



Our Borough

Summer 2019



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

What are we doing about the area's big priorities?

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An exciting summer of music and spectacle

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Welcome to the new magazine for Kensington and Chelsea

We'd love to hear from you!

Welcome to the first issue of our new Council magazine – **Our Borough.**

This is the first and last time I'll be writing this column.

We want this to be a different type of magazine. We want to give our community a space to write about your own priorities, concerns, our plans for the future. Finally, we want this to be our community's space to let the whole borough know what you are doing.

It can be about anything local people might find interesting – perhaps news about an event you have planned, info on a volunteering scheme or a story about a local hero who deserves wider recognition. We want to give you the opportunity to tell us what the borough should be doing, so please let us know.

If you have a story for us, please email commsteam@rbkc.gov.uk



Cllr Elizabeth Campbell

Leader, Kensington and Chelsea Council



Our Council Plan for the next four years created with you, our residents

Recently we launched our proposal for the next four years - Our Council Plan. This plan was created after our biggest conversation ever with our residents on what matters to them. We would like to thank everyone for taking the time to tell us your priorities, ambitions, aspirations and concerns.

The Plan was launched at an event at Marlborough Primary School - an award winning building whose pupils and teachers couldn't have made us feel more welcome.

As part of the launch, pupils shared their ambitions with us, with Alek and Sabine discussing how they wanted more libraries and access to sporting opportunities in the borough. Co-Head Teacher, Jessica Finer, opened the event and noted, "It was wonderful to welcome so many people to the school.

After hearing what people want, it's now up to everyone to work together and reach these goals."

Through these conversations we have listened to over 2,000 people and heard 5,000 comments. We have used what you have told us to directly shape our new Council Plan. The Plan is just one step in our ongoing conversation with you, our residents.

To learn more about having your say on our future priorities please visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/council-plan



This is just the start of changes to the way local people can get involved with our decision making. You can find out more at www.rbkc.gov.uk/change-at-the-council

What's the Council doing to reduce the harm knife crime causes?

Knife crime is a crisis that has touched every part of London. In Kensington and Chelsea we're doing all we can to tackle this crisis, including the creation of a new youth crime unit to work directly with young people and their families.

Following discussions with the Home Office and Public Health England, the Council's leadership team have unlocked emergency funding of over £1m to pay for a new unit within our Children's Services team. Over three years, the Council will deploy youth and community workers to reduce the harm done to the whole community by knife crime. This unit will support youngsters and their families with the advice and skills needed to



make young people less vulnerable to knife crime.

Another important part is our work to keep knives off the streets and away from young people through test-shopping at local stores with

young volunteers. These visits help to check that shop keepers are aware of, and obeying, the rules and not allowing under 18s to buy knives.

Local Trading Standards Officer Doug Love works with the Police on this type of operation and offers training to local shop-owners. He sees the work as important, "Helping businesses prevent knives being sold or displayed illegally or irresponsibly makes it harder for people who want to use them as a weapon. If children are aware of a shop that will sell them knives, we know that's where they'll go to buy them. Shop keepers have clear responsibilities to check that the person they are selling a blade to is over 18 years old."

You can find out more about our part in reducing knife crime and other serious crime here www.rbkc.gov.uk/knife-crime



Two years on from the Grenfell Tragedy

Friday 14 June marked two years since the tragedy at Grenfell Tower. A range of commemorative events were hosted to remember those who lost their lives and to show support to those most affected. Services and ceremonies took place throughout the day, with those wishing to pay their respects passing through the area surrounding the Tower to lay flowers, write a message or simply take a moment of reflection.

The silent walk, which followed a wreath laying and multi-faith vigil, was attended by over 11,000 people. The Tower stood illuminated in bright green from dusk to sunrise, joined by other buildings and landmarks across London and beyond.

For more information on the support available please visit www.grenfell.nhs.uk

Discover Leighton House

It's been called Kensington's 'Most Loved Culture Venue' by Time Out London, and the 'most romantic venue for a date' by the Art Fund. It's been featured in cult classics like Brazil and music videos by The Stranglers and Spandau Ballet. Meanwhile, its centrepiece, the dazzling Arab Hall has been called "the most jaw dropping room in London".

But Leighton House Museum is more than just a museum: it's a thriving creative and cultural community hub. The former home and studio of the leading Victorian artist, Frederic, Lord Leighton, it uniquely combines an exceptional collection of paintings, sculptures and decorative objects, with the intimacy of a private home.

