



Our Borough

Summer 2022



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Cost of living support

Find out how to access assistance



Carnival is back

Famous festival returns to Notting Hill's streets



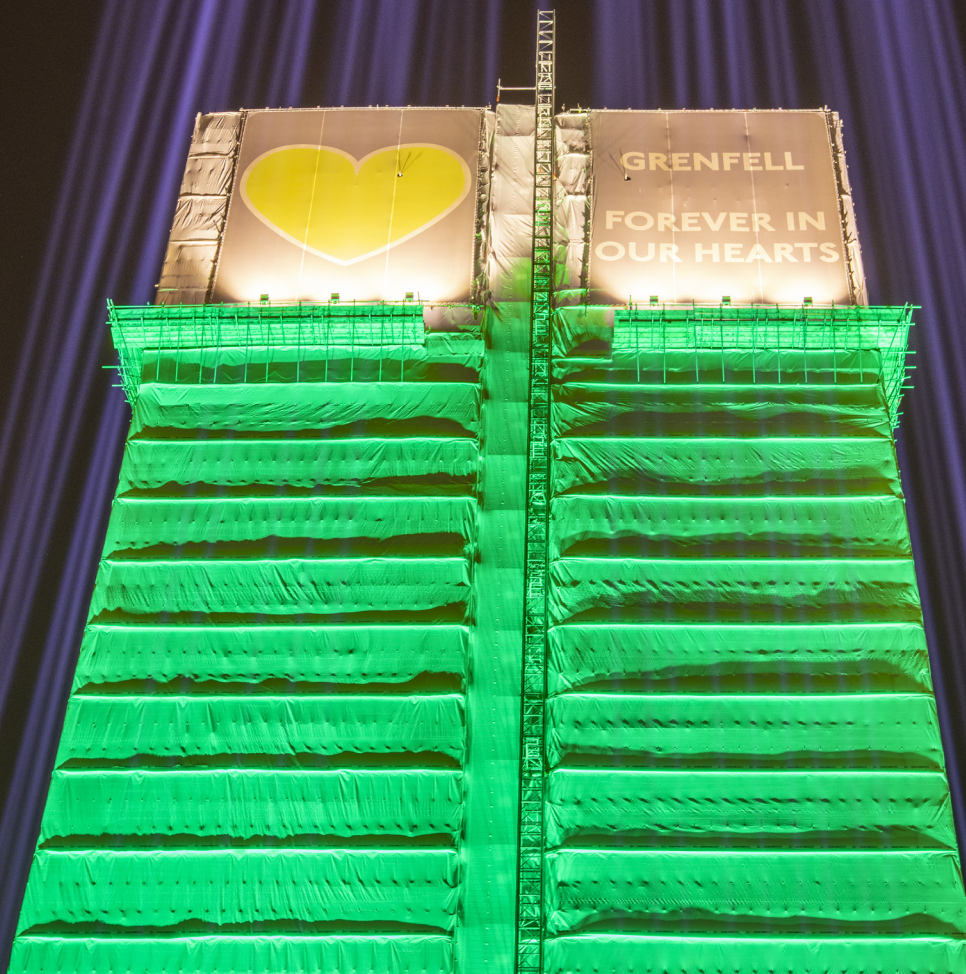
Summer of sport

Get active outdoors in the borough's green spaces



Best in Britain

Special needs service is nation's finest



Never forgotten

Commemorating the fifth anniversary of the Grenfell tragedy [Page 3](#)

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

We're available online

To view this or previous issues of Our Borough online, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search '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](https://twitter.com/RBKC)

 www.facebook.com/royalborough

 www.instagram.com/kensingtonandchelseacouncil

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

For updates on Grenfell

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

 www.rbkc.gov.uk/grenfell

Cover photo: ACAVA Shoots

Meet your new council line up

Kensington and Chelsea has a newly-selected set of councillors following the local elections held in May.

The Council is now composed of 35 seats for the Conservative party, 13 seats for the Labour party and two seats for the Liberal Democrat party following the elections, in which 31,621 residents, or 32.7 per cent of the electorate, turned out to cast their votes.

