have called on him to finally close the lid on the toilet tax.

“Local councils are facing financial pressures from the coronavirus pandemic and Government funding to the local government does not include dedicated support for local councils.

“Business rates on public conveniences currently cost local authorities, including local councils, around £8 million, and this bill will provide welcome and much-needed relief to councils across the country.”

# COVID 19 Updates

HM Government

**NHS**

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



**HANDS**



**FACE**



**SPACE**

**STAY ALERT  
CONTROL  
THE VIRUS  
SAVE LIVES**

Caption

At the time of writing, the government is making changes to the restrictions that are currently in place until 2 December 2020. We have already heard about the arrangements that are acceptable over the Christmas period: [Making a Christmas bubble with friends and family - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/making-a-christmas-bubble-with-friends-and-family) but also know that different areas within England will be in different allocated tiers of restrictions depending on their particular R Rate. **Kent and Medway have been put into the Level 3 - Very High Tier, which is the most severe restriction.**

With that in mind, the simplest way of understanding the restrictions is to consult these posters and you can find the link to them here:

[Tier posters: Medium, High and Very High - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-tiers-of-restriction)

Members will be acutely aware that any restrictions are subject to change over the winter season so we encourage you to keep up to date on the situation in England by visiting GOV.UK here:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance and support - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-and-support) and to familiarise yourselves with the Government Winter Plan here:

[COVID-19 Winter Plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-winter-plan)

**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/>
- **Kent County Council:**  
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/coronavirus/protect-kent>
- **Medway Council:** [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) | Medway Council](https://www.medway.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19)

## NEW COVID-19 SCREENING SERVICE LAUNCHES AT **GATWICK** AIRPORT

- *Pre-departure and post arrival ExpressTest COVID-19 screening will be available for Gatwick passengers, staff and local residents with results available the next day.*
- *The screening facility could also satisfy post arrival requirements for the Government's expected "test and release" scheme to ease travel restrictions and quarantine.*
- *The cost for Gatwick's air passengers and on-airport staff will be a subsidised rate of £60 and for the general public £99. The Centre booking portal goes live on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> November with first appointments available from Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> November.*

"Gatwick Airport and ExpressTest (a division of Cignpost Diagnostics Limited) today announce the opening of a brand-new COVID-19 screening centre. The site, located within the airport's Long Stay Car Park at the South Terminal, will offer a fast and accurate and lab-analysed PCR swab test. It will be available for both passengers, employees based at Gatwick and the general public, including local residents, from Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> November.

The facility is for air passengers who may require a valid, negative COVID-19 test certificate for destinations requiring one from up to 96 hours before travel, with passengers needing to check with travel providers that the test meets the specific requirements destinations ask for. It will also help those who may simply want extra assurance that they are not currently carrying the virus. The facility could also, with any necessary amendments, satisfy requirements of the Government's expected "test and release" post arrival scheme allowing air passengers to reduce quarantine time required after travelling back from certain destinations. Anyone with recognisable COVID-19 symptoms will still need to use an NHS testing facility.

[Air passengers and any employees based at Gatwick Airport will be charged a subsidised rate of £60 to use the screening service, whilst it will also be available for the general public for £99.](#) A group discount is also offered, with up to 30% off for groups of four or more, for those who are having the full priced test.

### **Stewart Wingate, Chief Executive Officer, Gatwick Airport,**

**says:** "Reducing the spread of COVID-19 is a priority for us alongside giving confidence to so many people who have missed travelling during this difficult year. Our new screening facility is also a convenient service to offer people in the region looking for extra reassurance. We are pleased to be subsidising the price for our passengers and any staff based at Gatwick so they are compliant with current destination requirements that many of airlines including easyJet, British Airways and TUI fly to.

"Our industry has been decimated by the pandemic and, while we welcome the anticipated "test and release" scheme from the Government, we want to see an internationally agreed pre-departure testing regime, based on existing risk criteria, to replace the current uncertainty of quarantine and patchwork of testing approaches which currently exists across Europe. A truly international

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approach would safely open up most of the UK's travel routes abroad, while also helping to reduce transmission of the virus."

