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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

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

Understanding the effects of the pandemic

We ran a survey to hear directly from you how Coronavirus has affected your lives.

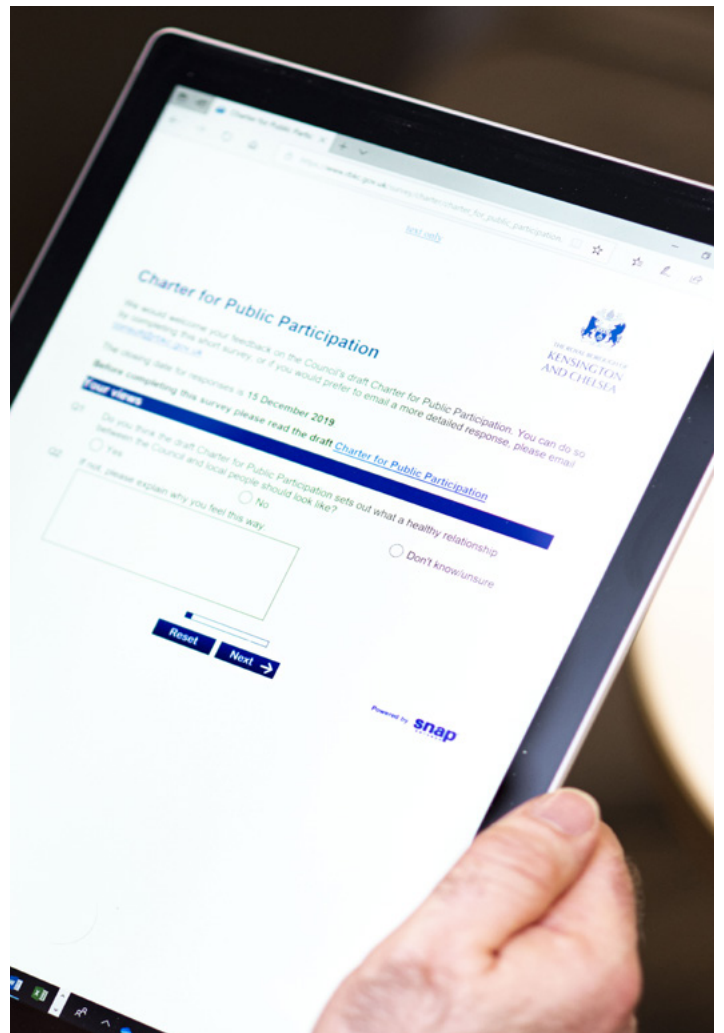
We know this is an extremely challenging time for you and that the Coronavirus pandemic has affected many aspects of your day-to-day life.

We wanted to better understand how your life has been affected, how you are feeling now, what support services you are accessing and how Council services can help support your recovery over the coming months.

We have received over 620 responses from residents as we aim to understand the impact of Coronavirus on residents. Thank you to everyone that took part.

We are busy analysing the results, which will help us have a deeper understanding of how services can meet residents' needs. Results will be shared with residents and used to inform further conversations with residents taking place later this year.

www.rbkc.gov.uk



Businesses safely welcome back residents

Pubs, restaurants and cafes in the borough have been able to serve customers al fresco this summer thanks to new licenses for outdoor dining space.

Businesses can apply for fast-tracked Pavement Licences, which can be granted within 10 working days rather than the standard 28 and allow for tables and chairs to be placed outside premises. The new Seasonal Highways Licence is also available for businesses to request to put outdoor

furniture in suspended parking bays.

It's a top priority to get our businesses trading safely again and having more, spacious outside dining means you can enjoy a meal while being totally social distanced. Since opening, 28 Pavement Licence applications and 27 Seasonal Highways applications have been received.

If you own a business and are keen to use trading space outside, you can find out more at www.rbkc.gov.uk/reopening-business.



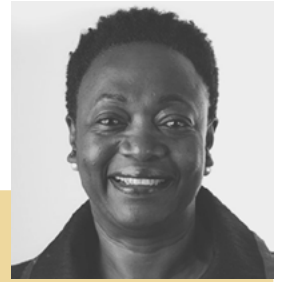
Book an appointment to get tested

A Coronavirus mobile testing facility has been visiting Olympia (in the Motorail car park) every week. The Council is publicising this and how you can book an appointment to attend on our website and social media. Visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search mobile testing or follow the Council on [Twitter@RBKC](https://twitter.com/RBKC)

At the time of printing this newsletter, 4,772 people have been tested for Coronavirus at the Kensington Olympia mobile testing unit.