Local Elections 2022

Want to find out who represents your ward, which committees they sit on and how you can get in touch with them? Search "councillor profiles" at www.rbkc.gov.uk



Monkeypox: what you need to know

You may have heard about monkeypox in the UK. But what is it, what are the symptoms and how can you access help and information?

Monkeypox is a rare infectious disease and while there are a number of cases in the UK, the risk is low. Monkeypox is usually a mild self-limiting illness, spread by very close contact and most people recover within a few weeks.

With recent cases predominantly being in gay and bisexual men, UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is advising these groups in particular to be alert to any unusual rashes or lesions on any part of their body, especially their genitalia. Symptoms also include a fever, muscle aches, chills and exhaustion, headaches and swollen lymph nodes.

If you think you have monkeypox symptoms – however mild:

- Contact NHS 111 or call a sexual health clinic immediately. Your call will be treated sensitively and confidentially.
- Avoid close personal or sexual contact with others until you know that it is not monkeypox.

Find out more and get the latest information at www.gov.uk/government/news/monkeypox-cases-confirmed-in-england-latest-updates



You can get the latest updates by following the UKHSA on twitter [@UKHSA](https://twitter.com/UKHSA)

Borough remembers on fifth Grenfell anniversary

Tuesday 14 June was the fifth anniversary of the Grenfell tragedy, in which 72 Kensington and Chelsea residents, including 18 children, lost their lives.

A range of community-led events, both national and local, took place throughout the day to mark the anniversary, creating opportunities for people to come together to grieve, reflect and remember.

Westminster Abbey hosted a service of remembrance attended by bereaved, survivors and local residents and local and national dignitaries. The service was led by the Dean of Westminster and candles were lit as community leaders read the names of the 72 people who lost their lives.

A multi-faith memorial service was held at the base of Grenfell Tower in the afternoon, including addresses from faith leaders and music and poetry performed by bereaved and



Picture: ACAVA Shoots

survivor children. The service was attended by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and thousands watched from within the site and the surrounding area.

Following the service, thousands came together for the Silent Walk, starting at the Notting Hill Methodist Church and finishing at the base of the Tower. A range of other community-led events took place across North Kensington, including for residents of the Lancaster West Estate.

Follow this QR code to watch the memorial service held at the base of the Tower.

Find out more about the Westminster Abbey service

at www.westminster-abbey.org/abbey-news/abbey-marks-anniversary-of-grenfell-tragedy



New hub signposts support for rising cost of living

Help is available for Kensington and Chelsea residents struggling with the rising cost of living via a new online portal.

Information about the range of support available both from the Council and external organisations, including a benefits calculator and details of the Household Support Fund, can be found by heading to www.rbkc.gov.uk/cost-of-living

The Council is using £1.18 million from the Government's Household Support Fund to provide immediate assistance for the cost of food, energy and other essentials.

The available funding includes:

- **£645,000** for around **4,300** pensioners in receipt of housing benefits or council tax reduction
- **£409,950** to provide free school meals for around **4,500** eligible children over six holiday weeks and two inset days in September
- **£3,000** to support vulnerable groups who present in crisis to the Council's Family Services team
- Grants of up to **£100** for an estimated **170** care leavers in their own accommodation and vulnerable groups known to Family Services

Social workers and the Family Services team will be directly contacting those eligible for these funds, so there is no need for residents to take any action.

We're also working with Green Doctors who offer support through home visits or telephone consultations to elderly residents, those on a low income or those with a disability. The Council aims to provide at least 100 free home energy consultations every year.

Visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/cost-of-living for details about the support available.



Carnival returns to the borough's streets

The spectacular sights and sounds of Notting Hill Carnival will brighten up the summer as the festival makes its triumphant post-pandemic return to North Kensington's streets.

Following a two-year break, Carnival's colourful costumes, super sound systems and mouth-watering foods are coming back to the borough over the late August bank holiday weekend.

The famous festival was held online in 2020 and 2021 to allow organisers to protect public health during the Covid pandemic.

Tessa Williams, who has lived in the Notting Hill area for her entire life and first attended Carnival at the age of six, is excited to see the event coming back to Notting Hill. She told *Our Borough*:

"My mum and dad would dress me and my sisters in nice clothes and comb our hair, then we would go



out on the streets which were filled with crowds of people dancing, singing, eating, laughing just all really having a great time.