There are opportunities for people of all ages to get involved and contribute to its programme through the museum's various volunteering schemes: from those with green fingers to art and history aficionados,

there is something for everyone in the borough.

Volunteer, Lynne Butler, said: "I have really enjoyed volunteering at Leighton House as it is very much a local amenity as well as a unique piece of local history. I have helped with visits from various schools, in the process learning so much about what goes on in them but also about our own local artists' colony."

The museum presents an exciting range of events for local residents, schools, families and visitors: guiding people through its many treasures. A programme of talks, free tours, film screenings and arts and craft courses run throughout the year – encouraging community involvement in this vibrant cultural gem. Check their website to plan your next visit – entry is free for under 18s!

To find out more about our museum:
www.leightonhouse.co.uk





A summer of sport for you and your family with a free leisure centre pass



Kensington and Chelsea residents are in for a summer of sporty fun thanks to the new, free, annual Residents' Pay and Play card.

Offered by the Council, in collaboration with social enterprise GLL, the pass will give you and your family a whole heap of benefits and perks. These include up to 30 per cent off for activities such as badminton, table tennis and fitness classes, free swimming for children under eight at specified times, swimming for only £1 for eight-15 year olds (at dedicated times), access to a huge range of activities and courses plus much more.

You can redeem your card online by visiting the centre's website or simply visit either Chelsea Sports Centre (Chelsea Manor Street, SW3 5PL) or Kensington Leisure Centre (Silchester Road, W10 6EX) with your ID and proof of address. Once you're set-up, you'll be able to swim, gym and racquet

swing to your heart's content. And bring your gear with you so you can go from signing up directly to the workout of your choice.

Whether you're looking to get in shape, sharpen up your sports skills or simply relax and de-stress, your local sports and leisure centre is the place to be. Onnik who has been a member of Chelsea Sports Centre for almost two years says: "The centre is nice and clean with friendly staff".

To find out more about the pass, see timetables and helpful advice for those with children, please search Kensington Leisure Centre or Chelsea Sports Centre.

Win tickets to the museum

We have two pairs of complimentary tickets to Leighton House Museum for residents of the borough. Please email museums@rbkc.gov.uk with your name and address by Saturday 31 August and title your email 'Our Borough tickets'. Names will be randomly picked and winners contacted. Terms and conditions apply.

For more information visit www.better.org.uk then search for 'membership' and your local leisure centre.



Do more in the Council's green spaces

If you're wondering what to do this summer, why not visit one of the borough's wonderful parks? From discovering the natural world to splashing around or engaging in some friendly competition – a range of options awaits you...



Exercising mind and body

The Holland Park Ecology Centre runs many programmes each year where (no matter your age) you can learn how to build a pond, or fence, or even manage a meadow!

There are free nature walks and talks like the Urban Owl Walk at 6.30pm on Thursday 25 July. Families who recently attended the herb walk enjoyed an afternoon where “we exercised our legs, eyes and ears” while collecting an array of herbs naturally spread about the park.

There is also a range of outdoor and themed creative activities across the summer, run by the Ecology Centre. A fun-packed programme for four to under eight year olds includes active sessions on dragonflies, mammals, spiders, animal homes, trees, and birds. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Families meanwhile can take part in weekly Forest Days during the holidays (where eight to 12 year olds can learn natural crafts and try their hand at bushcraft activities such as whittling and constructing dens), or join the Ecology team in August and meet our nocturnal friends on the Children's Night Safari (torches are advised).

For pre-schoolers there's Nature Tots events, giving very young children the chance to explore, get mucky and play independently in a safe woodland environment on Thursdays in July.

These are just a few of the wide range of events that will take place over the summer at the Ecology Centre.

A new playground

Holland Park's adventure playground has been redesigned following consultation with residents. Following





extensive works, the redesigned playground is a prestigious addition to the park.

The new playground has a range of exciting, new, bespoke equipment including a 25m zip wire, ten-person seesaw, 56m hill coaster, 110m of water channels and playable water features and numerous other exciting features.

Ahead of its opening, local residents attended a community planting day where they could 'bed-in' their own plants and get a sneak peak of the new playground. An exciting launch event is being finalised so keep your eye on our Twitter account (@RBKC) for further announcements!

Volunteering to help keep Holland Park special

Holland Park also offers Conservation Volunteer meetings every third Saturday to help with conservation work; from meadow management to bulb planting. These days are aimed at adults and are a great way to learn new skills, meet people, have fun and channel some civic pride.

You can also get involved with the Friends of Holland Park: a local community group dedicated to the preservation, protection and improvement of Holland Park as a place of historic and ecological interest and beauty.

