

Our Borough



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

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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

Covid-19

Information on our Coronavirus response is correct at the time of going to press. For the latest updates, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/coronavirus

We're available online

To view this or previous issues of Our Borough online, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/newsroom/all-council-statements/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

Covid-19 vaccination and testing

More than 43 million people in the UK have had at least one jab as part of the Coronavirus vaccination programme and everyone aged 18 and over can now get their jab.

You can book online by going to www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or calling the NHS on 119. Anyone aged under 40 will be offered Pfizer or Moderna vaccinations.

In addition to the mass vaccination site in the borough at the Science Museum, there are also a number of other mass vaccination sites around North West London which you can use, some of which have walk-in options. Go to www.nwlondonccg.nhs.uk/coronavirus/nhs-covid-19-vaccination-programme/surplus-vaccine for details.

If you have any concerns about taking the vaccine you can find out more by searching "vaccination FAQ" at www.rbkc.gov.uk or speaking to your GP.

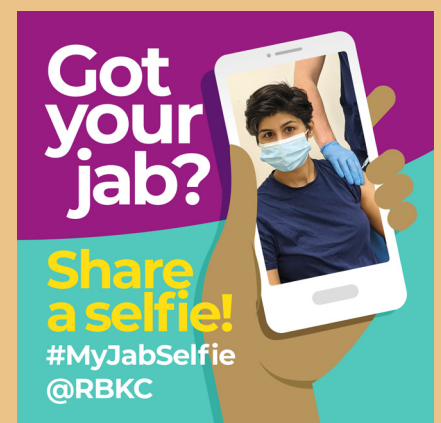
The vaccine dramatically reduces your risk of catching or reacting badly to Coronavirus and also helps protect your family and friends by reducing the chances of you spreading it.

The Government continues to encourage people to get tested twice a week to ensure that people are not spreading Coronavirus without being aware as one in three with the virus show no symptoms.

Whether you've been vaccinated or not, the most important thing you can do to keep case numbers down and protect your family and friends is to wash your hands, wear a face covering inside shops and other public areas, keep your distance, meet others outside and, if indoors, keep rooms well ventilated with fresh air.

Had your jab? Share a selfie

Want to let the world know you've done your bit to protect your loved ones and community from Coronavirus? Share a selfie post-jab using the hashtag **#MyJabSelfie** on social media! We'll be sharing the best submissions.



Next phase of easing lockdown

At the time of going to press, the Government planned to remove all remaining lockdown restrictions on Monday 19 July. Check the latest guidance by searching "**Covid rules**" at gov.uk





Notting Hill Carnival 2021 to be held online

For the second year running, Notting Hill Carnival will be moving entirely online over the bank holiday weekend, 29-30 August 2021, due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Carnival organisers have decided to keep the event online following latest Government advice and after extensive consultation with partners. Instead, they are working towards an alternative Notting Hill Carnival for 2021 that will deliver the Carnival spirit to

people from the safety of their homes.

With health and safety of our local residents a priority, going virtual again allows us to continue to celebrate the vibrancy and legacy of Carnival as we await a return to the streets next year.



Follow this QR code for more information on Carnival 2021.



Priorities revealed in refreshed Council Plan

A refreshed Council Plan has been launched for Kensington and Chelsea.

The plan looks at what has been achieved over the last two years, how the Council needs to adjust following the Covid-19 pandemic, and what priorities residents want us to focus on over the next two years. It sets out ambitions to be an organisation that turns change into longer term service improvement, and to be a Council led by its communities.

The plan also includes details on funding for Covid recovery and our ambition to be one of the greenest boroughs in the UK – as we seek to be carbon neutral by 2030.



Our council plan 2019 to 2023





Mayor re-elected for second term

Councillor Gerard Hargreaves has been re-elected as Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea. He'll continue to support homelessness charity Glass Door, for which he raised more than £17,000 during 2020. Cllr Sof McVeigh has also been appointed to serve as Deputy Mayor for a second term.



Scan the QR code to see the Mayor reflecting on his first year with Glass Door CEO Lucy Abraham.

Find out more and view the refreshed Council Plan by following this QR code.

Rediscover the borough through K&C's Summer of Love

Get ready to fall in love with your local area again this summer as we get back out and about post-lockdown.

We're celebrating what our borough has to offer with exciting events and activities taking place until September and you're invited to join in the fun. There's something for everyone to enjoy, from our parks, high streets and museums, to libraries, local businesses and more.

As Covid-19 restrictions ease, it's important to continue to follow the latest Government guidance when travelling, socialising and attending events to keep you and others around you safe this summer.

