

August 2021

KALC NEWS



KALC urges MPs to press Government to bring forward legislation on remote meetings

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As members will know, the Government decided not to extend the Coronavirus emergency legislation to enable Councils to hold remote Council meetings beyond 6 May. Instead they issued a Call for Evidence on remote meetings which closed on 17 June. Both KALC and NALC responded to the Call for Evidence urging Government to bring forward new legislation to enable Councils to hold remote meetings if they so wish. Disappointingly, we still await the Government's response, despite being pressed by NALC and the LGA.

KALC has just written to Kent MPs asking for their help and support in getting MHCLG to move forward on this urgent matter and bring forward emergency legislation to enable Local Councils at all levels of Local Government to be able to hold Council meetings remotely if they so wish. NALC and other County Associations are doing the same.

We would encourage all our member councils to also approach your local MP and ask them to press the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for a response on this important issue.

KALC 2021 AGM being held virtually on Saturday 13th November 2021

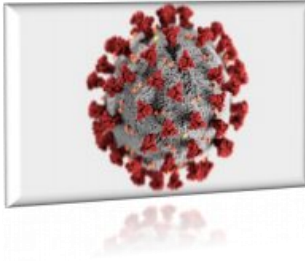
The above was agreed at the Executive Committee meeting on 17 July. We are delighted to confirm that Rachel Coxcoo, Director of Climate Guide and Director of the Climate Emergency Support Programme at the Centre for Sustainable Energy has agreed to give a presentation on the Climate Emergency Action Plan for local government, communication and carbon footprinting. Some of you may have seen Rachel's articles in the Clerks Magazine and LCR.

Motions for the AGM will need to be submitted to the KALC Chief Executive (chief.executive@kentalc.gov.uk) by Friday 17 September.

KALC Returning to the Office soon

KALC staff are aiming to return to the office from Monday 4 October, at which point we will be trialling a hybrid of office and home-based working. We will also shortly be launching our new VOIP system – more details to follow soon.

COVID 19 UPDATES



The Government recently issued its plans for Stage 4 of the Lifting of Lockdown at a press conference on Monday 12 July. This set out the “roadmap” for 19 July 2021 and you can read about those changes here: [\(COVID-19\) Coronavirus restrictions: what you can and cannot do - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do) There are likely to be updates over the coming months, depending on the science and data that ensues over the summer. It is, therefore, very important to keep up to date!

LOCAL RESPONSE



Protect Kent and Medway is still the site you should visit for local responses to the current state of play in terms of COVID 19 rules.

The webpage has lots of regional resources for Kent and Medway, but will still direct users to the GOV.UK site for further information, which is detailed above.

You can access the Protect Kent and Medway webpage by following this link: [Protect Kent and Medway - Kent County Council](https://www.kent.gov.uk/protect-kent-and-medway)



OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES

The KALC website is always updated on a regular basis with current links and information here: [Home - KALC \(kentalc.gov.uk\)](https://www.kentalc.gov.uk/)

Likewise, there are further resources and updates via the NALC website here: [National Association of Local Councils - Information on COVID 19](https://www.nalc.org.uk/information-on-covid-19)

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT AT KALC

KALC is still running all of its Learning and Development opportunities in an online format for the foreseeable future. We are looking to start “face to face” events from January 2022, which will run alongside our virtual events and the Nimble/NALC/ KALC eLearning programme.

We have now launched our other learning events too on our website, and these are detailed below.



WHAT'S ON...

All our events are now bookable via our website and on our Eventbrite site pages. You can access all information and booking by following this link:

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

Here is our current schedule:

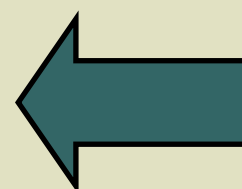
- Data Protection for Councillors. Thursday 9 September 2021 at 1800hrs
- Annual Clerks Conference. Tuesday 28 September 2021 at 1000hrs
- Public Speaking for Councillors. Wednesday 29 September 2021 at 1800hrs
- Project Management for Local Councils. Saturday 9 October 2021 at 1000 hrs.
- Data Protection for Clerks. Thursday 14 October 2021 at 1000 hrs.
- Freedom of Information - a Workshop. Tuesday 19 October 2021 at 1900hrs

- Annual Finance Conference. Wednesday 20 October 2021 at 1000hrs.

