

October 2021

Page 3
Police station sale
delayed

Page 6
Close the door on
tenancy fraud

Page 7
Grenfell Projects Fund
is back



**Could
volunteering
be for you?
page 5**

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 you find useful, so please let us know what you'd like to see more of. Email us at northkennews@rbkc.gov.uk

Covid-19

Information on our Coronavirus response and guidance is correct at the time of going to press. For the latest updates, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/coronavirus

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 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

Over £1.6m funding for voluntary organisations

Following the launch of a new Council programme called the Voluntary Sector Support Fund (VSSF), 35 organisations across the borough have accessed over £1.6 million to help deliver much-needed services in the community. The successor to the Corporate Grants scheme, the VSSF has made it possible for both old and new voluntary organisations to secure financial support.

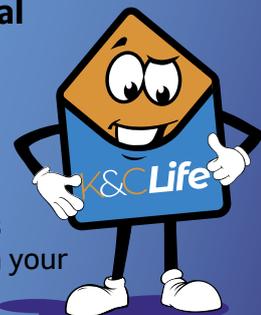
Local organisations in North Kensington such as Venture Community Association, Kids on the Green, Youth Action Alliance and more have all been successful through the VSSF and are able to continue to serve the needs of the community.

Those that were unsuccessful in the application process have been able to access other forms of Council support to help them find the best way to deliver their programmes.

Learn more about the fund by visiting www.rbkc.gov.uk and searching "voluntary sector support fund".

Stay informed with our newsletter

Have you signed up to the resident newsletter K&C Life? The weekly newsletter shares the latest information about local events, Council news, cultural activities, job opportunities, local stories and more.



It only takes a few minutes to scan the QR code, put in your email address and then start getting news you want to know about directly to your inbox.

Already subscribed? Why not tell a neighbour to sign up?



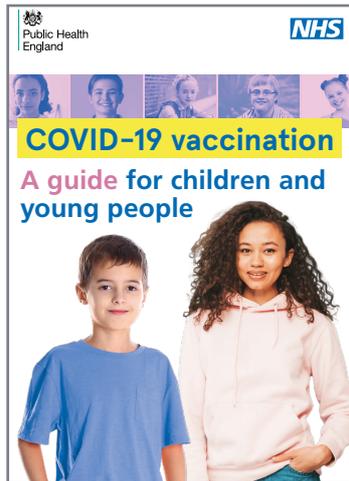
Vaccines for children

This autumn all children aged 12 to 15 will be offered one dose of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccination. The vaccine programme for 12 to 15 year olds will take place primarily through schools. Children who are unable to receive the vaccination at school will be followed up with an offer via their GP.

A consent form and information leaflet will be used to seek parental consent in the first instance.

We will be working closely with the NHS and local schools to roll out the vaccine programme, and more information will follow in the coming weeks.

For more information, FAQs, leaflets and other resources for children about vaccination, visit www.gov.uk and search "vaccine resources for children".



Booster vaccines

The NHS will be providing Covid-19 booster vaccines for certain groups. Booster vaccines started being offered from Wednesday 22 September and more information on booking will be made available to those eligible in due course. Individuals who will be eligible include:

- People aged 50 and over
- Those aged 16 to 49 with a condition that puts them at a higher risk
- People who live or work in care homes
- Health and social care workers
- People who care for or live with someone who is immunosuppressed

For more information on child and booster vaccination, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search "Coronavirus FAQs".

Police station sale delayed

The Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime notified the Council of its intention to sell Notting Hill Police Station on 30 July 2021. Three community groups have expressed an interest in the property and because it is an Asset of Community Value, there will now be a six-month halt on the sale. This means that the site cannot be sold to anyone other than an eligible community interest group before 30 January 2022.

The community groups that that have expressed an interest are:

1. Kensington Society
2. Kensington Temple Church
3. Age UK Kensington and Chelsea

The Council is supportive of all attempts to keep the space for the benefit of the community and there are more safeguards in our Local Plan to help keep social and community uses of the building in the future.

