



Kennington Community Council

Kennington Community Council Annual Report 2020 - 2021

Welcome to the annual report of Kennington Community Council where you will find details of your Councillors, how the council spent your money and how this expenditure is funded, along with the activities of the council over the past year.

Kennington Community Council came into existence on 1 April 2019 and, as a civil Parish Council, it is the first tier of local government for our area. The Council is divided into five Wards to provide balance across the area. Three wards have four Councillors each, one ward has three Councillors and one ward has one councillor.

The Council usually meets on the second Wednesday of every month for a full council meeting in public. Other Committees and Subcommittees of the Council meet as required by the amount of business they need to consider. Meetings will usually include a Public Open Session for members of the public to make representations, answer questions, and give evidence regarding items on the agenda or to suggest issues for discussion at a future meeting.

Your Councillors

Councillors are volunteers who want to give time to support their community. Elections are held every four years, with the next election in May 2023. If vacancies occur between elections, the Community Council can Co-opt new members who serve as Councillors for the remainder of the term.

At the end of 2020-21, the following Councillors were in post

Justin	Armitage	Councillor	Little Burton Farm	Co-opted 10 July 2019
Paul	Bartlett	Councillor	Grosvenor Hall	Elected 2 May 2019
Alan	Cooper	Chair	Bybrook	Elected 2 May 2019
Alan	Dean	Councillor	Bybrook	Co-opted 12 June 2019
Charles	Ellis	Councillor	Grosvenor Hall	Elected 2 May 2019
Nathan	Iliffe	Councillor	Kennington	Elected 2 May 2019

Jane	Martin	Vice Chair	Little Burton Farm	Co-opted 10 July 2019
Chris	Mendes	Councillor	Little Burton Farm	Co-opted 10 July 2019
Chris	Morley	Councillor	Kennington	Elected 2 May 2019
John	Seaton	Councillor	Kennington	Co-opted 09 July 2019
Mark	Silvester	Councillor	Bybrook	Co-opted 12 June 2019
Brian	Varney	Councillor	Kennington North	Elected 2 May 2019
Carole	White	Councillor	Grosvenor Hall	Co-opted 27 Nov 2019

Staff

The Council is supported by a part-time Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Deborah Prior was appointed to this post in December 2019.

Committees

Committees are established to provide additional focus on particular responsibilities of the Council. The Committee structure is reviewed annually, to determine whether they are still required, and Terms of Reference amended as necessary. This is formalised at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May each year.

During the year 2020/2021, the Council was supported by the following Committees:

- Finance and General Purposes
- Personnel and Development
- Planning
- Environment and Open Spaces
- Communications

Finance and General Purposes Committee - This Committee works closely with the Council's Responsible Financial Officer to provide assurance that the Council's financial management is adequate and effective, and that the Council has a sound system of financial control which facilitates the effective exercise of the Council's functions, including arrangements for the management of risk and for the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption.

Personnel and Development Committee - The Committee works closely with the Council's Clerk to provide assurance that the Council's management of employees meets statutory requirements, and that training of staff and councillors is relevant to current and future needs of the individuals as Councillors and the Council as an organisation.

Planning - The Committee works closely with the Council's Proper Officer to provide assurance that all planning applications that directly relate to the Community area are brought forward for consideration in a timely manner, and that the Committee's views in respect of planning applications which merit support, objection or other comment are lodged with the relevant Planning Authority within their published timescales. The Committee makes reasonable endeavours to find out the views of the community, to inform its views when considering applications.

Environment and Open Spaces Committee - The Committee works closely with residents, statutory bodies and voluntary organisations to protect promote and enhance the environment of the Council's area, having regard to legislation including but not limited to the Local Government Act 1972, the Public Health Act 1936, the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, Highways Act 1980, the Open Spaces Act 1906, the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908.

Communications Committee - The Committee works closely with the Council's Clerk to define, set up and monitor all forms of communication to the public, having regard to the Local Government Act 1972 s. 142. The Committee members were solely responsible for the development of the new website.

Finance

The Community Council is a precepting authority, which means it can raise money by a charge per household collected by Ashford Borough Council with the Council Tax. It can also borrow money and received grants. The Council is required to keep sufficient funds in reserve (approximately six months of precept income) and is progressively working towards this target.

For the year April 2020 to March 2021, the Council agreed a budget of £100,00.00 with a precept of £100,000. This represented an annual cost to a household paying Band D Council Tax of £25.44.

As at the yearend on 31 March 2021, the Council's financial position was as follows

Accounting Statement 2020/21

Balance Brought Forward	£78,674
Precept	£100,000
Receipts (All Other)	£626
Staff Costs	£23,865
Loan Interest Repayments	£0
Payments (All Other)	£13,429
Balance Carried Forward	£142,006

Further information on finances, including audit reports, can be found on our website at <https://www.kenningtoncc.gov.uk/finance/>, or by contacting the Clerk to the Council.

Projects undertaken and in progress

Covid pandemic: The Council worked with the Kennington Volunteers programme initially with a dedicated call line as the Covid -19 pandemic took us all into lockdown to aid vulnerable residents who were self-isolating with shopping or prescriptions.



Hockey Club: The Council awarded a grant through the grant application process for the building of their 3 new dugouts.



Rylands Road: Set aside £5000 for Rylands Road Play Area renovation scheme through the grant application.

Conningbrook Sailing £500 awarded to help with the purchase of new wetsuits to help the club to continue offering sailing training to youngsters in our area.



Website - the development of our new website going live in late October 2020 - <https://www.kenningtoncc.gov.uk/>



Newsletter – first edition went to residents in late August/early September.

Establishment - Much of the first year in the life of the Council has been spent setting up committees, recruiting a Clerk, establishing a budget, along with proper financial procedures, and agreeing priorities. A significant proportion of the budget will go to creating a Reserve, an essential requirement which most Councils will have accrued over past years.

New projects

The Council are always looking for ideas as to what you may wish to see them undertake next, speed reduction, playground improvement, Community Centre re-establishment.

Annual Assembly

As a result of Covid-19 restrictions, an Annual Assembly was not held this year. However, it is planned to hold one in May 2022. This is an opportunity The Annual Assembly is open to all electors of the Community Council's area who have the right not only to attend but also to speak on any matter of local interest.

Chairman's report

This year was not the one we planned for, but I have seen this community work together to help look after each other and set up innovative schemes to enable food and equipment to be shared amongst the parishioners in a very effective and appreciated manner.

The Parish Council moved to having meetings via zoom, and these have proved to be reasonably effective. I thank all the councillors and parishioners who have attended the meetings via zoom for their patience and consideration in getting to know the new processes.

As mentioned above there have been a number of projects that still went ahead and are now complete.

Getting involved

Residents are encouraged to attend meetings of the Community Council. These are held in public, which is an opportunity for residents to see how decisions are made.

There are also opportunities from time to time to join specific committees as a Non-Councillor, where you have particular expertise that you can contribute or an interest.

Where vacancies for Councillors occur between elections, the Council may decide to Co-opt a replacement. All such vacancies are widely advertised, and appointments are through an open and transparent process.

If you would like further details about our meetings, committees, Non-Councillor or Co-option opportunities, please contact the Clerk to the Council.

Contact the Council

The Council can be contacted by e-mail at clerk@kenningtoncc.gov.uk, by phone at 07928 824482, or by post at PO Box 606 Ashford Kent TN23 9YF. For more information please visit our website at www.kenningtoncc.gov.uk