Our bitesize courses are also running as usual. Take a look at our webpage here:

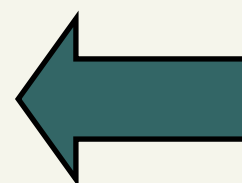
[Bitesize Training - KALC \(kentalc.gov.uk\)](https://www.kentalc.gov.uk) for all our current courses. New subjects are being uploaded all the time and there is no time limit as to when you complete a course once it has been purchased.

**Clerks' Conference
now launched!
28 September 2021**



**Finance
Conference
20 October 2021**

**Launching Soon!
Save the Date!**





Specialist Local Council Insurance Brokers with traditional values



Providing specialist insurance solutions to:

- ▶ Town and Parish Councils
- ▶ Charities, Not for Profit and Voluntary Organisations
- ▶ Village Halls and Community Buildings




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News from Our National Association

NALC HOLDS ITS FIRST YOUNG COUNCILLORS NATIONAL NETWORK MEETING

The National Association of Local Councils recently held its first National Network meeting dedicated to Young Councillors.

The network discussed getting young people involved in their community, working with and learning from more experienced councillors, ways for the network to stay in touch, and developing skills and knowledge.

Cllr Sue Baxter, NALC char, said: "I was delighted to host NALC's latest new national network, especially as getting younger people involved in our communities and local (parish and town) councils is important to ensure we are more representative of the communities we serve and young people can influence the decisions that affect them. It was great to hear from all the young councillors about their experiences including those who turned eighteen over the last year and were elected in May 2021. The network will provide an invaluable opportunity to connect young councillors to discuss issues

of common interest and provide mutual support, and I'm keen for more young councillors to get involved".

The new network is one of several NALC has established including coastal communities, LGBT+ councillors and women councillors, and aim to connect councils and councillors from across the country, learn from and support each other and share good practice.

Further information on this very important area of work can be obtained by emailing: policycomms@nalc.gov.uk

Share of £30m Changing Places toilets fund now open for applications

Councils are being urged to apply for a share of a £30 million fund to install life-enhancing Changing Places toilets (CPTs) in public places and tourist attractions, providing a significant increase in areas where users want them most.

There are currently around 1,200 registered Changing Places toilets in England – these are larger accessible toilets for people who cannot use standard accessible toilets, with equipment such as hoists, curtains, adult-sized changing benches, and space for carers.

Councils will be invited to complete a short expression of interest to receive a proportion of this funding. They are encouraged to consider where Changing Places toilets are most needed in their communities and are encouraged to work in partnership with other organisations to deliver these facilities, including securing match funding wherever possible.

Further information on the scheme can be found here: [Share of £30m Changing Places toilets fund now open for applications - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) and expressions of interest must be completed **by 26 September 2021**.

News from Our National Association



NALC urges ministers and MPs to involve communities more in planning

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has written to the planning minister Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP and to all MPs urging them to let the voice of local (parish and town) councils be listened to in the planning process and for local councils to be trusted with more powers.

The letter to MPs reiterated NALC's main arguments from its responses to the three main Planning White paper consultations last summer, Changes to the Current Planning System and Transparency and Competition. The main points made were to involve local councils and communities more in decision making around planning applications, to factor the climate emergency into plan-making, to protect the country's green belt and that developers should be required to complete homes for which they have already received planning permission.

The letter to the planning minister highlighted what a Nearly Perfect Planning Future (NPPF) would look like for local councils after the passage of any planning bill through parliament. NALC clearly and positively painted for the minister a future which puts local councils at the heart of a planning system based on greater democracy and less centralisation.