News from the Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission



The Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission has recently published its second blog by co-chair, Thelma Stober.

In Thelma's blog, she reflects on her experience of the 7/7 London attacks, and subsequently of the 7/7 memorial, as a place of peace and unity. Thelma discusses her motivation to make a difference to those affected by the Grenfell Tower tragedy, by achieving a fitting memorial that brings similar comfort to bereaved families, survivors and the wider community. She also speaks about the important task ahead, of listening and working through the different views and ideas about the future Grenfell Tower memorial.

From September onwards, a newly-appointed community engagement specialist, Kaizen, will work closely with the Commission to reach out and listen to the community via a series of opportunities, both online and face-to-face, if and where possible.

To learn more:

- Read the full blog at: <https://www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/news/grenfell-tower-memorial-commission-blog-0>
- Follow the Commission's Twitter updates at: [@GrenfellTowerMC](https://twitter.com/GrenfellTowerMC)
- Make sure you don't miss important information from the Commission by joining its mailing list at: www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/contact
- To understand more about what the Commission's co-chairs and community representatives have been working through together so far, read about their meetings here: <https://www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/news/meeting-minutes>

Striking sculpture to be repaired

A local sculpture damaged during the response to the Grenfell Tower tragedy was due to be removed from the site for repair as this issue of North Ken News went to press.

The five-metre high bright pink painted steel sculpture named Gravity/Levity was designed by artist Nigel Hall RA as part of the Kensington Aldridge Academy and Kensington Leisure Centre developments in 2014. It will be familiar to many locally and proved particularly popular with the school's students.

The sculpture sat on a concrete plinth within the fenced-off area around the Tower. Given the size and weight of the sculpture – it weighs one-and-a-half tonnes – a crane was required to lift the piece onto a trailer before it was transported away for repair.

The plinth will remain in place and the soil surrounding the sculpture will not be disturbed during this process, with the company conducting the removal adhering to all social distancing and safety requirements.

Once the piece has been repaired, it will be stored at a secure location and the Council will work with the local community on options for re-siting it. For more information, please contact the Culture Service at culture@rbkc.gov.uk





Take part in **free online courses** and workshops from your own home.



www.rbkc.gov.uk and search **Community Leadership Programme**

Learn from your living room

Learn new skills from your living room by signing up for the next set of free online courses being offered through the Community Leadership Programme (CLP).

Delivered entirely online due to Coronavirus, the CLP is the perfect opportunity for residents aged 18 and over to get to grips with everything from business and leadership to barbering and mental health, all from the comfort of their own homes.

Among the sessions being streamed in September are a course on adventure play for children run by the Venture Centre; leadership workshops from Sukha Consulting; suicide first aid classes from Catherine Mental Health Training; and an exciting barbering masterclass from Mo Better Cutz.

Paulo Tavares took part in business, coaching and leadership courses on last year's CLP and has gone on to set up his own Community Interest Company which will run afterschool art and finance workshops.

Encouraging as many residents as possible to give the Programme a go, he said: "The Community Leadership Programme has something for everyone. The courses help you to grow and give you priceless information about whatever stage of life or career you are at."

To check out the wealth of courses taking place throughout the rest of the year, including details on how to sign up, search Community Leadership Programme at www.rbkc.gov.uk



Community Leadership Programme
goes **online**

Sign up now for a range of free online courses where you can learn new skills and meet new people, all from the comfort of your own home.

Find out what's on offer at www.rbkc.gov.uk and search for Community Leadership Programme. You will need to register with the organisation who is running the workshop or course.

Support for those recently shielding

From the start of the pandemic until the end of July, people who were classed as clinically vulnerable were shielding. The Government suspended this from Saturday 1 August as Coronavirus cases continued to fall.

The Council has been helping those residents who needed support and were classified as shielding since the beginning and we have now spoken to and written to all these people to ensure they were aware of the changes and of any ongoing help available.

We want to encourage neighbours and family members to continue helping those who were shielding, for example assisting with shopping or prescriptions.

Find out more about support available by visiting www.rbkc.gov.uk/coronavirus and clicking on the first box – COVID-19: clinically vulnerable people (formerly shielding).

For any further information you can call Customer Services on 020 7361 3000 Monday to Friday, between 8.30am and 5.30pm.

Share your memories of Carnival

To celebrate Carnival taking place online this year, we want to see your most enjoyable past Carnival. Share your #MyBestCarnival memory with us by sending a picture of you living your best life at Europe's biggest street festival. We'd love to share it on our social channels.