**ExpressTest Founder Nick Markham says:** "We are delighted to be Gatwick airport's official screening partner. We launched ExpressTest to give people peace of mind, whether that's enabling

travel through our Fit to Fly certificates, or providing the reassurance needed to safely visit friends and family abroad or within the UK. In the next couple of months we aim to have more than 30 locations operating across the UK, with the ambition of giving the British public the confidence to go about their daily lives in these uncertain times."

ExpressTest is delivered using the latest gold standard PCR equipment that is fully CE-IVD certified and manufactured to the highest possible standards, and tests are carried out by specially trained screening practitioners. The lab-analysed test results will be emailed or texted to customers typically the next day, with airline passengers advised to schedule a test 48-96 hours prior to their departure time, as a precaution. Those who screen negative will be emailed a Fit to Fly certificate that is authorised by a doctor, along with their test result, however passengers will be responsible for checking with their travel provider as to whether this document is accepted before booking the screening service.

Bookings open from Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> November, with the first test available on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> November. To book a test, people will need to visit [www.expresstest.co.uk](http://www.expresstest.co.uk) and select a date and time. Customers will then be sent a QR code which they must bring with them to their appointment, along with their passport or employee ID. Payment will be taken during the booking process. Opening hours are 08.00 to 20.00 and customers are asked to arrive 15 minutes prior to appointments."



## Kent Resilience Forum Outlines “End of Transition” Contingency Plans



**Plans on how Kent will deal with potential traffic disruption at the end of the Brexit transition period on January 1 have been published.**

When the transition period ends, the UK will no longer be a member of the Single Market or the Customs Union.

Therefore, new border controls and checks will be implemented which will impact the short Channel crossings.

The UK will be treated by the EU as a third country and will be subject to full third country controls and a variety of border checks.

This has the potential for an increased likelihood of delays to the crossing of the short straits and the need for a multi-agency plan for management of the congestion consequences.

Known as Operation Fennel, the plan was developed by the multi-agency Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) in partnership with national government.

The Forum includes organisations such as Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, South East Coast Ambulance Service, Kent County Council, Medway Council and the district and borough councils, working alongside government departments including Border and Protocol Delivery Group, Department for Transport and Highways England and HMRC.

Now available to view on the Kent Prepared website, the document outlines the arrangements to ensure the M20 can be kept open to traffic and that disruption for local residents, businesses and other road users is kept to a minimum, whilst providing temporary traffic holding areas.

Operation Fennel, which also covers driver welfare and non-freight traffic, is designed to operate at different stages, with different options being used depending on the prevailing traffic conditions.

The plans can cope with up to 7,000 HGVs, the maximum queue length of HGVs expected in Kent under the national reasonable worst-case scenario planning assumptions.

The plans also outline the Government’s web service which will be known as ‘Check an HGV is Ready to Cross the Border’. The service will be able to issue a digital Kent Access Permit to freight ready to cross the Straits s before it enters Kent.

Mark Rolfe, Head of Kent Resilience Team said: “The Port of Dover and the Channel Tunnel are facilities of national importance. As the shortest crossing point between the UK and mainland Europe, the short straits ports (Port of Dover and Channel Tunnel) account for 69% of all goods vehicles and 89% of all powered goods vehicles that travel between the UK and the EU.

“Come January 1, the processing of freight and tourist traffic may lead to a risk of congestion and of journey times taking longer than they would today. Through the KRF we have brought together Department for Transport, Highways England, Kent Police, and Kent County Council in agreeing a single plan for Kent. Together we aim to keep Kent moving, preventing and minimising the impact of cross channel disruption on the community, freight and non-freight traffic and the environment. We will continue to operate a safe, local and strategic system using the transport network in Kent and provide reliable travel information.”

