

Our Borough

Winter 2021



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Boost your immunity

Protect yourself with
free vaccinations



'Tis the season

Discover the festive fun
on offer this winter



Have your say

Share your thoughts on
affordable housing



Community spirit

Good causes share £2.8m
voluntary sector fund



Going green

How we can all help to protect the planet **Pages 4-5**

Welcome to Our Borough

Share your stories

Do you have news you'd like to share with fellow residents across Kensington and Chelsea? Whether you want to promote an event, celebrate a community champion or let others know what's going on in the borough, we would love to hear from you.

If you've got a story to share, email commsteam@rbkc.gov.uk

Let us know what you think

Our Borough is your newsletter and we want it to reflect the issues that matter to you. If you've got any feedback, please let us know at commsteam@rbkc.gov.uk

Covid-19

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

Cover image courtesy of The Trustees of the Natural History Museum London

We're available online

To view this or previous issues of Our Borough online, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/newsroom/all-council-statements/our-borough

Staying in touch

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

 @RBKC

 www.facebook.com/royalborough

 www.instagram.com/kensingtonandchelseacouncil

 www.nextdoor.co.uk – search Kensington and Chelsea Council

For updates on Grenfell

 @GrenfellUpdates

 www.rbkc.gov.uk/grenfell

Boost your immunity this winter

This winter, most adults and children will be eligible for a flu jab, a Covid-19 vaccination and/or a booster. These free vaccinations are the most effective way to boost your natural immunity and protect yourself, your family and community from these viruses.

Dr Oisín Brannick, GP at North Kensington's Exmoor Surgery, said:

“Looking after our health during winter is really important. This year, both flu and Covid-19 are in circulation, meaning that it's essential for everyone to take the vaccinations that are on offer to them.”

“This will help to prevent the serious impact that these viruses can have and also help to reduce their spread.”

You will be contacted by letter or text to let you know which vaccines are available to you.

You can get your flu jab from your GP or many pharmacies. You can also pay for a flu jab at pharmacies if you're not eligible for the free vaccination through the NHS.

Book your vaccine appointments, boost your immunity and stay well this winter.

There's additional support on staying well available for those living in North Kensington who have been affected by the Grenfell tragedy. Find out more at: www.grenfell.nhs.uk

For more information, visit: www.nwlondonccg.nhs.uk



Borough welcomes Afghan evacuees

Evacuees staying in the borough after leaving Afghanistan have been receiving dedicated help from a team set up by Kensington and Chelsea Council.

The Refugee Support Team was created in September and has worked with other agencies to provide on-the-ground assistance at hotels in the borough.

Educational support has been rolled out, with school places

provided to 150 primary and 90 secondary-aged children, and the Council has also made four good-quality mews houses available for evacuee families.

One Afghan national who arrived from Kabul at the end of August said:

“For now we are here and the Council is doing everything to help us, starting with clothes, food and other things. They are thinking about everything and we appreciate that.”



amazon
wishlist

If you want to help out, why not purchase and donate an item from our Amazon wishlist?

The list contains clothing, toiletries, toys and other essentials for evacuees living in the borough.

Find out more by searching 'Afghanistan evacuees' at: www.rbkc.gov.uk

Celebrate your local area with a 'K&C Christmas'

As the borough gears up for the festive season, the Council is working with local businesses and cultural organisations to spread joy and cheer through a 'K&C Christmas'.

Whether you're out shopping for Christmas gifts, meeting friends for that annual festive get-together, or just want to explore all the seasonal fun that the local area has to offer, a 'K&C Christmas' will help you make the most of the borough.

An online advent calendar with all the wonderful events happening throughout November and December is available to view, sharing festive things to do and promotions available in shops, restaurants, museums, leisure venues and more.

To ramp up the spirits of the season, a Christmas Cultural Market will be open to all at the end of November, celebrating the rich cultures and diversity of our local community and offering an opportunity to buy special gifts for yourself or loved ones.

If you're a lover of markets, Christmas at Portobello is back this year with special Sunday markets running from 28 November to 19 December. Stop by to pick up delicious foodie goodies and unique gifts with an extra day to shop at Portobello and Golborne Market.

Also in December, the 606 Club jazz band will be performing Christmas classics in Duke of York Square on Saturday 4 December. All are welcome to stop by.



To find out the latest, take a look at the K&C Christmas Advent Calendar at www.rbkc.gov.uk/christmas



Doing our bit for a cleaner, greener future

With the world's leaders and climate scientists having just gathered in Glasgow for COP26 – the United Nations Climate Change Conference – protecting our planet is at the top of the global agenda.