Further information can be found here: [file \(nalc.gov.uk\)](https://www.nalc.gov.uk)

NALC ONLINE EVENTS - Further information here: [Online events \(nalc.gov.uk\)](https://www.nalc.gov.uk)

Local Council Award Scheme — preparing an award-winning application

13 October 2021 — 12.00 - 13.15
FREE event

Sponsors: BHIB Councils Insurance, Blachere Illumination and CCLA

The Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) is an accreditation scheme for the local (parish and town) sector to celebrate the successes of councils and provide a mechanism for continuous improvement and development. To ensure all local councils feel confident in applying to the scheme, NALC is hosting this event to provide insights into submitting an award-winning application for each award level. Increasing your chances of achieving the award level hoped for. This event is open to clerks, councillors and council staff interested in the scheme.

Speakers: Anders Hanson, projects manager and Lisa Etchell, projects officer at the National Association of Local Councils

Making rural housing more affordable

17 November 2021 — 12.00 - 13.15
NALC member: £30 – Non-member: £40
Sponsors: BHIB Councils Insurance, Blachere Illumination and CCLA

Affordable rural housing is becoming even harder to obtain for residents in rural parished areas. As land on which to build such housing becomes scarcer and the planning system goes through yet another major overhaul – the net effect seems to be even more socially isolated younger and other people priced out of homeownership in their own areas. At this event, hear from sector experts about the difference local (parish and town) councils can make to influence local initiatives to make housing cheaper and affordable in rural areas – against the odds.

Speakers: Lord Best, chair of the Affordable Housing Commission, Martin Collett, chief executive at English Rural and Richard Quallington, executive director at Action for Communities in Rural England

News from Kent County Council



Completion of Kent's Road Surface Dressing Programme



Kent County Council has successfully completed a £2.1 million road surface preservation programme to extend the life of 45

miles (71 kilometres) of Kent's roads. This specialist treatment called *surface dressing* preserves the structure of roads and extends their useable life. Roads preserved include major strategic routes such as the A228 Ashton Way, Seven Mile Lane and A25 Maidstone Road. The works were completed over a three week programme in July/August and saw 47 roads treated.



Surface Dressing is the application of bitumen, which is sprayed onto the road surface followed by the laying of chippings. Sometimes multiple

layers of bitumen and/or chippings are laid. These layers seal the surface to prevent water penetration, restore texture and improve skid resistance. It is a quick and efficient process that brings real benefits to Kent road users and taxpayers by extending the lifecycle of the road asset in the most economical fashion. The cost of this treatment is £5 per square metre which can preserve a treated road for up to ten years and extends the time before more disruptive and extensive renewal works are required. This compares very favourably to traditional resurfacing methods which can range between £25-30 per square metre.

Booking to visit a Household Waste Recycling Centre

Public consultation

Household Waste & Recycling Centre



Have your say!

We are keen to hear your views on the future use of a booking system to access KCC Household Waste Recycling Centres. Visit our website to find out more.

Consultation closes 30 September 2021

kent.gov.uk/wasteconsultation

To request a hard copy of the consultation booklet or questionnaire, or for any alternative formats, please email alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or call **03000 421553** (text relay service number 18001 03000 421553). This number goes to an answering machine, which is monitored during office hours.



Consultation, Consultation, Consultation

Local audit framework: technical consultation

Government is currently consulting on the Local Audit Framework - Section 8 of the consultation – paras 120 to 131 and Questions 22, 23 and 24 cover smaller authorities) [Local audit framework: technical consultation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). The consultation deadline is **11.45pm on 22 September 2021**.

