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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



www.facebook.com/royalborough



www.nextdoor.co.uk



www.instagram.com/kensingtonandchelseacouncil

For updates on Grenfell



@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

Kensington and Chelsea moved to high alert

At the time of going to print, the Government had just introduced a new three tier system to help control the spread of Coronavirus. It means that the whole country is split into areas that are either Medium (Tier 1), High (Tier 2) or Very High (Tier 3) depending on the level of infection in those areas. Each of these have different levels of restrictions on going out and who you can see.

London, and therefore Kensington and Chelsea, is currently rated as High alert level (Tier 2) which means:

- You cannot meet up with people outside your household (and support bubble) inside.
- You can still meet up to five people outside your household.
- Care homes are closed to visitors, apart from exceptional circumstances.
- There are care bubbles for children under 14 years old, which means that an individual outside the child's immediate household can form a care bubble to help look after them.
- You are asked to keep travel to

a minimum and avoid going to parts of the country that are classed as Very High (Tier 3).

Remember that the most important thing we can all do is follow the Hands, Face, Space advice of the government. Wash your hands regularly, use a face covering when social distancing is not possible and try to keep your distance from those not in your household or support bubble.

If you do have symptoms you should self-isolate immediately and book a test which you can get at home or you can go to your nearest test centre, there is one open seven days a week at **Malton Road, W10 6HJ** and

we have a mobile one that is regularly at **Kensington Olympia**. More information is available at www.rbkc.gov.uk and search coronavirus testing.

We know you've done a tremendous amount to help protect your family and friends, but we are going to need to carry on doing our bit for some time to come. You can find out more about the new system on the government's website and you can keep up to date with the alert levels with the government post code checker. www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-announces-new-local-covid-alert-levels

Share your #MyMaskSelfie

Local residents and businesses have been sharing selfies on social media sporting their favourite masks to raise awareness of the regulations around face coverings. We've received over 30 brilliant submissions so far, many of which you can see on the cover of this edition.

Local Kensington and Chelsea fashion house Tandi Fashion has pledged its support to the project and will reward the sharer of the best **#MyMaskSelfie** with a free mask from her wide range of fashionable options.

Thandi Ojeer, owner of Tandi Fashion, said: "Despite adversity, creativity has shone throughout the pandemic with people expressing themselves in new and unique ways. Getting people to show off their masks will hopefully bring some joy into people's lives during this difficult time. I've loved seeing all

the selfie submissions so far and can't wait to choose a winner to win a mask from my collection."

To get involved, share a picture with us on twitter ([tag@RBKC](https://twitter.com/tag@RBKC)) or Instagram ([tag@kensingtonandchelseacouncil](https://www.instagram.com/tag@kensingtonandchelseacouncil)) and hashtag **#MyMaskSelfie** with your picture. It'll help remind people about the rules and you could even win a brand-new stylish mask. We can't wait to see what you send in!

Visit [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) for the latest guidance on face masks.



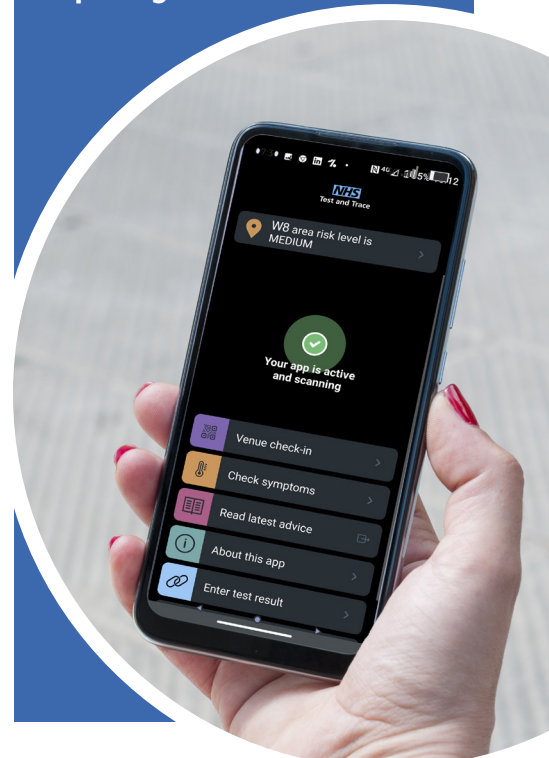
Check in with NHS Test and Trace

The NHS Covid-19 app lets you scan and check in to any venues that you visit with a QR code displayed at the entrance.

All hospitality and leisure businesses are now legally required to display an NHS QR code and others are also encouraged to display the codes. If you don't have the app, you should be asked to note down your contact details.