We'll be sharing updates as we receive them on the Council's newsroom. Visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/newsroom for the latest.



Tell us what you care about most on our new hub

We've launched a Consultation and Engagement Hub to make it easier than ever for you to find and share your thoughts on the topics you care about most.

The convenient online hub allows you to search for a variety of consultations about local issues.

Search for a topic that you care about by postcode, keyword, interest and much more and subscribe to the new Consultations e-newsletter so you always know what consultations are taking place.

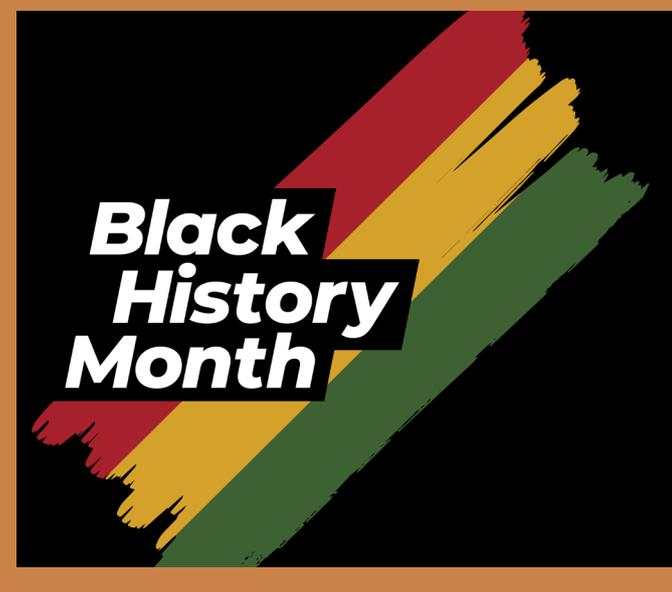
For more information visit <https://consult.rbkc.gov.uk>

Celebrate Black History this October

Are you planning to celebrate Black History Month this October? There are a number of programmes and events taking place in the borough this year thanks to the support of our Black History Month grants scheme.

Find an event either online or offline and make a plan to take part.

To find out more, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search "Black History Month".



Free e-scooter training at Maxilla Walk

Bikeworks has teamed up with e-scooter operator TIER to offer free e-scooter training at the Bikeworks Training Centre on Maxilla Walk this October.

If you've never ridden an e-scooter before and want to build your confidence on the road or just want to brush up on your road skills, these sessions are for you.



Bikeability-trained instructors will teach you how to ride in a safe and fun environment, and after the session you'll receive free ride credit with TIER. TIER e-scooters are provided for free during the session and you'll

get a free foldable helmet when you take part. Sessions are available on Sunday 2 October and Saturday 17 October at various times. Please book in advance as spaces are limited.

Visit www.bikeworks.org.uk/micromobility-booking/ to secure your place. The Council is consulting now on 15 new locations for e-scooter parking around the borough.

Have your say on the locations at consult.rbkc.gov.uk/communities/escooter-parking before Sunday 24 October.

Football finale for popular summer sports camp

This summer saw children across North Kensington take part in an exciting football tournament organised by London Capital FC on Saturday 21 August.



To find out more about London Capital FC and the Learning Club, visit [@LondonCapitalFC](#) and [@LearningClubCA](#) on Twitter.

Over 200 children across four age groups took part in the event, held at the historic Emslie Horniman's Pleasance Park. It drew a wide range of spectators, including parents, representatives from the Grenfell community, an under-13 Arsenal pre-academy player, a Guardian newspaper editor, local police and politicians.

The tournament came about as a result of the Learning Club Community Association's learning club which runs a sports camp during the summer holidays, including regular football training with London Capital FC.

Ali Sharif, Founder of the Learning Club Community Association, said: "We've had over 90 children a day attending the sports camps, so to end the holidays with a huge football tournament was a fantastic finale."

North Kensington local Elliott Richards, aged 14, played at the tournament and said:

"It was a very enjoyable bootcamp over the holidays, and the tournament at the end was the icing on the cake. It was an exciting and competitive day for the team. We all played well and worked hard together. I was grateful for the acknowledgement, and it was a great pleasure to receive the best player award."

