



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA



Residents' Associations DIRECT

Information from the Community Engagement Team

March 2016 , Issue 4

Contents

1. RA webpage update
2. Residents' Corner
 - Kensington Court RA Street Party
3. Ask Us?
 - What would you like answered?
4. News for you
 - Women's Pioneer Housing
 - Refuge Welcome Committee
 - 2016 London Mayoral Elections
 - Space Hive
 - RBKC Neighbourhood Board (AGM)
 - New Neighbourhood Watch system
 - Hilden Charitable Fund
 - Post office
 - Plan Zheroes - Become a food waste hero
 - Ask Nick Review
 - RBKC Local App
5. Final word

Want to find out what's going on in your local area?

It's easy! The Community Cuppa is a monthly e-bulletin from City Living, Local Life that features community news and events in the local area. It takes no longer to read than it does to drink a cuppa!

All you have to do is scan the QR code below on your mobile phone or go to:
www.rbkc.gov.uk/locallife/signup

So grab a cuppa, put your feet up and find out what's going on in local life!



Reviewing our Residents' Association Database and Webpage's

Between December 2015 and January 2016, RBKC's Community Engagement Team undertook an annual review of the information we hold on the borough's residents' associations. Kensington and Chelsea is currently home to over 350 associations, and letters were sent to all, requesting an update of their contact and committee details, Associations were also asked what details they would like to be available on our [public listing](#). Councillors, officers, residents and developers regularly use the search function to find associations in certain areas. If an association opts out of publicly displaying any contact details, then none of these stakeholders will be able to find you.

As well as updating the listing, the Community Engagement Team have also been working to refresh and revamp the Residents' Association [search function](#), as well as the registration form. The new digital registration will replace an older version that requires new associations to print, complete and post the form back to the council. Of course, paper versions of this form will still be available upon request, however this new online form will make registering a new association both quicker and simpler. The new registration form will be launched later this month and the improved search form is live now!

Whilst a refresh and review of the listing happens annually, associations are encouraged to contact us at any time of year, to update their details. As and when changes take place within management or membership, associations are reminded to call or email the Community Engagement Team to let us know. Why not also [check online](#) to see what information is publicly available? Again, please get in touch if you would like more (or less) contact information to be shown.

Residents' Corner

Residents' Corner is the part of this newsletter that gives you a voice!

You can write in to us at communityengagement@rbkc.gov.uk with news about your residents' association at any time and we'll help to turn it into an article that can be published in the next issue. Here are the contributions from this month:

Kensington Court Residents Association Street Party

We decided to do a street party in 2015. Our neighbourhood is almost all flats, so it seemed a good way of giving residents an occasion to meet each other. It was a bit of a gamble, as none of us had ever done one before. It was not just the organisation and setting-up, but wondering whether anyone would come. We opted for 5-7pm on a Sunday in September. Needless to say it rained at 4pm! But 200 people turned up and enjoyed themselves. So we have been doing one ever since. We had our sixth successful party a few weeks ago. We are lucky with our location. We close off Thackeray Street, which is a short street with shops and restaurants on each side. Local restaurants offer finger food, the neighbourhood pub provides the drink, there is music, three hair salons and activities for the kids, including a fire engine and a police car. It ends with a great raffle, which supports a local charity, and everyone has a good time. RBKC is tremendously supportive, but a street party takes a lot organising and needs a bunch of willing volunteers.

John Gau CBE

Chair, KCRA



Ask Us?

The Community Engagement Team is here to help support residents' associations to thrive. You can call 020 7598 4633 or email communityengagement@rbkc.gov.uk and ask us for advice on how to set up or run your residents' group.

Answering the phone, we often hear the same issues crop up repeatedly. If you are asking it, there are probably a dozen others who are thinking it. 'Ask Us' is a section of Residents' Associations Direct where questions can be asked privately and answered publically so that we can all learn together.

Please do let us know if you have any questions that you would like to see answered.