It's important to check into public places so that if another customer or member of staff tests positive for Coronavirus, the NHS can easily track where they might have come into contact with others. The app will alert you if this happens so that you can get tested and self-isolate if necessary, slowing the potential spread of the virus.

You can find out more about the app, QR codes and how it works at www.rbkc.gov.uk/reopening-business



Artists join #ScarfUp project for those with respiratory illnesses

#ScarfUp and keep out the cold is the message from Chelsea and Westminster Hospital as a group of artists turn their hand to scarf design to help patients with respiratory illnesses.

The project is aimed at those suffering from COPD, asthma and Coronavirus, who are particularly vulnerable to further illnesses in colder weather.

The artists have been invited by CW+, the hospital's official charity, to create and donate scarf patterns which can then be downloaded by local people for free. Volunteer community knitters will then create and donate the scarves to the hospital.

If you'd like to find out more about this project or create a scarf for one of the hospital's patients, visit www.cwplus.org.uk/scarfup



Have you attended a Council meeting?

Although Council meetings haven't resumed in person, they are still taking place online. Join in virtually to a Planning, Overview and Scrutiny or Full Council meeting online from the comfort of your own home.

You can tune into the livestream of the meeting hosted on the Council's YouTube channel directly on your desktop or mobile device.

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 and save the meeting to your personal calendar using our nifty new add to calendar feature.

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



New Coronavirus Testing Centre in North Kensington

A semi-permanent Coronavirus testing centre has now opened on Malton Road.

The centre is at The Hub, 2-4 Malton Road, W10 5UP and is open seven days a week, from 8am to 8pm. It can be used by anyone with symptoms. A test must be booked in advance at NHS online ([NHS.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)) or by calling 119.

The centre significantly increases the number of tests available to residents in Kensington and Chelsea. Another testing site is located at Kensington Olympia and is open twice every week. The Council and Public Health England have also provided temporary mobile testing sites at Kensington Town Hall, World's End Estate and Holy Trinity Brompton over the last month. Over 9,000 tests have been carried out on these sites since testing began.

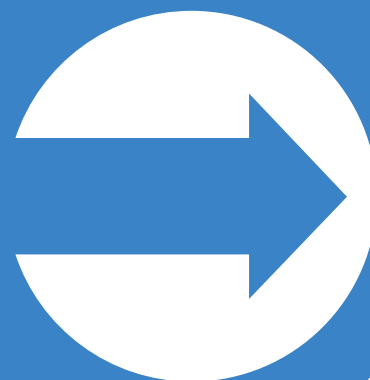
If you are going to a walk-in test centre, do not use public transport or get a taxi, you should walk to the site, wearing a face covering and remaining at least 2m away from anyone else.

Visit the Council website for more weekly testing dates and the latest locations www.rbkc.gov.uk

Covid-19 testing site

2-4 Malton Road
Open 8am to 8pm

You must pre-book to attend,
call 119 or go to
www.NHS.UK/Coronavirus



Local Contact Tracing in Kensington and Chelsea

We have launched a local Contact Tracing scheme in Kensington and Chelsea. This means that NHS Test and Trace will pass on details to the Council of residents they have not been able to contact to let them know that they either have Coronavirus or they

were at the same location as someone who has tested positive for the virus.

We have additional databases which means we may have more ways of contacting affected residents if the NHS can't reach them.

We will also check with people who

are self-isolating to ensure they have support and are able to get food and medicines delivered. If not, we will provide information about local support and how to access it.

People who are told they have tested positive for Coronavirus should tell people they have been in contact with as soon as possible, and these people should self-isolate for 14 days.

Visit [NHS.uk/Coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) for more information on the Test and Trace app.



Claiming Self-Isolation Payments

If you have been told by the NHS to self-isolate, either because you have tested positive for Coronavirus or you have been in contact with someone who has, you may be entitled to financial support during this period of up to £500.

The legal duty to self-isolate came into effect from Monday 28 September 2020. From this date, the Government has said councils must provide support payments to those who are eligible.

To make a claim email C19Hub@rbkc.gov.uk or call 020 7361 4326 and make clear that you are contacting about a self-isolation payment, include your Test and Trace Covid-19 reference number.