We've also launched an exciting Summer of Love photo competition with fantastic prizes from local businesses up for grabs so watch out



on our social media channels
[@RBKC](#) on Twitter and
[@kensingtonandchelseacouncil](#)
on Instagram for details.

Check out what's on in our calendar of events which will continue to be updated over the summer. Keep an eye out for more to come at www.rbkc.gov.uk/summer-of-love

Take to two wheels in e-scooter trial

Kensington and Chelsea has become one of the first boroughs in London where you can rent, ride and park e-scooters.

Between 60 and 150 e-scooters are available to rent and are operated by Lime, Dott and TIER as part of a trial scheme coordinated by Transport for London and London Councils.

Marked designated parking bays are located in handy spots around the borough and hires can only be completed once the e-scooter is parked in a designated bay, with geo-fencing technology ensuring that e-scooters are not left outside of these spaces.

Safety will be at the core of the trial with scooters only allowed on roads and cycleways, not pavements, and operators in the capital have to abide by tougher safety standards than those set nationally, including:



A lower maximum speed of 12.5mph
Lights at the front and the rear of the vehicles that are always on throughout any rental.

Audible warning systems that can be used without adjusting the rider's grip of the handlebar.



From Kensal Road to Kings Road, e-scooter parking bays are dotted all over the borough. See a full list on our website:
www.rbkc.gov.uk/e-scooters

Summer Sundays at Portobello and Golborne Market

Portobello and Golborne Market will be open on Sundays through the summer to provide an extra day to shop, easing crowding and making the most of the whole weekend. The market is running for 11 Sundays until 22 August with up to 30 stalls providing food, antiques, vintage clothes, home accessories and more.

Sunday markets offer a chance to enjoy a more relaxed local ambiance and take your time to shop for your essentials plus explore the range of new independent businesses along with the classics like Rough Trade, Ceramica Blue, The Cloth Shop and many more.

Learn more about what's on in the area by following [@visitportobello](#) on social media, checking out www.visitportobello.com, or downloading the [dscvr app](#).



Help to shape the future of our markets

We want to hear from you about how to improve our markets for traders, shoppers and the local community ahead of the launch of our Market Plan 2021-2026.

A number of proposals have been outlined for the Plan and you can share your views and provide feedback in an online survey which is open to everyone who lives, works or learns in the borough, whether you're a resident, business owner or frequent market visitor.

Find the survey on our Consultation Hub at www.consult.rbkc.gov.uk

Get moving this summer with free adult fitness activities

Make the most of your summer by joining our leisure team for free, fun and energising fitness activities.

Active for Life is a free exercise programme that consists of outdoor and indoor sessions for our residents aged 16 and over. Engaging and blood pumping fitness classes such as tennis, Zumba, health walks are all on offer. Turn up to any of our outdoor sessions ten minutes before a class is due to start or book onto our indoor courses in advance by contacting the leisure team.

The fitness sessions are taking place throughout July at parks in North Kensington and beyond. They are open to people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds and feature tai chi, yoga and circuit classes.



Take a look at what's available and start getting active – head to www.rbkc.gov.uk and search “activities for adults”.



Have your say on new homes plans

There's still time to share your views on plans to deliver 600 new Council-owned homes in Kensington and Chelsea – including at least 300 at social rent.

Consultation has been progressing on the four sites making up phase two of the New Homes Delivery Programme – Barlby Road, Cheyne, Edenham and

Silchester Arches. A total of 97 homes have already been approved in phase one, with construction underway at Kensal Road and Hewer Street.

Check out the latest from each site on these pages – including how you can get involved in the ongoing consultations – or visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/new-homes to find out more.

Barlby Road

Members of the local community joined two information sessions in June to hear the latest updates on the Barlby Road scheme, which would deliver 83 new homes, with more than half at social rent or available to key workers, as well as a community sports facility, central courtyard garden and improvements to the surrounding area.

Feedback will be used to refine the plans to provide a final design for the site ahead of the Council applying for planning permission in the autumn.

The second round of consultation into the Barlby Road site is open until Wednesday 21 July and you can take part by viewing the presentation video and document and completing the feedback form at www.rbkc.gov.uk/new-homes-barlby

Cheyne

A state-of-the-art nursery and children's centre along with 18 new homes all available at social rent are among the plans being consulted on for the Cheyne site in the south of the borough.