Could volunteering be for you?

Volunteer Centre Kensington and Chelsea (VCKC) is providing opportunities for you to give back to your community this autumn. Volunteering is a great way to find out what you love to do while also doing something truly amazing for your community.

Whether you want to fill the gaps in your CV, meet new people or gain work experience, there is something for everyone and the benefits are endless.

VCKC has drop-in sessions where its trained advisors are on hand to match you with local and relevant opportunities and answer any questions you may have. VCKC will explore the reasons you want to volunteer and contact local organisations on your behalf. Visit www.voluntarywork.org.uk to see the latest volunteering opportunities or email registration@vckc.org.uk to make an appointment to see an advisor.



For more information, visit www.voluntarywork.org.uk

Close the door on tenancy fraud

Close the door on Tenancy Fraud



Key Amnesty

Keys can be handed in at the following locations and should be placed in an envelope with the property address on:

- The Hub, Kensal Road, W10 5BE
- 12 Blantyre Street, Worlds End Estate, SW10 0DR
- Baseline Studios, Whitchurch Road, W11 4AT



A new campaign raising awareness of tenancy fraud will run alongside a 'key amnesty', where people illegally renting out their Council home for personal profit can hand back their property with no repercussions.

Since 2015, the Council has stopped more than 250 tenancy and housing frauds resulting in over 150 properties being re-allocated, but with a growing waiting list and temporary accommodation costs reaching a national average of £18,000 per year per household, more needs to be done to ensure Council homes are available to individuals and families most in need.

Renting out your Council-owned home without permission is a criminal offence and carries a maximum prison sentence of two years. Until Friday 29 October 2021, if you are illegally renting your Council-owned home or no longer living there, you can hand back your keys with no repercussions.

The Council will then be able to reallocate the property to those in genuine need on the housing waiting list.

Concerned about tenancy fraud in your area?

If you have any information or concerns about a property that you think could be being rented out for personal profit, or is uninhabited, you can phone **07739 970860** or email **tenancyfraud@rbkc.gov.uk**. **Your information will be kept confidential.**

Planning application for Silchester new homes now live

An application for planning permission to build 11 homes for social rent on the Silchester Arches site is now available to view and comment on via the Council's website.

Silchester Arches is one of our phase two sites which forms part of the New Homes Delivery Programme. The programme aims to build 600 new homes in the borough, 300 of which will be for social rent.

The planning application follows two rounds of consultation with local residents and stakeholders and two "You said, We did" resident engagement sessions where we were able to outline how we had adapted plans following resident feedback.

Residents can now access the planning application on the Council's website www.rbkc.gov.uk/planning/searches where they can formally comment.

Comments are able to be made:

- **Online** – via the planning application page detailed above
- **Via email** – to planning@rbkc.gov.uk
- **In the post** – to Strategic Development Team, Kensington and Chelsea Council, Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX

Any comments provided will then be considered by the Planning Department. You can find out more information about the Silchester new homes plan on the Silchester Arches web page www.rbkc.gov.uk/new-homessilchester-arches

Grenfell Project Fund 2 now open

apply now

The Grenfell Projects Fund is back, and with the help of the North Kensington community it aims to be bigger and better.

We've now launched the second round of the Grenfell Projects Fund with a pre-qualification stage to help those residents interested in applying for funding ahead of the main application stage in November.

Applicants who are successful at this pre-qualification stage will be invited to apply at the main application stage. The pre-application stage will ensure applicants have everything in place for the main application stage.

Last year 57 projects were allocated £700k worth of funding to deliver projects that would benefit the North Kensington community. These ranged from football sessions for adults with mental health issues and boxing and fitness sessions for young people to multi-arts projects including circus and music skills and seating for people to socialise outside.

This year we've been working with the local community to help shape this new round to ensure it

meets residents' needs and to recruit to a Residents' Panel. Residents were keen to establish a Residents' Panel to ensure greater transparency over how the fund was allocated and to help co-design future funds and programmes with the Council.

