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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

Thanks for having your say on North Ken News

In the December edition of North Ken News, we sent you a survey to get your thoughts on how we can improve the newsletter to make it more suited to your needs and interests.

This year, the frequency of North Ken News will be reduced to once every two months, so it's more important than ever that we feature the content you care about.

Thank you to everyone who has completed the survey so far. We will share the findings from the survey plus the winner of the £50 All4One voucher in the February edition of North Ken News. Current plans are for the newsletter to move to bi-monthly around spring, but this will be confirmed in the coming months.

We've had over 400 responses and there's still some time to share your thoughts and ideas, just visit the link before Wednesday 12 January.

consult.rbkc.gov.uk/communications/north-ken-news/

If you have further feedback or comments about the newsletter, you can always email us at NorthKenNews@rbkc.gov.uk

North Ken News Survey

Overview

North Ken News is a monthly publication which is delivered to households in North Kensington. It was launched in direct response to residents' feedback for more information about what is happening in the local area. It covers seven wards:

1. Colville
2. Dalgarno
3. Golborne
4. Norland
5. Notting Dale
6. Pembridge
7. St Helen's

The newsletter will shortly be moving from monthly editions to editions every two months.

You can read more about North Ken News, including access to previous editions by visiting the North Ken News section of the Council's website.

www.rbkc.gov.uk/newsroom/north-ken-news

Why your views matter

The newsletter includes updates from both the Council and the community as well as information on events, local activities, courses, training, employment activities and more.

We are keen to ensure we are offering you content that you care about and we'd be grateful if you could complete this short survey on North Ken News. Your responses will help shape future editions of the newsletter.

Anyone that completes the survey can enter a prize draw to

Don't miss out on vaccination

If you are aged 18 or over and it's been three months since your second Covid-19 vaccination, you can get a booster jab. This will provide the highest level of protection against Coronavirus, including the Omicron variant.

If you haven't had any vaccination yet, a first or second dose will still give you some protection and help keep you and your friends and family safer.

You can book a vaccination by going to [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or by calling NHS 119, free of charge. You can also go to a walk-in at St Charles Health and Wellbeing Centre, or on the Vaccination bus, which is going around the borough several days a week. To find out more go to www.rbkc.gov.uk/coronavirus. Those aged 16 or 17 can get their first and second jabs in the same way.

If you are aged 12 to 15, you can now also get your first and second jabs. This is being done through schools, GPs and local vaccination centres.

PCR testing

If you have Covid-19 symptoms you should self-isolate and get tested as soon as possible. You can request a home testing kit by going to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by calling NHS 119, free of charge.

You can also book a test at Kensington Town Hall seven days a week, between 9am and 4pm. However, you must have booked online or by calling NHS 119, free of charge.



Lateral Flow Tests

You should be regularly testing to make sure you don't have Covid-19 and are not spreading it without realising. This is particularly important if you are going to other people's homes or places with groups of people.

You can get a Rapid Lateral Flow Test (LFT) online or by calling **NHS 119**, free of charge. You can also collect boxes, or have the test, at Kensington Town Hall. There are also several other places in the borough offering LFT kits, you can find these by going to www.rbkc.gov.uk and searching rapid community testing.

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission Update

Grenfell Tower
Memorial Commission

- For the latest news on the Memorial Commission, including information about their upcoming community meetings from the independent Memorial Commission please visit www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk
- To sign up to their newsletter or send a message through their website, visit their contact page www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/contact
- To contact them directly, email GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk or call **0303 444 4831**.

For regular updates, follow the Memorial Commission on



@GrenfellTowerMC



www.instagram.com/grenfelltowermc

Acklam Road gets 2,000 new plants

Residents in North Kensington have been busy planting the first 2,000 plants of the Acklam Road mini park, which will help to give the local area an environmental boost.

Members of the Swinbrook Estate Residents' Association worked with the Council last year to successfully apply for funding from the Mayor of London's Grow Back Greener Fund, which aims to provide the capital with a green recovery from Covid-19. Further funding was provided by the Westway Trust and through the Council's Estate Improvement Budget (EIB).

When completed, the space will become part of a borough-wide "bee superhighway", help reduce street clutter, and create opportunities for community gardening, volunteering events and skills training for all ages.

Council staff joined residents to kick start the project and get the first 2,000 plants into the ground and they will continue to support Swinbrook Residents' Association to develop and maintain the scheme in the coming years.

Residents of other estates can utilise their EIB for similar projects and the Council's Housing Management Department is also looking to set up Housing Garden Clubs on estates for residents to get involved more with their green spaces. For more information, contact the Housing Management Environmental Team on **HM-EnvironmentalServices@rbkc.gov.uk**.