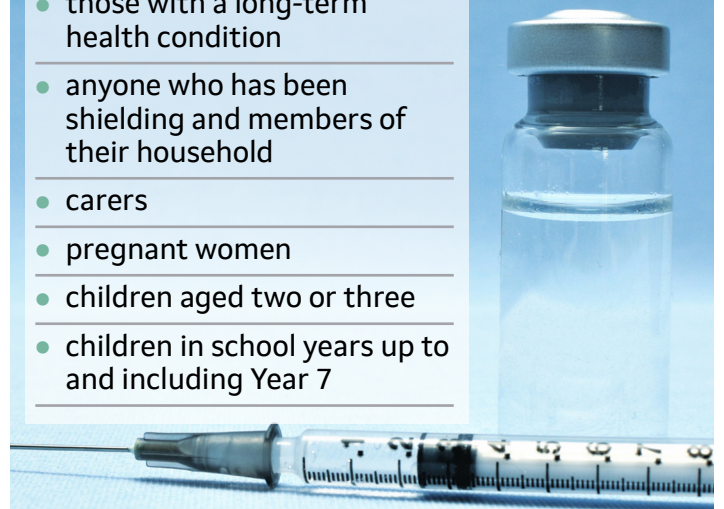
For more information go to www.rbkc.gov.uk/coronavirus and search financial support during self-isolation.

Just the flu?

Every year the flu kills thousands of people and hospitalises many more. Coronavirus shares many symptoms with flu, so if you're at risk it's important you get your jab to avoid confusion.

Keep your guard up against flu with the flu vaccine. It's free for:

- people over 65
- those with a long-term health condition
- anyone who has been shielding and members of their household
- carers
- pregnant women
- children aged two or three
- children in school years up to and including Year 7



The flu virus spreads from person to person, even amongst those not showing symptoms.

Find out more, visit www.nhs.uk/flu vaccine

Council to call residents for health and wellbeing survey

The North Kensington Health and Wellbeing survey launched at the end of October.

This is year two of a five-year survey programme. It is designed to give a better understanding of general health and wellbeing, recovery after Grenfell as well as the impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on North Kensington.

This year's survey will be carried out via telephone calls to residents in five North Kensington wards.

We encourage everyone to take part in the interview if they are able to do so.

Question topics range from the impact of Grenfell to mental health and wellbeing to how COVID-19 has affected respondent's finances or housing situation. The survey will be open for around six weeks and we'll feedback after the new year.

We look forward to hearing from you.



How we are tackling homelessness

We want Kensington and Chelsea to be a borough where our most vulnerable residents get the help they need when they need it.

We find that many residents who are at risk of homelessness approach us and other local agencies when they are already in a housing crisis which makes it harder for us to work with them to find a solution. By working with local advice agencies, we will try harder to ensure that residents are aware of the advice and support that is available to them far sooner so we can help prevent homelessness.

About the consultation

We asked for your thoughts on our draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Reduction Strategy earlier this year. We extended the consultation period during lockdown to ensure we captured as many views as possible. We received 67 responses to the online public consultation and several written submissions. Sixty-one per cent felt the priorities set out in the draft strategy were the right ones.



What you told us was important to you

- More support for rough sleepers.
- More focus on early intervention.
- Providing more housing within or close to the borough.

Our challenges

- Kensington and Chelsea now has the second highest rate of residents living in temporary accommodation per head of population in England, meaning too many residents do not have a settled home.
- The high cost of housing in Kensington and Chelsea is a barrier to residents finding their own alternative accommodation when faced with homelessness.
- Trying to prevent homelessness early so our residents have a better chance of remaining in the borough.

What are we doing to help?

- Working with partners in the community to make sure residents receive advice and support far earlier.
- Working with residents to help them find solutions that work for them in the long run.
- We're building 600 new homes in the borough, with at least 300 being let at social rent (more info on page 11).

Our four key areas to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping

1. Preventing residents from becoming homeless and assisting them when they have become homeless.
2. Providing suitable accommodation for homeless households.
3. Reducing and working towards the elimination of rough sleeping.
4. Working with partners to prevent homelessness earlier.



Your local Better Leisure Centre is back

After being given the all clear by the government, Kensington Leisure Centre, and other Better centres, reopened at the end of July. This initial reopening phase saw gym, fitness classes, and swimming activities return.

Following Covid-secure guidance, anyone wishing to use the facilities will need to pre-book a one-hour time slot via the Better app or website and signage and floor markings inside the centres will assist with one-way access. Equipment has been spread out to ensure that two metre social distancing between users is maintained, while some fitness classes have been relocated to the sports hall.

Better Swim School has now also returned for children in Stage 1 and above with a new and improved programme.

Covid-secure measures have been put in place for pupils, parents (who will also be asked to wear face masks while observing lessons), and swimming teachers. This will include asking pupils to arrive at their lesson “pool ready”, staggered arrival times, and a one-way system to and from classes.