To view the plan, visit [www.kentprepared.org.uk/end-of-transition-plans](http://www.kentprepared.org.uk/end-of-transition-plans)



# TIME IS RUNNING OUT

**NEW RULES FOR BUSINESS WITH  
EUROPE START ON 01 JAN 2021**

THERE ARE ACTIONS YOUR BUSINESS  
NEEDS TO TAKE NOW AT [GOV.UK/TRANSITION](https://www.gov.uk/transition)

- ✓ Check
- ✓ Change
- ✓ Go



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# SLCC

For Local Council Professionals

“Community Governance looks at the way in which people and organisations work together and independently, making decisions for the benefit of a local community and we currently offer a Certificate of Higher Education (Level 4), Foundation Degree (Level 5) and Honours Degree (Level 6). With regards to a Masters qualification, De Montfort University now has a webpage up and running about [the proposed Masters in Public Leadership and Management](#) (specifically for people in the parish council sector in the first instance). Please feel free to contact Steve Parker, the SLCC’s Link Tutor at DMU, if you have any questions – [steven.parker@dmu.co.uk](mailto:steven.parker@dmu.co.uk).”

## COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE AN INTRODUCTION FOR COUNCILLORS

Develop your career, support your council and strengthen your community

Community Governance covers the ways in which people and organisations work together and independently, making decisions for the benefit of a local community. A range of qualifications are available awarded by De Montfort University, Certificate of Higher Education (Level 4), Foundation Degree (Level 5) and Honours Degree (Level 6)



### HOW WILL COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE (LEVEL 4) BENEFIT YOUR COUNCIL?

**Ensure your council is operating according to the law**  
Your council can be more confident that it is operating according to the law with sound procedures and financial practices.

**Innovative ideas to better support your community**  
Students bring new ideas back to your council to support its role in serving its communities and working with the planning system.

**Tailored to your council**  
Students can specialise in subjects of particular concern to your council.

**A qualification recognised in law**  
The advanced knowledge builds on the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA), is recognised in law as a qualification for clerks and offers your council significant returns on its investment.



### WHO CAN TAKE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE?

Any officer whose council would benefit from a deeper understanding of how local councils work – especially officers with CILCA or new officers coming into the profession. The qualification is also open to councillors.

VISIT [WWW.SLCC.CO.UK/COMMUNITY-GOVERNANCE](http://WWW.SLCC.CO.UK/COMMUNITY-GOVERNANCE) OR  
EMAIL [COMMGOV@SLCC.CO.UK](mailto:COMMGOV@SLCC.CO.UK) FOR MORE INFORMATION

**SLCC**  
For Local Council Professionals

## News From Kent County Council



### Electric Vehicle Charger Project



The first round of applications for the Parish and Town Council Electric Vehicle charger project has resulted in 40 chargers being allocated across 19 locations in Kent. If funding allows, another five are on the reserve list. Installations are expected to commence in January 2021.

Susan Carey, KCC Cabinet Member for Environment – “It is clear that many residents and businesses in our smaller villages and towns are keen to switch to Electric Vehicles

but access to public chargers is sometimes a barrier to this. I am really pleased we have been able to work with so many Parish and Town councils and we look forward to installing the first wave of chargers early next year. We will look to invite applications for more locations throughout 2021.”



#### Free Webinar from Kent County Council: 9 December Between 1pm and 2pm

Join Kent County Council Trading Standards and industry experts as we discuss the new legal requirements in force from 1st January 2021. This event will focus on getting your goods ready.

#### Get Your Goods Ready panel:

- Trading Standards Officers, **Wendy May**, **Claire Robinson** and Principal Trading Standards Officer **Nathan Martin**
- Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce International Trade Adviser, **Graham Card**
- Produced in Kent Business Development, **Jill Sargent**

Goods that fail to comply with the new rules will be refused entry to the EU leaving you liable for costs of examination, storage and re-working. Non-delivery of goods may lead to breach of contract, loss of trading partners and both financial and reputational harm.