Update from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)

Grenfell
community
updates

The Secretary of State for DLUHC, Michael Gove MP, has written to the community. He said that more time is needed for further conversations before a decision is taken on the future of Grenfell Tower out of respect for those who have not yet felt able to have their say. The views, questions and concerns already shared will still be taken into account. Those living, working or studying near the Tower can continue to do so, as the tower is being kept stable and secure.

Local opportunities

Would you like to shape the opportunities that DUK, the Grenfell Tower site contractor, provides to the local community? If so, please email **GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk** or call **0303 444 0011**

Details of what you can expect from these conversations will be publicised shortly.

For more information on the Tower site, and to ask questions and share concerns, join the community online Q&A meeting on:

Tuesday 11 January, 6pm to 7pm

Join on Microsoft Teams with this link:
msteams.link/YPZN

Or dial in on 020 3795 5763 and enter conference ID: 341 051 573#

This meeting has been publicised online prior to the delivery of this newsletter

If you have been affected by the Grenfell Tower tragedy and would like support, please contact the Grenfell Health and Wellbeing Service on **020 8637 6279** or go to www.grenfellwellbeing.com

Start the new year with interview confidence

If you've got a new job in your sights this year but feel like interview anxiety is standing in your way, a new four-week course from Volunteer Centre Kensington and Chelsea could be your ticket to success.

The workshop will teach you anxiety-beating techniques such as meditation, breathing exercises, manifestation and power poses to build your confidence before preparing you with practical interview training.

All those who sign up will have the option to be referred to CV writing workshops and receive info on support to find employment should they request it.

The course will take place on Thursday 13, 20, 27 January and 3 February from 2pm to 4pm.



Spaces are limited, so if you are between 18 to 35-years-old and a North Kensington resident, email etty.dh@vckc.org.uk with your name and contact number.

Visit www.voluntarywork.org.uk/activities-2/wellbeing-approach-to-interviews or scan the QR code for more information.



February's Grenfell Community Assembly to cover community safety

North Kensington residents have chosen community safety as the topic for discussion at the next Grenfell Community Assembly. The event, which will be held on Tuesday 22 February from 6.30pm until 8pm, will take place virtually on Zoom due to a rise in Covid cases.

Attendees will have the opportunity to join a number of virtual discussions and constructively communicate any thoughts and concerns they may have with members of the Grenfell community, representatives from the Council and officers from the Met Police.

Lead Member for Communities Councillor Anne Cyron and Lead Member for Community Safety Councillor Emma Will will both be in attendance, along with a selection of guest speakers.

After the event, a written record of the discussions will be provided along with a document detailing how the Council and its partner agencies plan to respond to any issues raised throughout the Assembly.

For updates on how to attend, please visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/grenfell-community-assembly

Green light for new social homes to help tackle borough's housing shortage

Plans for a scheme which will deliver 100 per cent social rent homes for our residents were given the green light by councillors at the Leadership Team meeting on Thursday 9 December.

The scheme will deliver 11 social rent homes at the Silchester Arches site in North Kensington, which will all be allocated to those residents on our Housing Register who are in desperate need of a place to call home.

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 Silchester Arches planning application was submitted following three rounds of public consultation including 'You said, We did' sessions to show residents how the plans had been adapted to take on board their feedback. We listened to residents throughout the process and amended the design to reduce the height of the building in response to feedback.

The new homes are to be designed and constructed to reduce CO² emissions and reduce energy bills for residents. This will be achieved by the energy efficient design of the building and by implementing

measures such as windows with low solar heat transmission value, energy efficient lighting and controls, mechanical ventilation with heat recovery and highly insulated and air-tight building. Electricity smart meters will be provided to all residents and heating and cooling will be individually energy metered.

There will also be a chance for local apprenticeships on site as well as other jobs for nearby residents and suppliers. Construction on the new homes will start in spring 2022 with residents expected to move in by the end of 2023.



To find out more, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/new-homes-silchester-arches

Consultation begins to build an improved church and new homes

Together with Latymer Community Church and the charity Livability, we have launched a consultation into providing a brand new and improved community church alongside new homes in Bramley Road.

We have already held an in-person and online engagement session for residents to discuss the plans and answer any questions. Consultation is now ongoing for this first round.

The idea for the project stemmed from the Latymer Community Church which is the long-term tenant, and Livability, which owns the Bramley Road site where the church is located, who were both interested in providing an enhanced new facility on the site together with the Council.

The plan is for the Council to purchase the land from Livability and provide an improved community facility. The slightly enlarged site could provide

other local benefits including 25 new homes, half of which would be for social rent and key workers, as well as a permanent 'Stay and Play' nursery for local children, to house the former Grenfell Nursery which is temporarily located at The Curve.

Other opportunities include potential improvements to the existing green spaces, garden and public outdoor areas adjacent to Westway and Whitstable House.