The first round of consultation for the scheme, which would be delivered on the site of the current Cheyne Nursery in Chelsea, is now open. Find out more and share your views by visiting www.rbkc.gov.uk/new-homes-cheyne. The deadline is Thursday 22 July.

Edenham

Since the last round of consultation we have been working with the local community and stakeholders to better understand their concerns and to develop a scheme that seeks to balance their views along with the pressing need for new homes in the borough.

We are holding an additional round of consultation to share the updated plans and give residents more time to comment.

You can view the latest proposals, details of in-person consultation events and find the feedback form at www.rbkc.gov.uk/new-homes-edenham

**Building
for the
Future**



Silchester Arches

Plans for new homes on the Silchester Arches site in North Kensington have been updated to take on board residents' feedback from the second round of consultation.

In response to your comments, we have now amended the design to a smaller building of six storeys in height, reduced the height and footprint of the building to minimise daylight/sunlight impacts, amended the landscaping scheme and ensured that all homes have access to a balcony or winter garden.

Additionally, following concerns raised regarding the potential impact of incorporating access to ACAVA studios outdoor areas, we will be considering works to these areas separately to this application to enable further involvement with relevant parties.

You can read the full report of the round two consultation findings at <https://consult.rbkc.gov.uk/housing/silchester-arches-round-2>

You said, we did

In June we also held two resident engagement events to show you how we had adapted the plans to take on board your feedback.

Following these events, we are finalising the scheme and will be submitting a planning application. Residents will have a further opportunity to comment during the planning process.

Fine out more at www.rbkc.gov.uk/new-homes-silchester-arches

Green revolution coming to Kensington and Chelsea

A project delivering eco-improvements to a building in Kensington Memorial Park is the first upgrade being delivered as part of a £10m boost for environmental causes.

The funding boost comes from our new Green Fund, supporting projects that promote a green economic recovery from the pandemic and take action against climate change.

We've also developed a Green Plan which sets new targets to cut air pollution, tackle climate change, reduce waste, boost nature and help those living in fuel poverty. It also aims to reduce carbon emissions to achieve a net-zero carbon target for the Council by 2030 and the whole borough by 2040.

Find out more about our green targets by searching "green plan" at www.rbkc.gov.uk

You can play your part by saving energy at home. Find out if you are eligible for a home improvement grant to shrink your carbon footprint while saving on energy bills, by visiting www.rbkc.gov.uk and searching "Green Homes Grant"



Be part of an exciting new Windrush exhibition

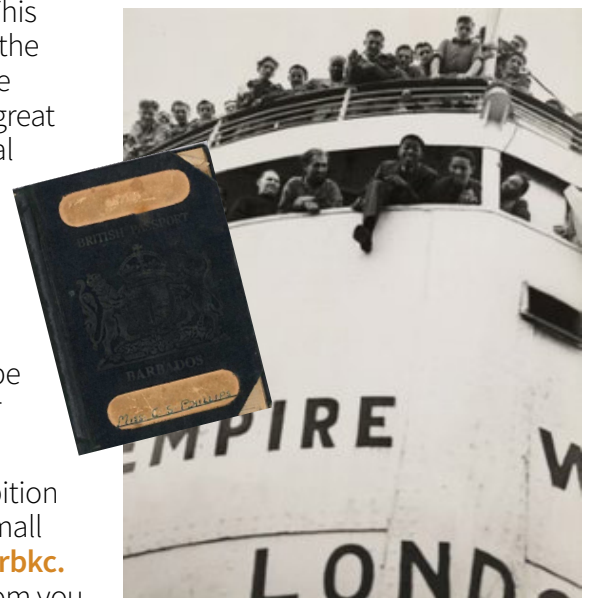
In the run-up to a fascinating new exhibition called *Windrush Generation: London is the Place for Me*, organisers are inviting you to get in touch if you, your neighbours, family or friends have anything you could contribute.

This might be passports, travel tickets, partner books/statements, newspaper clippings, books, suitcases, clothing, Dutch pots, records and other items from the Windrush era, along with the unique stories about the struggles and triumphs faced by this generation as they navigated their way through post-war London.

You may know the Windrush Generation are the Caribbean men and women who aided the financial reconstruction of Britain from the Second World War era and beyond. This exhibition will give insight to the lives and experiences of these everyday heroes and offer a great opportunity to hear individual accounts of their unique contributions to the UK.

The exhibition will take place at North Kensington Library from Tuesday 24 August until Sunday 31 October and will be held jointly with Westminster Council.

If you can contribute to exhibition in any way, however big or small please contact windrush1@rbkc.gov.uk – we'd love to hear from you.



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 (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