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About your North Ken News

North Ken News is a dedicated newsletter for North Kensington communities produced by Kensington and Chelsea Council.

Have you got news for us?

We are always on the lookout for good news stories, whether they are about an event you are running, a local hero who is working wonders in your community or a programme or course that local residents could benefit from.

If you would like to get in touch with an idea or story, please email northkennews@rbkc.gov.uk and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

Tell us what you think

We're interested in hearing your feedback about North Ken News. We want to produce a newsletter which you enjoy reading and find useful, so please let us know what you'd like to see more of. Email us at northkennews@rbkc.gov.uk

Staying in touch

There are other ways to keep up to date with borough-wide news as well as news and announcements from Kensington and Chelsea Council.

 [@RBKC](https://twitter.com/RBKC)  www.facebook.com/royalborough

 www.nextdoor.co.uk

 www.instagram.com/kensingtonandchelseacouncil

For updates on Grenfell

 [@GrenfellUpdates](https://twitter.com/GrenfellUpdates)

 www.rbkc.gov.uk/grenfell

 To stay up to date with the latest news and events sign up to our e-newsletter mailing list, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search K&C Life.

If you would like to opt out of receiving North Ken News or would prefer to read it online, please let us know at northkennews@rbkc.gov.uk

Help shape our future parking policy

To help us reach our commitment to being carbon net-zero by 2030, we're proposing some changes to our parking policy on Council estates.

Our proposals are to:

-  Introduce electric vehicle charging points on estates
-  Calculate parking charges based on your car's emission level

For hard copies, translation to other languages or accessible formats, or help to complete the survey, email HM-Parking@rbkc.gov.uk



Have your say

Scan the QR code or visit https://consult.rbkc.gov.uk/communities/estates_parking the consultation closes on Friday 14 April.



Become a Taekwon-Do master

Could you be the next master of Taekwon-Do? The Korean martial art is a great way to improve health and fitness while gaining useful self-defence skills. Join classes, which include hand and foot defence, self-defence, sparring, flying kicks and special techniques aimed at developing athletic ability.

Sessions are held at Kensington Leisure Centre, with classes for children as young as three, all the way up to teen and adult classes. Classes are hosted by instructor Alex Nardizzi, a former British and European Taekwon-Do champion.

Fees for the sessions range from £6 for a half an hour under-fives session, to £10 for a 75-minute class for those aged 14 and above.



Are you interested?

To find out more about timings and costs and to register your interest, visit www.tkdimpact.co.uk/kensington

Grenfell Projects Fund initiatives this spring

Spring is here! Look at some of the Grenfell Projects Fund 2 projects we currently have on offer that will get you out and about as the weather warms up:

- ▶ **Homemade Teachers** – DIY maths workshops for adults with children under 16.
- ▶ **Growing with the Community** – Teaching residents about the benefits of mushrooms.
- ▶ **NKenPlay** – Outdoor child play classes.
- ▶ **The Playground Theatre Company** – Creative workshops and events.
- ▶ **Minds United FC** – Female football sessions.
- ▶ **Westside Basketball Club** – Basketball sessions.
- ▶ **Meanwhile Gardens** – Fruit and vegetable gardening sessions.
- ▶ **Walk2Cycle** – Bike maintenance workshops.
- ▶ **Progressay's EE Hub** – Football sessions and tuition.

For the full list of projects, please visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search 'Grenfell Projects Fund' or email Grenfellcommunityteam@rbkc.gov.uk





Greener



Safer



Fairer

A new Council Plan for Kensington and Chelsea

Kensington and Chelsea has published its new Council Plan following extensive consultation with residents, businesses, and community groups.

After hearing from over 1,000 voices throughout the borough, the Council has set out a clear and concise vision that maps out the priorities for the next four years and what people want us to focus on.

The focal point of the new plan is an ambitious culture shift and mission to become the best Council for a borough that is greener, safer, and fairer.

The Council has made a number of early announcements to underpin the plan.

Council tax will be frozen to support people with the cost of living, with an additional £100 Cost of Living Rebate for people living in properties that are council tax band A to D. This is putting a total of £1.7m back into the pockets of residents, at a time when they really need it.

We continue to invest in tackling climate change, committing a £14m fund to accelerate net-zero commitments in our own buildings and vehicles. This includes an £8m fund for schools to achieve greater energy efficiency.

Furthermore, the Council has launched a programme to better connect its own staff with the communities they serve, no matter what their role or position is. Every officer at the Council will be asked to spend at least two days a year volunteering in the borough on local projects and with local organisations.

Read the full Plan

To read the new Council Plan in full and learn more about how it will impact you as a resident, business or learner in Kensington and Chelsea, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/council-plan





Greener

We want to deliver greener neighbourhoods, cleaner air and healthier lives for everyone who lives here. To find out more about our plans to make Kensington and Chelsea greener, scan the QR code.