Comments for this round of engagement can be submitted until Monday 17 January 2022.



You can find more details about the plans and view the presentation on our Latymer web page www.rbkc.gov.uk/new-homes-latymer where you will also be able to complete the feedback form.

Work paused on Edenham new homes project

We have made the decision to pause the work we are doing on building new homes at Edenham and will have one more try to find a compromise with residents.

We will still be building homes on this site and are committed to our ambition of building at least 600 homes across the borough, of which at least 300 will be for social rent.

However the planning application has now been withdrawn and we will engage with the community again this year to see what might work on this site, and what our options are.

We want to work together with residents, and thank the Trellick and Edenham residents for their ongoing engagement.



Find out more about the Edenham new homes project at www.rbkc.gov.uk/new-homes-edenham

Give your views on actions to save the environment

Protecting our environment for the future is going to be a team effort, with everyone in our community playing a part.

We've set ambitious targets in our Green Plan to be a carbon neutral borough by 2040 and we want your views on how we get there. In our environment consultation, we've set out actions to boost nature, improve air quality and tackle climate change.

We want to create more green spaces for wildlife to thrive, install renewable energy sources for buildings to cut carbon emissions and promote active travel, like walking and cycling.

You can have your say on the actions in an online survey available at consult.rbkc.gov.uk until 13 February 2022.

We'll be hosting an event where you can find out more about our environmental action plans on air

quality, the climate emergency and biodiversity. Pop in to speak to officers in our environment team on Thursday 27 January from 5.30pm to 7.45pm at The Curve, 10 Bard Road, W10 6TP.

This event will be held in a Covid-secure way and if national Covid guidance changes, we will move the event online. Further online events will be planned between 25 January and 4 February 2022. The latest event information will be available via the web link.

If you'd like more information or to speak to someone about our plans email environment@rbkc.gov.uk or call 020 7361 3002

Have your say on housing allocations

How should Kensington and Chelsea Council allocate its limited supply of social housing? That's the question you can share your views on in a consultation into a new Housing Allocations scheme.

The 12-week consultation is seeking your feedback on issues including who can join the Council's housing register, how they should be prioritised and how homes are ultimately allocated.

Have your say on housing allocations

Share your views on how we allocate homes by **24 February 2022**.

A fair and effective Housing Allocations scheme is vital in a borough with more than 3,000 households on its housing register and only around 400 homes – the majority studio or one-bedroom properties – available each year.

The consultation is open now and will run until Thursday 24 February 2022. To take part, visit consult.rbkc.gov.uk/housing/housing-allocations-scheme

Grenfell Projects Fund supports life skills for women

After securing funding in the first round of the Grenfell Projects Fund, Hear Women has been hosting weekly community sessions at Bay20 in North Kensington to empower local women who have emigrated from East and North Africa.

The organisation, which was awarded £18,492 from the Fund in 2020, has used the money to deliver healthy living workshops that include exercise and cooking classes, teach residents valuable life skills, and host a mother and child Saturday club.

Tagrid Elias, who lives in Dalgarno ward and is a regular user of these services, said: *“Each week I look forward to attending Hear Women’s sessions and have learned so much by attending them. The team has taught me many important everyday skills, such as how to use a shopping list or order a provisional license. I think it’s an amazing project.*

“I’ve learned a lot about healthy living and can now cook better meals for my children and exercise regularly, which has really improved my confidence.

“The classes also help us to connect with other residents in the area and give us an opportunity to make new friends from different countries and cultures.”

The pre-qualification questionnaire deadline for the second round of the Grenfell Projects Fund has now closed and we have received 107 applications. We will be working alongside the Resident-led Panel to launch the main application stage on 10 January 2022, so keep an eye on the Council’s social media channels or visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search “Grenfell Projects Fund” to find out how you can get involved in awarding funding to your favourite projects.



Council planning a bid to buy Notting Hill Police station

We’re working with resident and community groups to protect the future of Notting Hill Police Station.

The Mayor’s Office of Policing and Crime notified the Council of its intention to sell the site in July 2021 and there is a six month hold on the sale, following expressions of interest in the building from community groups.

We have been exploring options to make a financially fair bid to buy the building when it is formally advertised for sale by the Mayor’s office later this month.

Whilst the plans are currently in draft form at the time of going to print, options we are exploring include keeping a police counter,

and providing a new GP surgery and community space, as well as housing for adults with disabilities and for key workers.

Residents can be reassured that whether we are successful in our bid or another buyer is chosen, the station is an asset of community value and is protected by Council policies. This means that any future buyer would need to show how their plans for the building support social and community uses in order to gain planning permission from the Council.

For further updates, check our website at www.rbkc.gov.uk/newsroom