**Sign up now by visiting this link:** [09 December live Q&A - Get your goods ready for EU export \(mailchi.mp\)](https://mailchi.mp/09-December-live-Q&A-Get-your-goods-ready-for-EU-export) If you can't make the date, sign up and submit your question. A recording will be sent to you after the event.

## Kent's Plan Bee Is an Online Hit



Kent's Plan Bee, the county's action plan to rescue flower-pollinating insects threatened by intensive agriculture, climate change, new poisons, fragmented habitats, and disease took wing this week. Hundreds of people signed up to take part in an online launch summit. Plan Bee was adopted by Kent County Council last year. Organisers say its big idea is to mobilise all the people of Kent to rescue the homes and food supplies of billions of the county's tiny fellow residents.

"it's really struck a chord," said Plan chairman, Sean Holden, the county councillor for Cranbrook who began Kent's Plan Bee as a personal initiative in 2013. "It's KCC's best attended online event since COVID-19 began. There was a waiting list for the 250 places the Microsoft Teams platform allows." Chats and tweets during and after the summit said it was "inspiring", "brilliant" and "valued by everyone".

The audience saw environment group Buglife's Chief Executive, Matt Shardlow, describe the looming disaster of pollinator decline. Not only bees but hoverflies, butterflies, moths, wasps, beetles, even ants. Mr Shardlow said every third mouthful we eat comes from insect-pollinated plants. Farmer James Smith of Lodington Farm near Linton told how he's moving away from chemical-powered, intensive agriculture, so harmful to insects. 40% of Kent's agriculture depends on pollinators. Kent Wildlife Trust gardener, Maureen Rainey, led the audience back to their gardens with day to day ideas which, multiplied across the county could have a huge effect.

"Matt Shardlow said we can all see this environmental emergency in the rather gruesome windscreen test," said Councillor Holden. "Remember, not so long ago you'd stop on summer drives to clear a bug splashed windscreen. You rarely have to now."

Kent County Council is taking a lead, Environment Cabinet Member, Susan Carey told the summit. "Our bees are on their knees," she said, "The summit is about how we can stand up for them." Cllr Carey, with Highways Landscape Manager Paul Woodhatch told the summit how the council was putting its house in order, changing its own land management to conserve pollinators' habitats like The desperate plight of bumble bees was summed up by the youngest, most passionate presenters, Rose and Sophie, aged nine and eight, from Kent's Children's University. They had recorded presentations about their how they gardened for the sake of the bees.

Chairman Sean Holden promised more summits and other campaigns with partners like the Bumblebee Conservation Trust in the coming months and years. "But it's not just for the bees, said Cllr Holden. "It's for us too. If they go, our own food, economy and society go too. It's that serious."





**Kent** Fire &  
Rescue Service

Let us help you feel



**Safe and Well**



## Safe and Well Visits during Restrictions...

“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](tel:08009237000) (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, voicemail outside these hours) and we will be happy to get in touch.” Further details can be obtained by visiting this webpage:

[Safe and Well visits - Kent Fire and Rescue Service \(fire-uk.org\)](https://www.fire-uk.org/safe-and-well-visits)

### Kent Fire And Rescue Want Your Input...

Kent Fire and Rescue has launched an update on its Safety and Wellbeing Plan for 2021—2024. It welcomes the comments of the community it serves, and would like as much feedback as possible. You can complete their current survey on the matter by visiting this link:

[Safety and wellbeing plan Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/safety-and-wellbeing-plan-survey)

Thank you for your assistance.