We all have a part to play in tackling climate change, and over the last five years Kensington and Chelsea has cut carbon emissions faster than any other London borough.

Here are some of the things we've done to make our borough greener and our energy cleaner:

11km of quietway cycle routes



Started work on our first carbon neutral housing estate, which will make **405** homes carbon neutral in North Kensington



11,000 tonnes of mixed recycling and 220 tonnes of food waste collected in 2020/21



1st parking scheme in England introduced, where the price of a permit is based on the vehicle's CO₂ emissions per gram



532

charging points installed for electric vehicles



£10m

committed to fund green initiatives over the next decade



10 parks awarded the Green Flag

9

school streets introduced to encourage active travel and lower pollution around playgrounds



448

Green Doctor home energy visits carried out to help residents lower their bills



21

new pollinator friendly areas created and **15** bug hotels installed as part of the Bee Superhighway



Want to do your bit to help tackle climate change? Try some of these simple steps...

1

Switch off appliances when you're not using them

2

Make your home warmer and cheaper to run with safe insulation, support for heating bills and new windows – there could be grants to help

3

Shop local and choose seasonal foods to cut emissions created by your food being transported

4

Give your recycling a rinse – contaminated waste can cause whole loads to be sent for incineration instead of being recycled

5

Ditch the car for shorter journeys if you can and walk or cycle more each week

6

If you have a real Christmas tree, compost it or recycle it. Find out how - visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/christmascollections

High-tech filters cut care home Covid risk

Residents in Kensington and Chelsea care homes are being protected from airborne viruses thanks to the installation of cutting-edge air filters.

The High-Efficiency Particulate Air purification units, which have been fitted in 14 locations in the borough and neighbouring Westminster, reduce the risk of residents catching Covid-19, flu and other existing and emerging viruses.

The units were purchased following specialist air quality surveys commissioned by the councils and carried out in care homes in May 2021. The results recommended developing air quality hazard control plans, looking at ways to improve natural ventilation and creating clean air zones.

Zoe Smith, registered manager at Ellesmere House, one of the first care homes in the borough to receive a purifier, said: *“I feel reassured that we are able to provide air purifiers, knowing that we are doing everything we possibly can to protect our residents, staff and visitors from catching Covid-19, flu and other airborne viruses.”*

Noisy drivers targeted in acoustic camera expansion

Noisy and nuisance drivers could soon face fines anywhere in Kensington and Chelsea, after residents overwhelmingly supported a boroughwide crackdown.

After piloting cutting edge acoustic camera technology last year in Knightsbridge, the Council has issued fines to 144 drivers caught racing or revving on Sloane Street and Pont Street.

A Public Space Protection Order, currently only existing in

Knightsbridge, has now been expanded to allow officers to enforce against anti-social driving from Kensal Road in North Kensington to the Chelsea Embankment.

Scan the QR code to listen to some of the noisy drivers captured on acoustic cameras in the borough.



Prairie Garden boosts biodiversity

A new ‘Prairie Garden’ has been planted on North Kensington’s Lancaster West Estate to boost biodiversity in the area.

The garden sits on the green space between Hurstway and Testerton Walk and is a partnership between Kensington and Chelsea Council, Grow2Know and The Natural History Museum’s Urban Nature project.

The garden is full of grasses and perennials which return year after year, are resilient against challenging weather and attract wildlife. The Prairie Garden will also act as a pollinator hotspot for our Bee Superhighway and improve the biodiversity of the area.



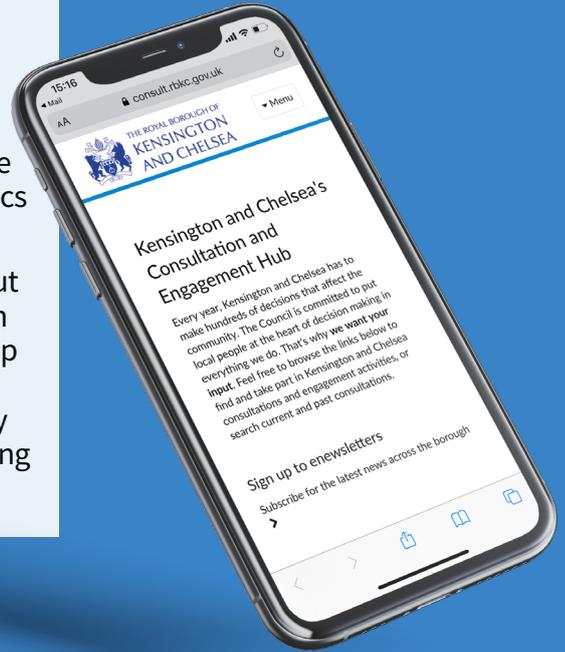
Have your say on the issues that matter to you

The Council has put together a consultations and engagement hub, as well as a brand new e-newsletter, so you can easily choose which local issues you want to share your thoughts on.