For more info on Better’s Swim School, visit www.better.org.uk and search Swim School.



Women’s Self-Care Day goes digital

The ClementJames Centre will be bringing its popular Women’s Self-Care Day online this year, led by partners specialising in wellbeing services. Attendees will be able to connect with others, build confidence and knowledge of self-care and learn useful techniques to boost and maintain their physical and mental health.

The session will take place on Zoom on Thursday 26 November and will feature a range of 30-45-minute-long workshops. More information on the full programme will be sent to those who register ahead of the day.

There are only 30 places so if you or somebody you know is interested, don’t delay in registering your interest by emailing wellbeing@clementjames.org

To stay up to date with the range of wellbeing-related workshops hosted by ClementJames, including the rescheduled Wellbeing Day, visit the ClementJames website www.clementjames.org



Head online for Grenfell Projects Fund updates

Discover how North Kensington community groups adapted their Grenfell Projects Fund sessions to the Coronavirus pandemic at a new series of monthly online meetings.

With lockdown and social distancing rules making many of the successful projects impossible to run in their original forms, groups have come up with innovative ways to deliver their programmes in line with the latest public health guidance.

Minds United FC updated its community football training sessions to meet rules on hygiene and social distancing, while art group 24 Hearts used online tutorials to help residents create colourful bees and



butterflies from the safety of their own homes for a public display to mark Carnival at North Kensington Library.

The two groups will be joined by KCS Schools Band, Rise Kids and the ClementJames Centre to share their experiences of delivering Covid-safe projects at the first online presentation on Tuesday 27 October.

Future sessions are planned for the following dates:

Tuesday 24 November 2020 from 6.30-7.45pm

Tuesday 15 December 2020 from 6.30-7.45pm

Tuesday 19 January 2021 from 6.30-7.45pm

Tuesday 23 February 2021 from 6.30-7.45pm

Tuesday 30 March 2021 from 6.30-7.45pm

The Grenfell Projects Fund saw £700,000 allocated to 57 different projects across six outcomes, with the North Kensington community voting for their favourite projects at two decision days held earlier this year.

To join the first presentation, visit

<https://mutualgain.zoom.us/j/94703818037>

from 6.30pm on Tuesday 27 October.

Find out more by searching Grenfell Projects Fund at www.rbkc.gov.uk

Online Grenfell Assembly to focus on Grenfell Projects Fund

The next Grenfell Assembly will be held on Wednesday 18 November from 6pm to 7.30pm and will focus on the Grenfell Projects Fund.

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, we're unable to hold a face-to-face meeting but you'll be able to access the discussion online via Zoom. There's no need to register, you can just join on the night.

The Assembly will be opened by Cllr Anne Cyron, Lead Member for Communities, who will give an overview of the Grenfell Projects Fund. There will also be the opportunity to view a short film showcasing the Grenfell Projects Fund Decision Days where residents voted for

the projects they wanted to see secure the grants.

Adaptations have been made to successful community projects and new online meetings to discuss how projects have been delivered will take place over the coming weeks (as detailed in the above article).

At the Assembly we are keen to hear community views on the Grenfell Projects Fund, how residents and groups feel it could be improved next year and how we can ensure all groups and individuals feel supported and able to apply.

You can join the meeting by using the following Zoom link <https://mutualgain.zoom.us/j/91402388749>

Community spotlight

Karen Matthews

A local headteacher and her staff have been praised by parents as an asset to the North Kensington community. Karen Matthews, Head Teacher at Bevington Primary School, took on her role as head in September 2015 and has since proved to be a popular leader for the school.

One resident, Lesa Dodd, reached out to the Council to tell us what she thought of Ms Matthews: **“She’s interested in the welfare of the whole family and always has our best interests at heart. It’s helped us build a better family relationship and has ultimately benefited my**

children to get the best start in life they could have asked for”.

Lesa continued to explain that four of her children have attended Bevington and she couldn’t have asked for a better education and early-school days for them: **“They’ve had so much fun and gone into high school organised and prepared”.**

To recognise the hard work of the school and Ms Matthews, Lesa organised for a sign paying tribute to be posted on the school gates.

Upon hearing about the high praise from local people, Ms Matthews said: **“This is a such a lovely thing that Mrs Dodd has done for the school. All our parents have been so supportive, especially as we have to follow social distancing rules and can’t have them on site all the time in the way we would in previous years.**



“We are genuinely overwhelmed by this praise. Staff do feel like everyone here at Bevington is part of their family and we are so glad to have them back here now. It is just the best feeling to be together again”.