We also held several workshops last month to help those residents and organisations who live or work in North Kensington and who were interested in applying for funding for a local project, initiative or scheme to complete the online pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ).

Visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search for Grenfell Projects Fund to complete the online PQQ by Wednesday 20 October and to read the guidance notes which will take you through the process.

If you require this information about the applications process, please email GrenfellCommunityTeam@rbkc.gov.uk or call Kevin Ramsey on 07857 696791.

Time to check your voter registration details

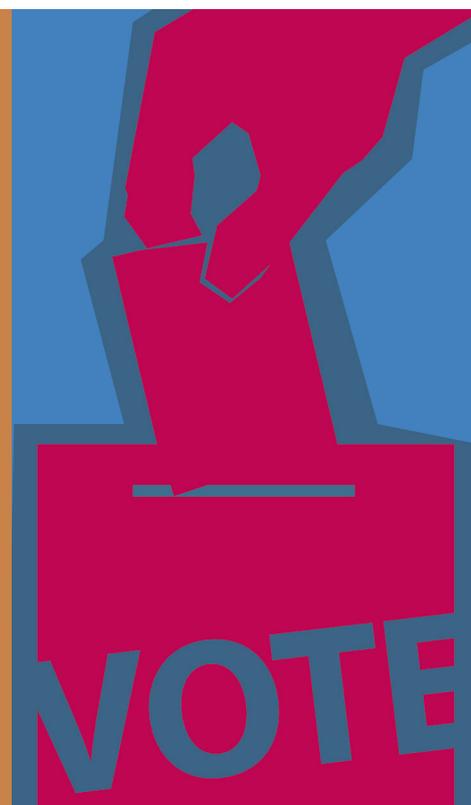
Local people are being warned not to lose their voice on decisions that affect them by making sure their electoral registration details are up to date.

With elections taking place in Kensington and Chelsea in May 2022, this is an important opportunity for residents to make sure they can take part.

The annual canvass ensures that Kensington and Chelsea can keep the electoral register up to date,

identifying any residents who are not registered to vote so that they can be encouraged to do so.

If you want to register, the easiest way is online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote, or wait to be sent information explaining how to do this by post.



An update from government on the future of Grenfell Tower

The government fully recognises the anger and upset that recent media coverage has caused many bereaved families, survivors and the immediate community, and would like to clarify that this was not a government announcement of a decision on Grenfell Tower.

The government knows how important and sensitive a decision on the future of the Tower is and has been continuing discussions with the community as it considers a decision. A letter was sent to bereaved families and local residents in July, indicating that an update would be given in September. Please see www.gov.uk/grenfell-community-updates for more information.

As the owner of the Grenfell Tower site, the government wants to continue to provide regular information on the Tower and give you opportunities to ask any questions you might have and share your thoughts and concerns.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is holding weekly 'drop-in' meetings every Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 1pm. No appointment is needed, just stop by when it suits you.



This month these are on:

- **Friday 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 October** at The Curve, 10 Bard Road W10 6TH
- **Wednesday 6 and 13 October** at Baseline Studios, Whitchurch Road, W11 4AT
- **Wednesday 20 and 27 October** at Bay20, 71 St Marks Road, W10 6JG

MHCLG is also holding monthly online meetings – the next one is on **Tuesday 12 October**. For joining details, please email GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk or call **0303 444 0011**.

If you would like further information, or to talk to someone from MHCLG's community engagement or site management teams in person, please email GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk or call **0303 444 0011**.

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission

The Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission will ensure that the bereaved families, survivors and North Kensington residents lead decision-making on the long-term future of the Grenfell Tower site.

To contact the independent Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission directly, please visit www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/contact where you can also sign up for their monthly newsletter.

Grenfell Tower
Memorial Commission

For regular news and updates, you can follow the Memorial Commission on **Twitter or Instagram @GrenfellTowerMC** Or you contact them by emailing GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk or calling **0303 444 4831**