Lower Thames Crossing Community Impacts Consultation: Highways England is holding a further round of public consultation to seek views on:

- Our plans to build and operate the Lower Thames Crossing and how we will mitigate its impact
- Changes to the project since the design refinement consultation in 2020
- How responses received at each of our previous consultations have informed the development of the project

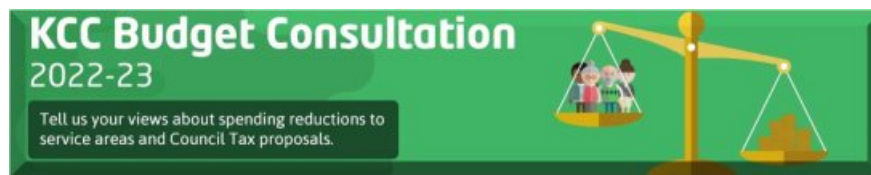
For further details please see [Lower Thames Crossing consultation](#). The consultation deadline is **23:59 on 8 September 2021**.

Kent County Council 2022/2023 Budget Consultation:

KCC is currently consulting on its draft 2022/2023 Budget.

Further details are available from [Budget Consultation 2022-23](#)

[Let's talk Kent](#). The closing date is **19 September 2021**.



Health and Wellbeing - Everybody's Responsibility...



Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Services at Kent County Council : A Consultation

Kent County Council (KCC) has launched a consultation regarding the future of its provision of Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Services.

The Consultation opened on 23 August and closes on 3 October 2021.

When we talk about these services, these are:

- Live Well Kent and Medway
- Mental Health Housing Related Support (Kent only)
- 24-7 Telephone and Online Support Service for Kent and Medway (Release the Pressure helpline)
- Activity Programme for Young People aged between 14 – 35 who have suffered from a first episode of psychosis (Kent only)

Services are currently delivered across Kent and Medway by a wide range of local charities and organisations. KCC and K&M CCG directly contract with two providers, known as Strategic Partners, who both deliver services directly and subcontract to a wide-ranging Delivery Network of providers.

The contracts with the two Strategic Partners come to end on 31 March 2023. Therefore, in preparation for the start of the new contract, KCC and K&M CCG wants to ensure services deliver the personal outcomes which are most important to Kent and Medway residents.

You can complete the consultation questionnaire by following this link:

[Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Services | Let's talk Kent](#)



Update from Kent Downs AONB



Grants for Farmers, land managers, and landowners in the Kent Downs AONB – available now

Applications are open for the [Farming in Protected Landscapes programme](#) in the Kent Downs AONB.

The Kent Downs AONB Unit invites farmers, landowners, and land managers to get in touch to find out more.

The first step is simply to complete our brief [Contact Us](#) form and we'll be in touch to discuss.

The 3-year scheme aims to fund outcomes for People, Place, Climate and Nature in the Kent Downs. It is possible to apply for more than one year. Applications can range from an absolute maximum of £250K for very exceptional projects with no minimum (these limits will be reviewed by the appraisal panel). Funding can be up to 100% but value for money is part of the assessment criteria; grant rates will be lower where there is a profit element to the project proposal.

Through the programme, farmers and land managers in the Kent Downs AONB* will be supported to carry out projects that:

- Provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and cultural heritage
- Support nature-friendly, sustainable farm businesses
- Mitigate the impacts of climate change
- Support nature recovery

[Introductory information](#) is available on our website along with Kent Downs [indicative project ideas](#).

Applications to the programme will be judged by an independent assessment panel and the Kent Downs AONB Unit will provide one-on-one support during the application process.

We welcome enquiries and so please complete our brief [Contact Us](#) form to discuss the programme and ideas that you might already have; we will get back to you as soon as we can.

****Use our [Boundary Map](#) to check if your land is in within the AONB boundary, if it isn't but your idea could be of benefit to the Kent Downs AONB, you may still be eligible.***

Kent Fire and Rescue Service News



Kent Fire &
Rescue Service

Are you aware that Specialised Housing is regulated by the Fire Authority and Local Authority?

You can find further information on Specialised Housing on the [Elderly Accommodation Counsel](#) website.