Jennie Kettlewell, chairman of The Friends of Holland Park, comments: "Holland Park is a safe, green space giving enjoyment and wellbeing to the local community. The Friends of Holland Park has 1,000+ members who are determined to ensure the park remains safe and green for the next generation but there are challenges.

You can support us by becoming a member to help keep the park beautiful."



For the sporty

For those with a sporty bent, the parks in the borough offer you a wealth of options. You can book a free game of tennis in Holland Park (Mondays to Wednesdays, 9am to 11am).

Avondale Park - five-a-side football, netball and tennis facilities

Emslie Hornman's Pleasance Park - football, tennis and basketball

Kensington Memorial Park - tennis and football, and a water play area.

There are also outdoor gyms at Holland Park, Little Wormwood Scrubs and Tavistock Gardens.

Ecology Centre:

www.rbkc.gov.uk/ecologycycling-and-walking

Friends of Holland Park:

www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org

For more information on our park:

www.rbkc.gov.uk/your-local-park

Sport and coaching - To book a court or pitch and to find out about being coached email :SportsbookingsKC@idverde.co.uk or call **020 7602 2226**.



Carnival more "spectacular" than ever

For the past six decades, our borough has had the honour of hosting the biggest, community led street celebration in the world – the Notting Hill Carnival.

This August bank holiday weekend we're expecting hundreds of thousands of visitors to our borough to enjoy the astounding sights, sounds and atmosphere of this spectacular Carnival parade. Matthew Philip, Executive Director of Notting Hill Carnival Limited, said: "This year's Carnival looks to be more spectacular than ever. The Carnival community have once again really pulled together and we can't wait to see it all come together for the weekend."

Inevitably any event of this scale will cause some disruption, but we have plans in place to keep inconvenience to a minimum for our residents.

In preparation leaflets will be sent to all homes affected by the Carnival route to notify residents of all important information for the weekend.



For more information, please visit:
www.rbkc.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/events/notting-hill-carnival



Free live music and fun in the sunshine at the Portobello Summer Festival

This year's Portobello Summer Festival from noon on Sunday 21 July, is shaping up to be one to remember with a focus on building a platform for local artists to take their creative efforts out into the world.

The festival will see the return of headliners **Fabio & Grooverider** on the **'Kids on the Green Wonderland stage'**, alongside local acts such as **Khrome, Mangrove Steel Band, Lianne Mya** and local choreographer **Corrie King**, sharing top billing with **The Fullee Love Collective**, presented by **Jurassic 5's Soup**.

Crowd favourite from 2018, DJ, producer and performer Charlotte Devaney, will be joined by UK Garage duo **Artful Dodger**, house supremo Sam Supplier, grime collective **Grime Originals**, and **MCs Sharky Major**

and **Nasty Jack**, to name just a few.

The festival theme of 'local to global' celebrates North Kensington's track record of sending local talent - from music to fashion - out into the world to perform on the bigger stages.

The theme is also reflected across the street food, dance and other cultural offerings on the day - North Kensington, Ladbroke Grove and Portobello make up one of the world's most diverse areas, and with a history of protest, cultural expression and melting pot vibrancy, the area's unique qualities will feed into an amazing day.

Westway Trust, working in partnership with the clubs, galleries, street food vendors and subculture spaces across its 23-acre estate, aims to produce an event that celebrates this community. The festival is centred around Portobello Green and surrounding



venues including Subterania, Westbank Gallery, Acklam Village and BAYSIXTY6 Skate Park. The festival is free, so come along, enjoy the celebrations and soak up the community spirit.

To find out more, or please visit:
www.portobellosummerfestival.com



Join some of modern history's most famous couples and say 'marry me in Chelsea'

Amid a throng of excitement, the elegant Chelsea Old Town Hall was recently unveiled after eleven months' renovation, and the wait was worth it. According to The Independent, it is 'still one of the hippest places to get married!' The unveiling of its prized register offices and banqueting halls were celebrated in a recent launch with cake, a raffle and, talented violinist in attendance, successfully earmarking its position as one of London's most memorable venues for ceremonies, soirées and receptions.

Nestled in the heart of London's iconic King's Road, this historic building has played host to many celebrity and high profile weddings throughout its rich past. From Judy Garland and Marc Bolan to Hugh Grant only last year, many well known personalities have said "I do" within its walls.



Chelsea Old Town Hall has been a London Landmark for generations. From bottom to top, you can see the Town Hall in the early 1900s, 1974 and 2018.