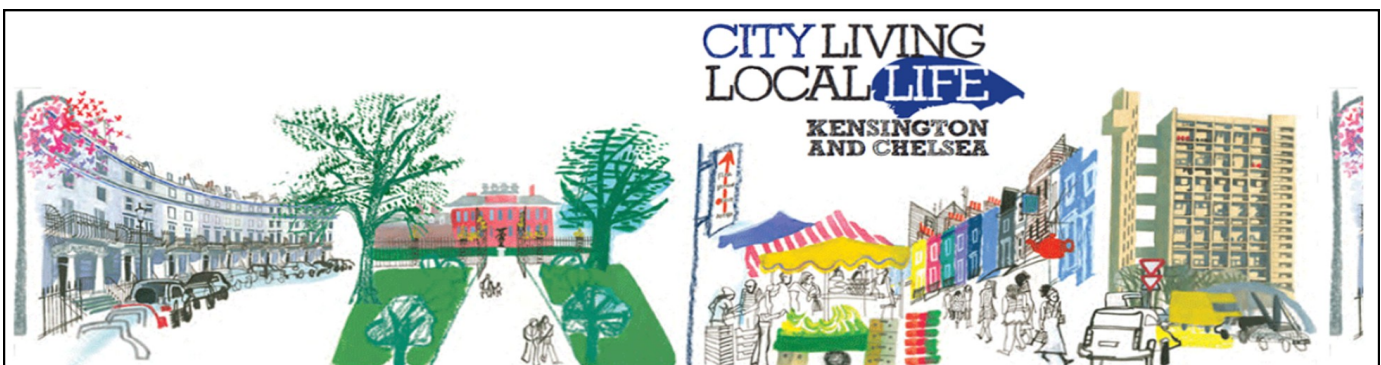
News for you

'News for you' is where we share what we know that is happening around Kensington and Chelsea. If you know of any news or events you think would be useful for other residents, please do let us know and we'll put it in the next issue!

Community Engagement Team support residents of Women's Pioneer Housing to Come Together

This issue of Residents Association Direct welcomes one of Kensington and Chelsea's newest Residents Associations - Women's Pioneer Housing Resident Association - to the Borough. Set up to support the residents of the small but numerous Women's Pioneer Housing Association properties that are dotted around West London. This Housing Association has been housing single women in the area for over 100 years.

The Community Engagement Team has been advising and assisting this association in its set up for several months – helping its interim board to formalise its group through the crafting and adoption of a constitution. A member of our team was able to attend its interim meeting to see the group formally become an organisation led by a management committee of Women's Pioneer Housing residents at the beginning of the year. The group is now providing a collective voice for its residents when dealing with any property issues and has built a constructive relationship with the landlord, helping to get the best living conditions and community atmosphere for its residents. The association will be holding a consultation event and community festival in May to bring the community of residents together, determine their needs and give steer to the association, the event is supported by a grant from the Royal Borough's Corporate Services Small Grant programme.



News for you

RBKC Refugees Welcome Committee

In response to the Syrian refugee crisis, the Council agreed in October that the Royal Borough should offer to resettle 50 refugees from Syria. The Council is now working with the RBKC Refugees Welcome Committee to make the necessary arrangements.

Chief amongst these is the identification of suitable accommodation. Because of high housing prices and existing pressures on Council and housing association properties the refugees will need to be housed in private rented accommodation. At market rents such accommodation would be too expensive for refugees to afford, so our ability to accept refugees in Kensington and Chelsea rests on the generosity of private sector landlords willing to provide suitable accommodation at lower rents than they would normally charge. Because of the depth of public sympathy and support for Syrian refugees' plight the Council and the Welcome Committee are hopeful that such offers will emerge.

Once suitable housing is identified the Council will work with other public services and with the wide range of local individuals and organisations who have offered to assist the refugees. Our aim will be to provide the range of services, support and help that the refugees need to provide them with the best possible start to life in Kensington and Chelsea. A meeting between the Council and Refugee Welcome Committee representatives to design a suitable programme for the refugees was held in February.

For Syrian children arriving alone in the UK a London-wide scheme is in place whereby Councils (including the Royal Borough) will look after these children, placing them with foster carers or in children's homes and supporting them to attend school or college and become integrated into the community.