Whether you care about something in your area, are interested in the environment, or

are curious about housing, use the new hub to search for topics you want to talk to us about.

If you're worried you'll miss out on important consultations on our hub, make sure you sign up to the e-newsletter so you get a reminder in your inbox every other month about what's going on in the borough.



Check out the latest consultations at: <https://consult.rbkc.gov.uk>



Have your say on affordable housing

There's still time for you to help shape the future of affordable housing in Kensington and Chelsea by taking part in our consultation into a new Intermediate and Key Worker Housing Policy.

Your views will help decide how we provide affordable housing for those who can't afford to rent or buy on the open market but who don't qualify for a social home, including key workers.

The consultation will also seek to identify how the Council's limited stock of housing should be allocated, which roles should be considered as key workers and whether priority should be given to those currently living out of the borough.

It follows a successful Key Worker Pilot Scheme in 2020 which saw more than 325 people express their interest in 14 flats in North Kensington, which were targeted at those working locally in the NHS and education sectors.

You can find out more about the consultation and take part at <https://consult.rbkc.gov.uk/housing/key-worker-and-intermediate-housing>. The closing date for submissions is **Monday 22 November**.

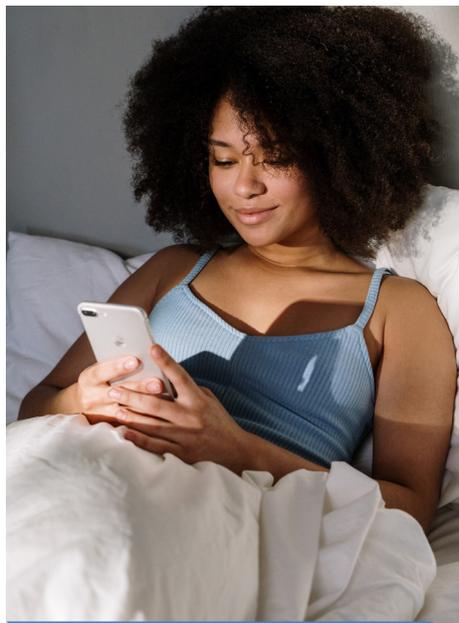


Help others get online

There are a number of ways you can make a difference to someone's life in your community – and a particularly useful step is to help a loved one, friend or stranger get online.

The Council has put together the K&C Digital Inclusion Partnership to make sure no one is left behind digitally via a few different schemes where you can help someone get connected.

Have an old, unused device? Or have the digital skills to teach someone internet basics? Get in touch with us today so you can help someone tomorrow!



Visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/get-online to find out how you can help.



New homes programme gathers pace

Plans submitted for Barlby Road homes

Plans for 83 new homes on Barlby Road in North Kensington have been submitted to the Council's Planning department.

The proposals, which are part of Phase Two of the programme to provide 600 new homes in the borough, include 38 social rent homes, four intermediate or key worker rental properties and 41 which will be available on the open market.

The development will also provide an indoor sports facility, an upgraded and enlarged community garden and an extension to a neighbouring NHS dental practice.

Once validated, the plans will be visible on the Council's planning application page www.rbkc.gov.uk/planning/searches where residents will be able to comment formally.

Work underway on more new homes

Construction of 20 new homes for local residents on another of the Council's Phase One New Homes Programme sites has begun at Hewer Street in North Kensington.

Half of the homes in the development, opposite St Charles Hospital, will be offered at intermediate rent available to key workers. The first residents should be able to move in before the end of 2022 and all the new homes within the project will remain in Council ownership.

The news follows the first spade going into the ground at nearby Kensal Road in July, with 37 new homes due to be completed – 27 for social rent with the remaining 10 offered at intermediate rent.

Fine out the latest news from each of the sites by searching "new homes" at www.rbkc.gov.uk

Voluntary sector receives more than £2.8 million

This autumn, we launched our Voluntary Sector Support Fund (VSSF), providing over £2.8 million in funding to 35 local organisations including Chelsea Theatre, Kids On The Green, Kensington and Chelsea Forum and more.

Through the fund, organisations get access to financial backing under an 18-month commitment to make sure we provide ample opportunity for new, helpful third sector organisations to apply for financial support.