Working closely with Westminster City Council, Kensington and Chelsea is keen to remember the legacy and diversity of Notting Hill Carnival so is calling on past visitors to dig through their old photos and share your experiences of this great British event.

Even if we can't be on the streets this year, we can still celebrate by looking back at the brilliant Carnival memories and photographs from years gone by. Recognising that the BAME community is more at risk from Coronavirus, join us in protecting the Carnival elders by staying off the streets and enjoying Carnival at home.



#MyBestCarnival



Get active at our leisure centres

Kensington Leisure Centre and Chelsea Sports Centre have reopened.

Run in conjunction with Better UK, the leisure centres have put in place new measures to ensure all gym goers are safe and can continue to practise social distancing. You can access the gym, fitness classes and the swimming pool but areas like the spa and squash courts are unavailable.

Before visiting the centres, visitors must book an appointment via the Better UK app or website.

Learn more by visiting www.better.org.uk

Homes for local heroes

A Key Worker Accommodation Pilot Scheme is providing 14 affordable modern apartments for NHS and education staff in Kensington and Chelsea.

The striking homes in Kensal Road, North Kensington, have been made available to local heroes working in the NHS or primary and secondary schools who provide a service to the borough's residents.

The scheme, which closed for new applications in mid-August, will allow the Council to assess the level of demand for such properties and develop a longer-term policy for key worker accommodation across Kensington and Chelsea.

The 14 properties comprise six one-bedroom, six two-bedroom and two three-bedroom apartments and feature fitted kitchens with integrated appliances and flooring throughout. They are also close to several public transport options, including Bakerloo Line stations.

Find out more about the scheme by searching Key Worker Accommodation at www.rbkc.gov.uk



Attend the Design Museum's newest exhibit

The Design Museum has launched a pay it forward scheme aimed at offering free access to the museum's temporary exhibitions to young people and adults in the local community, including those most affected by the Coronavirus crisis.

If you are a local charity interested in sharing these tickets with the local community, please get in touch at info@designmuseum.org

Find out more about what's on at the Design Museum on their website www.designmuseum.org

the
**DESIGN
MUSEUM**

Free adult learning courses in North Kensington

Westway Trust is launching new free learning courses for adult residents of North Kensington to make sure that, despite Coronavirus, people still have access to learning opportunities.

Wellbeing, Introduction to Health & Fitness, Introduction to Teaching Assistant Courses, ESOL, and Digital Skills are just some of the free courses available.

To register interest, apply online, or book a free online assessment, visit Westway's new learning site at www.westway.org/adultlearning



Visitors will also find an online survey, where they can leave comments and ideas on what courses Westway should run in the future.

Report suspicions to help protect vulnerable children

The Council is continuing to ask residents to act on their concerns should they see signs of abuse or neglect to a child by reporting it to Children's Services.

Due to Coronavirus and the Government's social distancing guidelines, there is less for children to do and fewer places for them to go. This will leave vulnerable children and young people increasingly hidden from support services and unable to escape harm or abuse at home. If you're concerned a child is being harmed or abused, contact Kensington and Chelsea Children's Services on **020 7361 3013** from 9am-5pm weekdays. Outside of these times, call **020 7373 3227**.



Don't let children suffer in silence

If you believe a child is in immediate danger, call the police on 999. If it is not an emergency, you can report a crime or incident online or call **101** to give information to the police.

Are you a child or young person who needs to talk?

Contact **Childline for free** on **0800 1111** or online via their webchat.

Arts Grants Panel seeks resident voices

The Arts Grants Panel allocate a total of £60,000 in grants for creative projects each year, with resident voices at the heart of the assessment and decision-making processes, to ensure that we support activity which will benefit our communities the most.

If you're aged over 18 and are passionate about arts and culture, this is an excellent opportunity to develop your skills, gain experience of grant making, and learn about the creative sector in the borough. Whether you're a creative practitioner, enthusiastic participant/audience member, or just arts-curious, if you're active in your local community we'd love to hear from you.

You can find full details including the full role description and how to apply on our webpage for Arts Grants.

If you're a resident looking to secure funding for a creative project in the borough from the Arts Grants scheme, you can send over an application from Tuesday 1 September. Grants of up to £3,000 are available for projects that will demonstrate creativity and promote collaboration.



Whether you are applying as an individual to research and develop an idea, or represent an organisation planning to deliver a creative project, you can find out more about who can apply, what we will fund, and how to complete your application in our Guidance Document for the Autumn 2020 round.

The deadline for applications is **10am, Friday 16 October.**

For more information, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/artsgrants or email arts@rbkc.gov.uk

You can also follow @RBKCCulture on Facebook and Twitter.