Safer

Tackling crime and antisocial behaviour is a priority for many residents. To hear about how we will be improving our services and our collaboration with partners such as the police to make Kensington and Chelsea safer, scan the QR code.



Fairer

We want to help make life fairer for people who face the greatest disadvantages and challenges, so that everyone, regardless of who they are or where they live, has opportunities, and can make the most of what the borough has to offer. Scan the QR code to find out about plans to make Kensington and Chelsea fairer.



What is a Council Plan?

Every few years, councils set out their most important priorities, guided by residents and communities, in a document. This document is known as a Council Plan. It can include commitments on funding, development, and attitude change and is influenced by input from those living, working and learning in the borough.

How were local people involved?

Throughout last year we heard from over 1,000 residents including those bereaved and directly affected by the Grenfell tragedy. People told us what they love about the borough and what is

important to them, but also about how people want the Council to grow and change. Views and opinions were gathered via the Grenfell Legacy Consultation and other consultation events and surveys, including our Let's Talk K&C campaign.

Find out more

Find out more about the Council Plan and read it in full on our website www.rbkc.gov.uk/council-plan

Make 2023 your best year with new skills

An 86-year-old grandmother has found new ways of connecting with her family after taking a computer literacy course with Open Age supported by Kensington and Chelsea Council.

In the height of Covid-19, Yvonne Kazeem found herself increasingly isolated and missing family. Starting as a beginner, she developed the confidence to progress to more advanced computer courses and was even awarded highly commended certification in the first ever Mayor of London, Adult Learning Awards.

"The tutors have been so patient with me. Now I can email the Council, search for news and contact my family. It helped me through the lockdown – I don't know what I'd have done otherwise."



To find out more about adult learning opportunities, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/adultlearning and make this your best year yet.

Yvonne Kasim

Grenfell Community Assembly

A huge thank you to the residents and organisations that attended the last Grenfell Community Assembly on Monday 6 February 2023 – especially those who took the time to feedback on the future of the Assembly.



Updates

Make sure you visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/assembly to view updates about the resident feedback and how it's going to shape the Assemblies moving forward.



Children's Book Project returns home to North Ken

The Children's Book Project has found a new home in Golborne Road with a social investment lease supported by Kensington and Chelsea Council. A recipient of a Queen's Award for voluntary service, the charity receives over 800,000 donations of books which it sorts and donates to schools and families across London.

The Council worked with the charity to find a place where it can be at the heart of the community, by making use of an unused space. The charity started life at Barlby Primary school in North Kensington, founded by local North Kensington resident Liberty Venn. After spending years at Lots Road in Chelsea, the charity has returned to a new premises next to Trellick Tower.

To find out more about the Children's Book Project, visit www.childrensbookproject.co.uk

Liberty Venn, Founder of the Children's Book Project said: "Our new premises on Golborne Road take us back to the heart of the community in which we began, and we are extremely grateful to Kensington and Chelsea Council for their continued support."



Scan the QR code to hear from Liberty Venn about their new home and see the project in action on our YouTube <https://youtu.be/MICtobHvCsw>



New service standards helping us to be a consistently caring and competent Council

A group of residents have been working with the Council for the past six months to create a new set of service standards which aim to ensure residents receive the best possible service from the Council.

Facilitated by Volunteer Centre Kensington and Chelsea Chief Executive, Michael Ashe, the residents and customer services staff have met six times to share their good and bad experiences of contacting the Council, discuss ideas of how services can be more consistent and what is important to residents.

The new standards consider how residents want to feel when they contact the Council, what the Council needs to do to achieve that and what staff and services need to do. They look at ensuring Council staff listen and deal empathetically with residents' enquiries, update residents with progress on their enquiry every step of the way, take responsibility and do not pass the buck.

We're now interested in hearing your thoughts on the emerging standards. We'll be asking for your input on our Council channels in April.

Hamish Tristram, a resident involved in the process said: "This is a very challenging thing to do and after a slow start, the group all came along with the intention to contribute rather than to complain. I think the service standards have developed better than I thought but implementation is another matter. I think we've come up with some helpful objectives."



don't miss out on

FREE PRIORITY SUPPORT

from your electricity network

UK Power Networks keeps the lights on in your local area. We offer free priority support to anyone who needs a little extra help in case there is ever a disruption to your power supply. You could also get energy saving tips and help understanding your energy bills.

If you or anyone in your household have a serious health issue or impairment, are of pensionable age or have a child under 5, make sure you register your details on our Priority Services Register:



ukpowernetworks.co.uk/Priority



or call our free number
0800 169 9970



Power cuts do not happen very often; if they do, you and your family will have access to tailored communication, a 24-hour priority support telephone number and other personalised support that could include support such as hot meals. Our team uses the real time language translation line to assist you should you need it when you call us.