Do you know someone who makes the community feel like a better place and gives their all to others? We are always on the lookout for stories about local champions. This has been a difficult year in which many people have pulled together to help one another. Why not tell us about someone who you want to praise?

Email us at northkennews@rbkc.gov.uk with more information and we will get back to you as soon as we can.



New Business Forum for North Kensington

Due to their work in the local community, Portobello Business Centre has been asked to work with the Council, Greater London Authority and local businesses to help deliver a business forum called North Kensington Connected.

If you or somebody you know is a business based in North Kensington and you would like to:

- Network on a regular basis with other like-minded business owners and exchange ideas.
- Be kept informed of issues and opportunities that will affect our local trading area.
- Upgrade your skills with short presentations from experienced professionals.
- Access decision makers.

Then join the North Kensington Connected Business Forum by completing the registration form. Stuart Woodrow, the North Kensington Business Champion, is planning the next virtual meeting for a date in November which will be shared with participants.

Register here: www.pbc.co.uk/north-kensington-connected-business-forum

If you need more information, please contact Stuart Woodrow on **07387 396397** or stuart@pbcc.co.uk

Have your say on new homes plans

Residents are being invited to have their say on the next phase of ambitious plans to deliver 600 new homes on Council-owned land in the borough.

Three sites – Edenham, Barlby and Silchester Arches – have been identified as potential locations for Stage Two of the New Homes Delivery Programme, which will include a minimum of 300 social rent homes.

Each location could provide much-needed housing, including affordable homes as well as improvements to the local area and community facilities. We will be seeking the views of residents and other local organisations to help shape the schemes.

Public consultations into the proposed sites will begin with the Edenham site on Saturday 31 October from 10.30am to 11.30am

and Wednesday 4 November from 5.30pm to 6.30pm, with online presentations and chat sessions being used due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Face-to-face sessions will take place as soon as it is safe to do so and those unable to access online presentation materials and feedback forms will be able to request hard copies.

The new locations have been proposed after the four sites making up Stage One of the programme received planning permission earlier this year. Construction on those 97 homes is set to begin in 2021.

For more information, other consultation dates and to access the Zoom link to join the online chat sessions, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/new-homes-edenham



Free coaching with the Community Leadership Programme

Discover how to stop thinking and start doing by signing up for free one-to-one life coaching through the Community Leadership Programme.

Delivered by Styleution's experienced life coach Bash, the 12-week course is perfect for anyone aged 18 and over who wants to make positive changes to their life.

Bash works with people from all walks of life to help identify goals and overcome self-doubt and limiting beliefs. Her Community Leadership Programme course is delivered online via one-hour Zoom meetings held every fortnight and emphasises the importance of setting realistic, achievable targets to help develop and sustain self-motivation.

Bash said: "You may not believe it now, but you have all the answers and the knowledge to get where you want to be".

Life coaching is just one of a number of Community Leadership Programme courses still to come in 2020. Other sessions include the Rocket Launch programme from Portobello Business Centre, group facilitation and positive behaviour management from the St Clement and St James Centre and a treasurer skills workshop from TPAS.

For details of these and other remaining courses, search Community Leadership Programme at www.rbkc.gov.uk

What's on at The Curve?

The Curve Community Centre hosts courses, events and programmes as well as continuing to offer support to those who need it. It's located at 10 Bard Road, W10 6TP and is now open Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm.

Throughout November, The Curve has a range of events for you and your family to get involved with. For the full daily programme of events at The Curve, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/curve-events

To contact The Curve, call **020 7221 9836** or email thecurve@rbkc.gov.uk



£10,000 to combat cold homes

Green Homes Grants are available now for landlords and homeowners to put in energy efficiency measures that can help save on energy bills, such as loft insulation, low carbon heating and draught proofing.

The grants will pay 100 per cent of improvement costs up to £10,000 for those on low incomes and in the least energy efficient homes, with Energy Performance Certificate ratings E, F or G. The aim is to help at least 50 homeowners make their homes warmer, help tackle fuel poverty, combat climate change, reduce emissions and make Kensington and Chelsea a carbon neutral borough by 2040.

To find out if you are eligible and register your interest please call RBKC Environmental Health Helpline on **020 7361 3002**.

All other homeowners and landlords can apply for vouchers for help towards the costs of upgrading the energy efficiency of their home by visiting www.gov.uk/greenhomesgrant

Scan to sign up for our newsletters

Have you signed up for our Council newsletters?

You'll not only learn about service updates in the borough, you'll also get helpful information about Coronavirus, the scoop on free events, details about Council meetings plus much more.

It's what you want to know in a quick and paperless format. Sign up by scanning the QR code.



SCAN ME