[Did you know you might be eligible for a free KFRS safe and well visit?](#)

If you're not eligible for a safe and well visit, did you know there are extra steps you can take to help keep your loved ones safe?

There is a selection of fire safety aids available to buy that can help keep you and your loved one safe and independent, including:

- Smoke alarms with warning lights and vibrating pads for the deaf or hard-of-hearing
- Fire-resistant sheets and pillowcases
- Remote smoking ashtrays
- Automatic shut-off switches for ovens and hobs
- Electrical socket guards
- External post boxes
- Key safes

[Sign up for free email advice and information about Specialised Housing](#)

[More information on keeping safe](#)

Safer Living Service

Sign up for our free email support



Keeping you safe and well at home

HEALTH AND WELLBEING CASE STUDIES

Being the first tier of Local Government, Town, Parish and Community Councils make a vital contribution to Health and Wellbeing in working towards a happy and healthy community.

In preparation for the KALC Health and Wellbeing Conference in late November, we would like to know what activities you are doing towards Health and Wellbeing, which we would like to share with other member Councils. Below are some examples from across the UK:

Coleshill Parish Council – Organised groups including weekly knit and natter club, job club, debt, finance and pensions club, mind and wellbeing club, computer club and they also have a community finance support team.

Helston Town Council – Have been matching volunteers to jobs to boost confidence and acquire new skills.

Hook Parish Council – Hosted a free Christmas lunch for people who would have spent Christmas alone, a local business provided the food and transport.

For more case studies, click here: [file \(nalc.gov.uk\)](https://www.nalc.gov.uk)



Please send details to Charmaine at support@kentalc.gov.uk by 30th September



Serving Parish & Town Councils in Kent

A Pandemic Success in Great Chart and Singleton!



Great Chart and Singleton Parish Council took over the lease of the Singleton Environment Centre back in March 2018. Keen to make the property work as a community space, an extension was needed - this is their story and is definitely a Pandemic Success!

At the end of 2019, the Parish Council started the process and obtained Planning permission for the two story container building, the design of which had evolved over several months and with more than a few conversations and improvements to it. Permission was sought from the Landlord (Ashford Borough Council) this was obtained.

Costplan, the management agent, was engaged to oversee the project from tendering to completion. The Tenders went out during February 2020, the contractor to be chosen during April and May and a planned start date in June/July. The Council had a completion date of 23 October – but none of these timings allowed for the devastation caused by a global pandemic. However, the Council proceeded and hoped for the best as a pandemic was new to all and the effect could not be predicted. The process had to be dealt with as everyone else was doing: one day at a time.

After the first total lockdown, the Council eagerly waited for work to start, the footings and groundwork started on time, but there was a delay, because of an oak tree and footing depth – this was solved but despite a good summer, not much could be done with the project. The explanation being that materials were slowly being sourced, but delayed because of Covid. This went on for some three months but the Council did what it could.



The work resumed, but the Council was hampered by work being alternated with other much bigger projects at the time, but patience prevailed by all of those involved.

The work did resume but the weather then changed and there was a lot of rainfall which brought its own problems. The finish date of 23rd October came and went and the Penalty Clause of £250 a week was invoked. This worked in the

Council's favour, as during the build out there were various issues needing to be solved that added a cost to the project, some of which could be off set by the penalty clause.

A Pandemic Success in Great Chart and Singleton!

Obviously, time progressed and Kent went through draconian restrictions ranging from Tier 3 Lockdown measures, Tier 4 then finally into another national Lockdown during the winter. This meant more delays took place. However, some work was achieved over the festive period when traditionally the construction industry would shut down for the fortnight over Christmas and New Year.

During January those involved were able to access the inside of the building. The lower level had much more space available for use and the viewing veranda on the container roofs was brilliant. It was certainly much better than had first been imagined. The whole project will make a welcome addition to the Centre! The Manager was very pleased with the size of his new office as he could now see how much of an improvement it was after three years of working in a such a small area.