Help catch recycling's most wanted

We know residents in our borough care about the environment.

In Kensington and Chelsea, we have a higher recycling rate than other boroughs with similar housing populations: last year residents recycled 28.6 per cent of their waste. Still, we know we can do more to improve recycling rates and make our borough a nicer place for everyone.

That's why the Council has teamed up with Innocent drinks, makers of tasty smoothies and juices whose HQ is based in North Kensington, along with environmental charity Hubbub to launch a new campaign in time for this year's National Recycling Week (21-27 September 2020).

The campaign asks residents to help catch "recycling's most wanted" - items that belong in the recycling but sometimes don't make it - and will be featured on posters, recycling bags and leaflets, digital display and recycling trucks across the borough as well as some fun games and handy tips on social media. The joint campaign will support households with recycling, starting at home in Kensington and Chelsea.

The campaign is part of the Council's ambition for a cleaner, greener local environment with less waste, better air quality and a target to be a carbon neutral borough by 2040.



Together we can recycle more and better to save money and help the environment.

Find out more about the campaign and your recycling:
www.rbkc.gov.uk/recycling

Get Involved in Culture in Kensington and Chelsea

Looking for a way to connect to culture in the community? Take a look at our One Year Covid-19 Culture Plan.

The Council recently approved our One Year Culture Plan, which recognises the vital role creativity and culture play in the borough's recovery from the pandemic, with an emphasis on digital engagement.

Created from conversations with more than 5,000 people who live, work or learn in the borough, the Plan presents a multitude of ways to get involved in engaging and accessible activities, from Notting Hill Carnival online only for 2020 to the first K&C Culture Night of free online cultural activity by local artists, organisations and venues on Friday 2 October. There are so many ways you can participate in and contribute to the borough's outstanding creative and cultural offer.

To find out how you can get involved, view the Culture Plan online now.



A Place of Culture
to Visit and Explore

Culture Plan
2020-2021



www.rbkc.gov.uk/culture-plan

Green light for new Council homes

Plans for the first phase of Kensington and Chelsea's ambitious New Homes Programme to build over 600 new homes on Council owned land, including at least 300 at social rent, have been approved by planners.

The applications approved are for 97 new homes across four developments in the north of the borough, located on Kensal Road, Acklam Road, Hewer Street and St Helens Gardens.

The homes will be offered at various tenures, including 49 at social rent, 22 at intermediate rent – which could be used by key workers – and 26 at market rent levels.

The homes form stage one of the Council's new homes programme, with public consultation on potential stage two sites due to begin this autumn. Planning applications for the stage two sites are expected to be submitted in Spring 2021.



Acklam Road



St Helens Gardens

The developments passed in the Stage One planning application are:

- **Kensal Road** – 37 new homes (27 social rent, 10 intermediate rent)
- **Acklam Road** – 32 new homes (20 social rent, 12 open market)
- **Hewer Street** – 20 new homes (10 intermediate rent, 10 open market)
- **St Helens Gardens** – 8 new homes (2 social rent, 2 intermediate rent, 4 open market)

In addition to the new homes, the developments at Kensal Road and Acklam Road include community, employment and retail space.

The Acklam Road development includes a community room for residents in the neighbouring Swinbrook Estate and a separate space for Al Manaar Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre, while the Kensal Road site will provide community and retail space.

Works are due to begin by the end of 2020, with the first homes expected to be ready for residents during 2022.



Kensal Road



Hewer Street

Meet our new Street Ambassadors

Since July, Council enforcement officers and community wardens have been out and about taking on the new role of Street Ambassadors. The team has been speaking with businesses, supporting premises with social distancing, and answering

licensing and planning questions. They have also been chatting with residents and visitors on the high street about safe ways to get around and enjoy the borough.

As new rules are introduced, it can be confusing to know what we need to do, such as where and when to wear a face mask. Our Street Ambassadors are here to offer some guidance, whether you're visiting, living or working in K&C, and have already visited and given advice to over 50 business premises so far.

Say hi if you see them!



Attend Council Meetings online

Interested in getting involved at the Council?

As social distancing guidelines are still in place and meetings start to pick back up in September, we will continue to hold public meetings 'virtually' with participants taking part from their homes. Watch a livestream of the meeting on your desktop or mobile device on the night or up to six months after each meeting.

We intend to continue taking public questions at Full Council meetings and the process of submitting

questions hasn't changed. We will continue to register speakers on a first come, first served basis.

To find out when the next virtual Council meeting will be held visit our meetings page.

www.rbkc.gov.uk/committees/meetings.aspx