Presenting couples with a beautiful, stylish and photogenic backdrop for weddings and receptions, Chelsea Old Town Hall offers event organisers a well-located, endlessly adaptable, modern space.

The three newly furnished ceremony rooms cater for a range of guest sizes and, for ceremonies requiring more space, the Cadogan Suite and banqueting halls can cater for 100 to 400 guests. Joanne Gordon, Head of Conferencing and Events, shares: "Our rooms are perfect transformational spaces; a dream wedding styled shoot we recently undertook with the help of great wedding vendors, enabled us to gather some stunning shots of the newly renovated rooms, so we're happy to welcome creative couples who really want to bring their vision to life."

Voluntary contribution idea wins support

When we asked if higher rate council tax payers would consider making an extra voluntary contribution to help generate opportunities for local young people, two thirds of people backed the idea.

The consultation was launched in April 2019 to all higher rate council tax payers within the borough and generated nearly 1,200 formal responses. Of the respondents who backed the proposals, 80% say they would support the priority of investing the money to help young people get access to employment. We are now working up full proposals for how the scheme could work in practice. Council Leader, Cllr Elizabeth Campbell, said: "This fund will create opportunities for many to boost their skills and development, and create routes into apprenticeships and employment. It is an exciting demonstration of the Council working together, both with and for residents, to improve our borough."

If you're getting married or looking for the perfect space for your special occasion, get in touch:

for ceremonies email
registrars@rbkc.gov.uk

for halls and room hire email
venues@rbkc.gov.uk

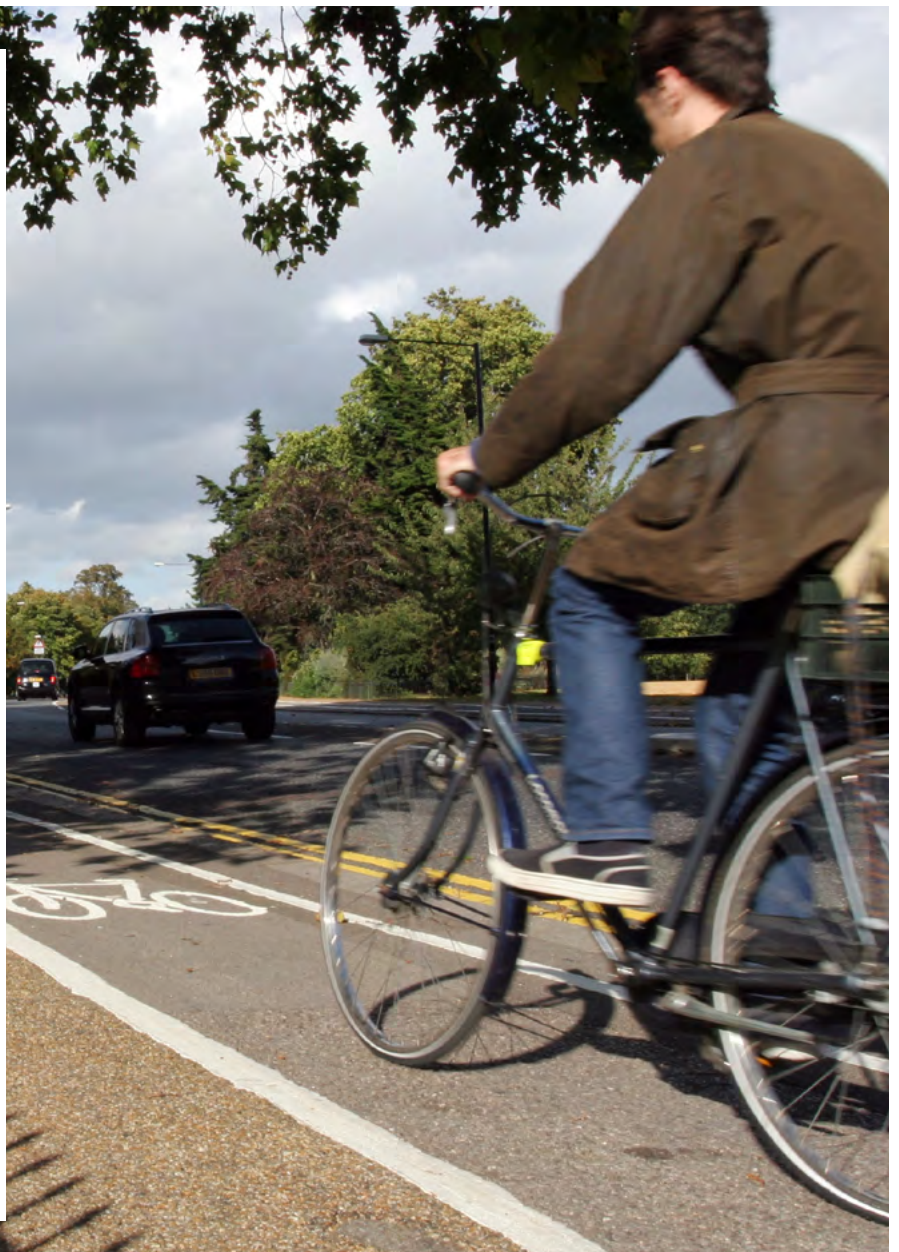


Cycle lane update

We would like to thank everyone who responded to the recent TfL consultation on a segregated cycle lane for Holland Park Avenue and Notting Hill Gate, or who contacted us directly to let us know what you thought. The Council Leader, Cllr Elizabeth Campbell and Cllr Johnny Thalassites, Lead Member for Transport, together received 695 emails opposing the scheme and 36 in favour. Many other local councillors received a large number of emails. Cllr Thalassites, said:

“After listening to our residents’ concerns we could not support the current proposals from TfL. We remain committed to promoting cycling in the borough. We have built one Cycleway this year, consulted on another two, and have plans for four more routes, with some connecting links, which in total will cover 16km in our borough. This is in addition to the 8km of Quietway routes we have already completed.”

For more information visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search ‘cycle lane’ for the most recent news



The borough's parking is going cashless

The Council is changing the way people can pay for parking by introducing a fully cashless system which will also lead to more trees being planted. Already, a huge majority of people pay for their parking cashlessly. By shifting to a fully cashless system we will remove the meters cluttering up our streets, and it means we'll no longer need to drive 27,000 miles a year collecting coins and servicing the meters. Our partners, PayByPhone, will also provide trees to capture carbon, helping us approach carbon neutrality for the system. We're rolling out a new system over a number of months to test and make sure everyone can access the it effectively. The Council has already



begun to take parking meters out of service and will remove them physically from September. The process should be completed in 2020.

For more information visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search ‘cashless parking’ for the most recent news



Recycling rates are on the up but we can still do more

We're happy to report that, for the second year in a row, our borough's household recycling rate has improved, rising 0.8 per cent to 27 per cent. The most important reason for this was people recycling more of the right items. Thank you for taking the time to recycle, your efforts mean

more recycling being reused and less rubbish being sent to our energy from waste centres. If you would like to know more about reducing waste and increasing recycling in our borough and get involved in helping to run waste reduction and recycling community events, then please get in touch. We've

got exciting plans to help improve the borough's recycling rate for later this year, but one thing you can do today is check you're familiar with our 'how to' recycle guidance.

Contact us via email: streetline@rbkc.gov.uk
plus find out lots more via: www.rbkc.gov.uk/recycling



Recycling Guide

✓ Yes please



✓ Paper, card and cardboard



✓ Glass bottles and jars



✓ Cans and tins



✓ Plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays



✓ Cartons

✗ No thanks



✗ Shredded paper



✗ Clothes and textiles



✗ Food waste



✗ Hard plastics

- ✗ Any items not ticked
- ✗ Nappies
- ✗ Electricals and cables
- ✗ Wood
- ✗ Metal items
- ✗ DIY materials
- ✗ Polystyrene
- ✗ Foil
- ✗ Aerosol cans
- ✗ Garden waste
- ✗ Black bags

1. Wash out



2. Squash (and put plastic lids back on)



www.rbkc.gov.uk/recycling



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

Let's get composting

The Council has teamed up with getcomposting.com to encourage more residents to compost at home by offering a range of subsidised compost bins.

More than 30 per cent of the average household's waste can be composted. It is estimated that the use of a home compost bin diverts approximately 150 kilogrammes of organic waste from incineration per household every year.

There are a range of home compost bins and accessories available to suit new recruits and seasoned gardeners alike, for more information please visit our website.



You can find out more here: www.getcomposting.com
For home composting tips visit: www.rbkc.gov.uk/homecompostingtips



Free home collection for clothes, shoes or electrical equipment

We have partnered with TR Aid, the textile recycling charity, so residents can book a free home collection for unwanted clothes, shoes, and small to medium sized electrical items.

More information is available online simply visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/traid to book a collection.



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 (the TMO). 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
- 🐦 @RBKCCulture
- 📌 @RBKCCulture

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 a library or how to join, 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