"I remember loud music being played on nearly every corner coming from large speakers and people dancing around. My favourite part was watching the procession go by with people wearing the most beautiful costumes. There were so many colours and it looked so beautiful and magical to me.

"It's exciting to know that we will be able to celebrate Carnival once again. It was sad we were unable to attend for two years due to the pandemic. Carnival is very important to our community and our culture and we look forward to celebrating once again with friends, family and the community."

Exact details for the return of Carnival were being finalised at the time of going to press. For the latest information, visit <https://nhcarnival.org>



Enjoy a summer of the arts with Kensington and Chelsea Festival

Celebrate an awe-inspiring array of shows this summer with the Kensington and Chelsea Festival 2022.

The Festival runs until 31 August and re-imagines the borough's well-known and less-discovered places by showcasing exceptional emerging and established artists. More than a third of tickets are available for free or on a pay-what-you can basis.

In addition to indoor venues, the Festival will make the most of the borough by hosting pop-up performances outside. Visitors will

be able to enjoy everything from theatre, circus, opera, dance and music to outdoor arts, family shows, talks, walks and public art pieces.

You can get the latest details about the Festival, which is funded by the Council, by signing up for the newsletter at www.kcfestival.co.uk. Residents wanting to play their part in the summer's festivities can also volunteer via the website.

Check out the full programme of events at www.kcfestival.co.uk/programme



Get active with fun free festival in Holland Park

Want to give your health and wellbeing a boost? The free Festival of Activity and Wellbeing in Holland Park this July is for you!

Taking place from **10.30am until 4.30pm on Saturday 23 July**, the Festival is the perfect chance for residents of all ages and fitness levels to find out more about the sports and activities available to them across the borough.

Visitors will be able to have a go at a super selection of sports, while children will get to explore Holland Park's wonderful green spaces on a nature hunt.

More than 25 organisations from across the borough will come together with colourful market stalls for residents and visitors to learn how they can get moving more and improve their health and wellbeing.

The Festival is held annually, with last year's event being so successful that a girls' basketball team was established, new dance and yoga

classes were set up, and additional tennis sessions for both adults and children were introduced.

Reflecting on the last festival, Chris Shirley, of Kensington Dragons FC, said:

"Over 30 new members joined Kensington Dragons FC, and many parents and visitors stayed to watch the matches. All in all, it was a great success. We ended up with around 20 boys and girls for each of our sessions so were able to structure a proper training session and everybody enjoyed themselves immensely."



Park life



If you want to get out and about and improve your fitness and wellbeing, there are regular exercise classes and activities taking place in parks all over the borough.

Scan this code to find out what's on near you and how to get involved



Summer Sundays return to Portobello

Summer Sundays are coming back to Portobello this year after a successful run for the first time in 2021.

The iconic Portobello Market will be opening on Sundays to provide an extra day to shop and enjoy until 7 August.

The Sunday markets will see stalls featuring food, antiques, vintage clothes, home accessories and more. Portobello Road will also be closed to traffic on Sundays while the market is on, extending the existing road closure for a car-free shopping experience.



Learn more about the market and what's on in the area by following [@visitportobello](https://twitter.com/visitportobello) on social media or checking out www.visitportobello.com



Service for children is best in Britain

Scan this QR code to see the full Ofsted report



Youngsters using special educational needs and disability (SEND) facilities in Kensington and Chelsea are accessing the best service in Britain, according to a glowing Ofsted report.

The inspection of the borough’s SEND provision found it to have the fewest recommended areas of development of any local authority in the country and reserved special praise for the high aspirations leaders hold for the ambitions of young people in their care. It also found that:

- **Co-production and the voices of children, young people and their families steers the development of the service**
- **Staff have been creative during Covid-19, reaching families with resources during lockdowns and implementing a well-considered Covid-19 recovery plan in recent months**
- **Children and young people accessing the services achieve well and are supported with development, education, and employment.**

Recent investment in facilities that support SEND children and their families include the opening of the £39 million Kensington Queensmill – the borough’s first dedicated special school – and a £350k contribution to the refurbishment of St Quintin Centre in North Kensington.