Bookings began during the Spring of this year and the Centre is now a place of community cohesion, just as the Parish Council had hoped it would be at the beginning of the planning process.

In Your Neck of the Woods - Stories from Our Parishes and Towns...

Capel Le Ferne Parish Council - KALC Community Awards Reception.

KALC President, John Rivers, attended Capel Le Ferne Parish Council at the end of July to give two KALC Community Awards to some very deserving residents. Maureen Leppard, the Council Clerk, was recognized for her dedicated work over twenty five years. She has made sure that news and events have been promoted to the community, kept the social media platforms up and running and carried out her duties as Clerk to the great benefit of the Community that she serves.



Maureen Leppard receives her KALC Community Award from John Rivers, KALC President

At the same reception, a KALC Community Award was given to volunteers from Capel Le Ferne Youth Club...

"2020 marked the 40th Anniversary for this group with many adult volunteers, over these years, organising club nights, including numerous outings and events, for our Village Youth of 9+ years.

With the last year and half of uncertain times, the Youth Club was forced to suspend meetings for the Youth in Capel-le-Ferne, together with their 40th Anniversary Party, which was much regretted by the organisers, but necessary to prevent the spread of the Covid virus.



Volunteer leaders from Capel Le Ferne Youth Club receive the KALC Community Award from John Rivers, KALC President

Hopefully now, with the easing of restrictions, it is hoped the group can be maintained, with the Youth Club once again being able to provide their expertise in arranging the extensive opportunities and entertainment for youth, to meet friends and join in the many activities on offer at regular meetings and outings.

The 40th Anniversary Party having been cancelled on several occasions is now scheduled for 2022 and this Community Award, supported by the High Sheriff of Kent, Kent County Council and Medway Council, can be displayed to show the appreciation of the Kent Association of Local Councils and Capel-le-Ferne Parish Council."

London Hearts...Defibrillator Offer for KALC Members



We are pleased to be able to again offer members another purchase offer of Defibrillators and Accessories in partnership with the heart charity, London Hearts.

We have been able to agree an exclusive discount for all members for the Mindray C1A semi-automatic Defibrillator. Cost previously was £1045 NOW £745. On supporting equipment – a £100 reduction on the outdoor heated locked or unlocked cabinets and £40 on the wall bracket. All prices are exclusive of VAT. The order form and information on the equipment is attached.

The order process will be by order form only and will need to be sent to jo@londonhearts.org. All orders will be dealt with directly by London Hearts, so **PLEASE DO NOT RETURN TO KALC**. However, we will be kept informed of all orders placed. In addition, as part of the ongoing support package, the charity will also provide at no extra cost an online recorded full demonstration training session with FAQs which you can view and retain for future reference.



If you are interested in purchasing this equipment, then please look at this as a matter of urgency as discounted rates are a “one off” to KALC members only. All applications need to be sent to them at your earliest convenience.

If you make any enquiries to London Hearts, please ensure you mention KALC when doing so, so they are aware that this has come through us and in order that you benefit from the exclusive offer.

When you receive your defibrillator, please ensure to register this by completing the attached Public Access Defibrillator Record Audit Form and return to: pad@secamb.nhs.uk

Please contact: manager@kentalc.gov.uk for an order form

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

www.kentalc.gov.uk

Contacting Us...

For KALC specific issues contact Terry Martin:
chief.executive@kentalc.gov.uk or phone 07475
034346

For legal & technical advice contact Clive Powell:
adviser@kentalc.gov.uk or phone 07475 017247

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)

Training and Partnerships Officer – Charmaine
Keatley: support@kentalc.gov.uk or phone 07378
175948

Job Opportunities in the County...



KALC is always happy to promote any vacancy you may have within your Council. This is a free service if you are in membership. Please email any advertisement to manager@kentalc.gov.uk

At the present time, there are several positions that are currently advertised on our site.

Take a look at the page here:

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