The successor to the Corporate Grants Scheme, the VSSF provides vital organisations with core funding that will take the strain off of them financially, and allow them to focus on delivering much-needed services for the community.

The Chelsea Theatre is using VSSF funding to provide space for the likes of Age UK, Open Age, London Sports Trust and more and to run a café offering subsidised food and drink and creative classes.

Chelsea Theatre General Manager Paul Adlam said:

"It's wonderful to be a recipient of the VSSF grant and we will continue to grow with our diverse community, providing a place of comfort and artistic expression for those who need it."



Hear more from Paul by scanning this QR code

Useful Council numbers and contact information

We know that when you have a question or a concern, you need to speak to the right person or find the right information quickly. Here's a list of our key contacts and information points:

Benefits

- 📞 020 7361 3006
- @ benefits@rbkc.gov.uk

Council tax

Note - all transaction related requests including claiming Housing Benefits or paying council tax can now be done quickly and easily through the relaunched MyRBKC.

- 📞 020 7361 3005
- 🌐 www.rbkc.gov.uk/myrbkc

Environmental Health

This team is able to assist with animal and pest control services, public health, general health and safety and food safety matters.

- 📞 020 7361 3002
- @ environmentalhealth@rbkc.gov.uk

Any emergency calls outside of working hours are transferred to an out-of-hours service.

Housing

Information and advice to help you find suitable accommodation, advice on keeping your home, and homelessness.

- 📞 020 7361 3008
- @ housing@rbkc.gov.uk

Emergency calls to the Homelessness Placement Unit outside of 9am-5pm Monday to Friday are transferred to an out-of-hours services.

Housing Management

On 1 March 2018, the Council took over the management of its homes from Kensington & Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation (KCTMO). This includes day-to-day services such as repairs, cleaning and looking after your estate.

- 📞 0800 137 111 or the mobile friendly number 020 3617 7080
- @ HM-CustomerServices@rbkc.gov.uk

There is a faster, easier and mobile-friendly MyRBKC now at your disposal. Check it out for yourself on www.rbkc.gov.uk/myrbkc and once registered, you can:

- better manage transactions like paying Council Tax or claiming Housing Benefit.
- sign-up for email notifications about those Council decisions you are most interested in. From planning to governance, choose what you want to hear about and

how frequently.

- report issues online and get them resolved quicker.
- The 15 new online Report-It forms can be used anytime, anywhere to tell us about everything from noise issues, fly-tipping or broken streetlights to health and safety concerns at a restaurant or business. www.rbkc.gov.uk/global/report-it/report-problem

Arts and leisure

Information on cultural activities in the borough.

- 📞 020 7361 3003
- @ artsandleisure@rbkc.gov.uk
- 🐦 @RBKCulture
- 📘 @RBKCulture

The team can assist with information on our schools, access to education, support services for special educational needs and disabilities, Adult Learning and Employment opportunities and safeguarding, looked after children and leaving care.

- 📞 020 7361 3009
- @ educationline@rbkc.gov.uk

Family Information Service

A free, impartial information service for parents and carers of children and young people aged up to 19 (up to 25 for those with additional needs), including Tax-Free Childcare.

- 📞 020 7361 3302
- @ fis@rbkc.gov.uk

Libraries

Call or email to find or join a library or learn about borrowing and charges, home library services, special events for adults and children, job seekers and careers advice and much more.

- 📞 020 7361 3010
- @ information@rbkc.gov.uk
- 🐦 @RBKCLibraries
- 📘 @rbkclibraries

Parking

General parking enquiries

- 📞 020 7361 3004
- @ enquiries@rbkcparking.com

Rough sleeping

If you see someone sleeping rough in the borough, you can call the Street Population Outreach Team on:

- 📞 020 7341 5210 or 020 7361 3008
- 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.**

You can also report a rough sleeper via the national website Streetlink or by calling:

- 📞 0300 500 0914
- 🐦 @Tell_Streetlink (for national website and helpline)

Streetline

Streetline cover everything relating to street-and city-spaces within the borough.

- @ streetline@rbkc.gov.uk

Social Services

- 📞 020 7361 3013
 - @ socialservices@rbkc.gov.uk
- Any emergency calls outside of working hours are transferred to an out-of-hours service.

Help for those affected by the Grenfell tragedy:

- 📞 0800 0234 650 (NHS helpline for those seeking mental health or emotional support)

Grenfell Health and Wellbeing Service:

- 🌐 www.grenfellwellbeing.com