Parent Helen, who has a child who uses the St Quintin Centre, said:

“I know my children are safe here and they are well taken care of. During the last two years it was really hard because of Covid – I missed the centre badly – but the staff listen and understand our problems.”

Local resident Rana, whose son Elias also uses the St Quintin Centre, added:

“My son responds so well to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities support offered by the Council, the staff at the St Quintin Centre are like his second family. In a way we have raised him together.”

Construction careers await Building Lives Academy graduates

A local resident is hoping to carve out a career in construction after becoming one of the first young people to graduate from the Building Lives Academy.

Moesha McColl wants to work in the building industry after successfully completing the 11-week Academy, which is a partnership between the Council, developer Willmott Dixon and the London Learning Consortium. The fully-funded course prepares 16-to-24-year-olds for a move into an apprenticeship, job or higher-level training in construction or logistics.

Based out of premises in North Kensington provided by the Council on a social investment lease, Moesha combined classroom-based

sessions in everything from digital skills and employability to English and maths with practical work experience.

This included helping out at the nearby Kensal Road site where Willmott Dixon is currently building some of the Council’s planned 600 new homes for the borough.

Moesha said:

“Prior to the Building Lives Academy, I wasn’t really doing anything. The course attracted me, especially the chance to do practical work and to get more females into something that’s normally male-dominated.

“Now I hope I can get a job or apprenticeship in construction. That wouldn’t have been a thought for me



at all before, but now I know there are lots of options. If you get the opportunity to do this, you should definitely take it.”

Andre Duffus, tutor for employability and digital skills, said:

“It’s very rewarding to see young people come together to get qualifications and then to go on and use those qualifications in their future.”

Applications for future sessions at the Building Lives Academy are welcome on a rolling basis. For more information, contact Maria Roye m.roye@londonlc.org.uk or phone London Learning Consortium on **07940 751767**.



Major milestone for new Council homes

Our first council-built homes in years are a step closer to completion after the final beams at the top of the new buildings at Kensal Road and Hewer Street were installed.

These are two significant milestones in our New Homes Delivery Programme which aims to build 600 new homes across the borough, 300 of which will be for social rent.

Kensal Road and Hewer Street are two of four of our Phase 1 new homes delivery sites, which will see us deliver 98 homes in total.

At the Kensal Road site we are providing 38 new homes – 28 at social rent and 10 for key workers, with four of those homes being accessible. There will also be a shared garden area for residents, with flexible community space and a retail unit at ground floor.



Hewer Street will provide 20 new homes to rent, 10 of which will be offered to key workers and 10 open market. This site offers two accessible homes.

These new homes will also use energy efficient technology and improved levels of insulation to reduce fuel bills while ensuring that quality of build and safety issues remain paramount. In addition, all areas of the buildings will have

sprinklers as well as incorporating other design features to focus on fire safety measures.

We'll be handing over the new homes at Hewer Street to local people towards the end of the year and then early next year Kensal Road will welcome its first residents.

Check out the latest progress – search new homes at www.rbkc.gov.uk



Self-employed and looking for a change of scenery?

Newly refurbished co-working spaces have been launched by the Council at Brompton, Chelsea, and Notting Hill Gate Libraries as part of a new in-house service, K+C Co-works.

K+C Co-works offers small businesses, freelancers, and even those running a side hustle, professional, comfortable and affordable co-workspace in the heart of London.

Fixed monthly desk space and hotdesking options are available to suit a range of needs and budgets, plus superfast broadband, lockers, tea and coffee making facilities, meeting room hire and more.



Don't just take our word for it...

One of our clients at Brompton Library, **George Lambert**, the founder of a software and cloud computing company Lambert Labs said:

“Affordable office space in Central London is hard to find, especially for small businesses. The library provides us with a quiet, calm space to concentrate on our customers. Feeling comfortable in your surroundings is also vital when co-working, and the library offers this comfort and familiarity in abundance.”

Check out the full offer, prices and complete your booking online at www.rbkc.gov.uk/kc-co-works or contact us at librarycoworks@rbkc.gov.uk for more information.



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 service.

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