## Safeguarding website launch

# Prevent

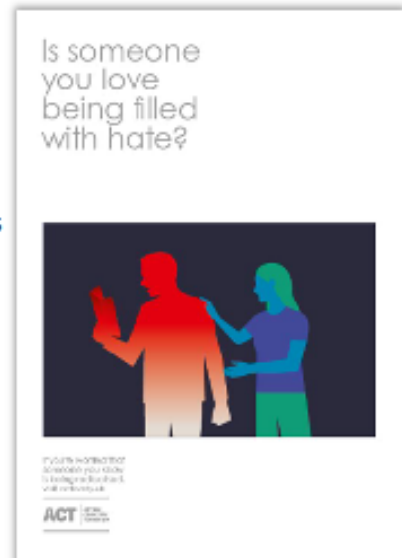
In the last Prevent HQ newsletter we updated you on the development of a new safeguarding website aimed at helping to increase Prevent referrals from friends and family.

CTP Communications and HQ Prevent are pleased to announce the website will be launched on the 18th November.

It will highlight the police's safeguarding role and encourage family and friends to share concerns that a loved one could be at risk of becoming radicalised. The new website will include case studies, signs to spot, FAQs and details of the new national Prevent advice line.

Access the [toolkit](#) to find out more which will include a range of promotional materials from posters to business cards to templates. The toolkit will continue to be updated with social media assets and films.

[www.actearly.uk](http://www.actearly.uk)



### How you can help from 18th November.

- ⇒ Promote ACT Early on your social media channels.
- ⇒ Adapt our templates for use on your website, intranet and newsletters.
- ⇒ Share the staff briefing with your teams.
- ⇒ Display the ACT Early posters and banners in your organisation's building display screens and public areas.
- ⇒ Print the ACT Early leaflets and business cards to share with the public.



We have also created a bespoke [toolkit](#) for external partners to promote the ACT Early website. Please only share with trusted partners prior to launch.

Media launch to raise awareness will take place on the 18th November across a number of TV, Radio and online platforms.

If you have any questions regarding the new safeguarding website please email the [CTP Campaigns team](#)





# UK Protect

Protective Security Information for the Business Community

9 November 2020

**NATIONAL BULLETIN**

## New Vigilance Toolkit released



**2020 has been a difficult year for so many and we recognize that the business community has been hit hard, facing a variety of challenges in light of the pandemic, intensifying now that we're in a second national lockdown. It is understandable that the risk of terrorism hasn't necessarily been front of mind across the country, with COVID-19 changing all our day to day routines.**

However, recent attacks in Vienna and France and the UK's terrorism threat level changing from SUBSTANTIAL to SEVERE last week are stark reminders of how important it is to stay vigilant and report any concerns to police or local security staff immediately, wherever you are.

We have welcomed contact from businesses this week looking to ensure that they're taking appropriate action having seen the threat level change in the news. We are here to offer guidance and support so you can assess and add to protective measures that are in place and reassure your staff and customers that you prioritise their safety.

Some of you have shared requests for communications materials you can use in the coming weeks. Counter Terrorism Policing has created an [easy to use toolkit](#) containing advice on security minded comms, internal and external assets to help you communicate effectively about countering terrorism with your staff and customers.

Our communications team is able to support you with specific tailoring of the assets and materials in this toolkit to ensure they are appropriate for your audiences.

You can get in touch with us with any queries or requests at: [nctphq.comms@met.police.uk](mailto:nctphq.comms@met.police.uk).

We know how busy your communications teams are with delivering regular communications internally about COVID19. We are here to help to make sure it is quick and easy for you to communicate about safety, security and countering terrorism.

### OFFICIAL

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For more information  
 email: [info@redlynchleisure.co.uk](mailto:info@redlynchleisure.co.uk)  
 phone: 01249 444 537



[www.redlynchleisure.co.uk](http://www.redlynchleisure.co.uk)

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- Distributor for Lappset play equipment – one of Europe's best loved equipment manufacturers
- Beautiful Scandinavian designs & sustainable sourced, slow growing pine timber materials
  - We work extensively with Town and Parish Councils
- All work carried out in house – nothing outsourced or subcontracted

## Health and Wellbeing: Everyone's Responsibility

### Social Isolation - Knock and Check!

One of the major issues that has had a knock on effect from the COVID 19 pandemic is social isolation. We may call it loneliness, seclusion or lack of companionship, but the problem is the same: people are living with an absence of human and social interaction. The statistics bear this out. According to the [Campaign to End Loneliness](#) :



**KNOCK  
&CHECK**

- 1 million people aged 65+ always or often feel lonely, and say they go more than a month without speaking to a friend, neighbour or family member
- 33% of people believe that others will think there is something wrong with them
- 92% of us think people are scared to admit they are lonely.

And...

- 2 in 3 people know someone who is lonely.
- In Kent and Medway alone, there were 1610 avoidable deaths in the Winter of 2017/18.

These are sad figures indeed and it is clear that loneliness and social isolation also affect mental and physical wellbeing.

Our local initiatives in Kent and

Medway have done remarkable work in reversing this trend. Even before the COVID-19 Pandemic hit the nation, much was being done to help those who may not see anyone on a regular basis.

This winter, the risks of social isolation are a major cause for



concern. Kent has an aging population, of course, and in some ways the older person is easier to identify as being in need

of contact. However, there are other population groups that are also currently living with some kind of social isolation. The single person household, the lone parent with children and those who have had to shield in recent months due to health vulnerability are all at risk of being "under the radar" of those we traditionally consider as being in need. KALC is asking its member councils to help promote the [Kent Community Foundation's Surviving Winter Campaign](#) "Knock and Check" to their residents in Kent to reignite the community spirit seen during the initial months of the COVID-19 pandemic and do something small to help those most vulnerable during the cold winter months.

Small actions could make a big difference:

- Knock on the door to say 'hello'
- Offer to pick up some food or add something to your online shopping
- Drop off a slice of cake
- Plate up an extra meal
- Share books or magazines
- Volunteer for one of our fantastic organisations in Kent and Medway

- Share details of supporting services

Remember to follow Government guidelines on social distancing to keep communities safe from COVID-19.

- Keep a 2m distance, staying outdoors at all times
- Wash your hands before and after a visit
- Wear a face mask

There is a very useful and easy to read booklet that can be downloaded for local use, and there are plenty of resources that can be put onto your local social media channels for publicity. These can all be found by visiting the Kent Community Foundation dedicated webpage here: [Kent Community Foundation Knock & Check \(kentcf.org.uk\)](https://kentcf.org.uk)

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

**Volunteer** for one of the many fantastic voluntary organisations in Kent and Medway

**Knock on the door** to deliver Christmas cards, rather than just posting through the letterbox

**Bake** a cake or make up an extra plate of food

**Pass on** magazines or books

**Simply knock** on a door to show a familiar face

**Offer** to pick up some shopping or drop off a frozen meal

**Pop a note** through their door with your contact number or details of other local support, activities and helplines\*



## Health and Wellbeing: Everyone's Responsibility

Dementia Friendly  
Communities - Local  
Councils Making a  
Difference



The publication was launched with the backing of Boris Johnson MP, the Prime Minister, and television presenter Angela Rippon who is an

**nalc**

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) published a booklet on 30 October which produced its findings on the role that local councils can play in promoting the value of Dementia Friendly Communities. Published in conjunction with the University of Plymouth, the document aims to help local (parish and town) councils

Ambassador for the Alzheimer's Society UK.

Cllr Sue Baxter, NALC chairman, said "It's great to launch this new dementia publication. It highlights the role that local councils can make in levelling-up their communities and supporting the most vulnerable in our society. I hope that it gives local councils the confidence to make changes in their communities."



**UNIVERSITY OF  
PLYMOUTH**

support people living with dementia in their communities.

It contains case studies, recommendations, resources and statistics, and a message from Gary Streeter MP who has supported turning South West Devon in a dementia-friendly constituency. Between January and May 2020, NALC surveyed England's 10,000 local councils to find out what steps they have taken to support people living with dementia in their communities. This research provided the foundations for the publication.

To read the report, and the Prime Minister's letter endorsing the publication, follow this link on NALC's website: [NALC launch new dementia publication backed by the prime minister - News](#)

## In Your Neck of The Woods: News from Our Parishes and Towns

### Christmas is Coming...



This year, we all know that Christmas is going to be a different affair. There is some leeway with the recent

government announcement regarding social bubbles between houses. However, Kent and Medway are, at the time of writing, entering the very highest tier of restrictions, it

is clear that some traditional activities will have to wait for better times ahead.

The “turning on” of Christmas Lights is normally a community wide activity. This year, towns and parishes have had to find alternatives to this. Many communities have suggested different ways in which we can make the festive season brighter for all.

Sevenoaks Town Council has suggested a novel way in which to do so...

## Saving the Spirit of Christmas in Sevenoaks

***This Winter, families in Sevenoaks will be able to track down and bring the ‘Christmas Spirit’ to life on their smartphones thanks to Sevenoaks Town Team and Sevenoaks Town Council.***

Details are available here

[http://  
www.sevenoakschristmaslights.com/](http://www.sevenoakschristmaslights.com/)

“Every parent’s mind is going to be on COVID-19 precautions this Christmas and how it will affect them and their families. One of these effects will be that the usual Sevenoaks Christmas shopping will be distinctively different this year. The Sevenoaks Town Team are keenly aware of this and have planned activities for families to do that can be done safely, socially distanced, and contactless. For one of these, they’ve teamed up with QR code trail experts High Street Safari to create an interactive story-trail that is designed



to encourage children to walk, have fun, get engaged and most importantly, take their minds off the pandemic. The trail is positioned around Sevenoaks with

10 ‘Christmas Spirit’ characters and takes on average about 45 minutes to complete. It is completely free for families and groups to take part in and they win a heart-warming Christmas e-book at the end. It should also encourage families to keep fit and active before the Christmas feasts too! The trail works by utilising contactless QR codes, without the need for families to download or sign up to anything. 10 jolly window characters, all specially created for the trail have



## In Your Neck of The Woods: News from Our Parishes and Towns

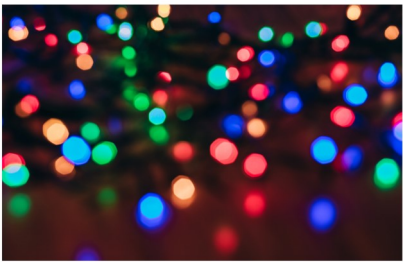
### Saving the Spirit of Christmas in Sevenoaks



been placed around Sevenoaks for families to hunt down. There is no need to go inside the venues, but please do where possible support participating businesses while you visit. The Christmas Spirit Trail revolves around a magical story that includes Albert Claus, the less famous brother of Father Christmas. His job is to maintain the Spirit of Christmas by spreading joy bubbles on Christmas day, but he has gone missing! By visiting the trail stops and speaking to each of the cheerful 'Spirits of Christmas', players will learn

what has happened to Albert and, finally, be able to solve the mystery, save him and read the conclusion with the free eBook at the end. When families in Sevenoaks scan each character's unique QR code the character will burst to life with an animation on their smartphone and they will learn their names, stories and gather clues. Younger

children will enjoy spotting the colourful characters in shop windows and older kids, and grown-up ones, will engage by hearing the stories. Martin Blackwell, former CEO of ATCM and the Charity Retail Association, who is coordinating the project nationally,



said, "We've run several of these "safaris on the high street" and have just been blown away at the response. We had such wonderful feedback from families over the Summer and Halloween, we just had to create a new story. If something fun like this can help, make families and kids feel good about going back out onto the high street in a safe way then we've done our job."



*Serving Parish & Town Councils In Kent*

## Kent Association of Local Councils

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

Email: [kalc@kentalc.gov.uk](mailto:kalc@kentalc.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.kentalc.gov.uk](http://www.kentalc.gov.uk)

## Vacancies

There are currently vacancies for Clerks in Kent. We are always happy to advertise any employment opportunities you may have in your communities. Take a look at our dedicated webpage for further information here:

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