The RBKC Refugees Welcome Committee is made up of faith organisations, voluntary and community groups and other local organisations such as schools and colleges, who are working in partnership to provide a coordinated local response to the Syrian refugee crisis.

Landlords interested in offering suitable accommodation in the Royal Borough at affordable rents should get in touch with the Council's Housing Department via e-mail housing@rbkc.gov.uk or telephone 020 7361 3008.

If you would like to know more about or get involved in the work of the Kensington and Chelsea Refugees Welcome Committee, contact Migrants Organise (formerly the Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum) at welcomcommittee@mrcf.org.uk or on 020 8964 4815.

- See more at: <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/rbkc-refugees-welcome-committee#sthash.fkdEngdW.dpuf>



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News for you

London Mayoral Elections

Are you registered to vote at the London Mayoral Elections on Thursday 5 May 2016?

You need to be on the Electoral Register by no later than **Monday 18 April 2016** if you want to vote and have your say at the [London Mayoral Elections](#) about issues in London that matter to you.

At the elections you will be able to vote for each for the following:

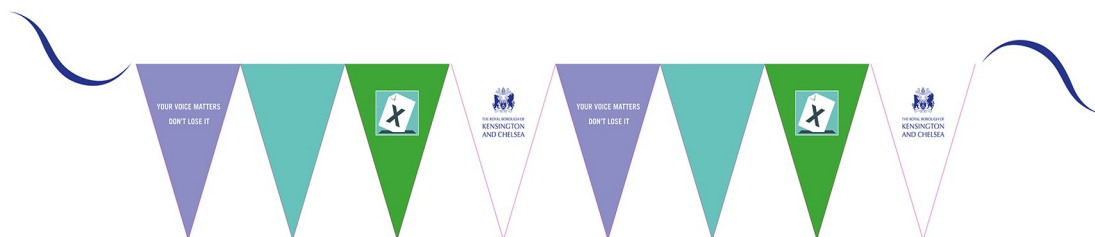
1. the Mayor of London
2. the Constituency member for [West Central](#) (which is made up of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster City Council)
3. a London wide member of the [London Assembly](#)

Don't forget EU citizens can vote in these elections.

[Registering to vote](#) helps Councils to get the right amount of money to support the needs of everyone in the community. The amount of money the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea gets from the Government is based on the electoral register, so make sure you and the members of your residents associations, including those that you know have recently moved into the borough, are registered today!

If you would like any further information you can email the Electoral Services Team at elect@rbkc.gov.uk or telephone 020 7361 3444.

your vote matters ... don't lose it! ... [register today](#)



Come and Say Hello!

Want to find out how to get more involved in your local area?

Need to know about funding for your community group?

Got an event or organisation to publicise?

Need some advice or guidance about community engagement?

Or just want to make a difference in your neighbourhood?

The Community Engagement Team is here to help!

Drop in sessions are happening across the Royal Borough.
Find out more by visiting www.rbkc.gov.uk/cetdropins or ringing **020 7598 4633**




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News for you

Space Hive

Come and attend a crowdfunding workshop in Kensington and Chelsea

Have you ever looked at a nearby green space and thought it could be livened up? Or maybe you've got an idea to improve a publicly used building or to install some public art. Many people are using crowdfunding to make their ideas come to life.

From putting on street festivals to pop up markets, the possibilities are endless. Crowdfunding has been used to raise the profile of projects, gather public support, and raise the money that's needed to make things happen.

Spacehive is an organisation that helps people set up crowdfunding opportunities and they will be coming to Kensington and Chelsea to show people how to set up crowdfunding opportunities to improve a space or place. If you're interested, come along! And learn the skills behind the power of involving people to turn local ideas into realities.

WHEN:

Thursday 31 March 2016, 6.30pm-8.30pm

WHERE:

St Philip's Church, Earl's Court Road, Kensington, London W8 6QH

RSVP:

Register your attendance on the [Eventbrite](#) page.

For more information email info@spacehive.com or <https://www.spacehive.com/initiatives/rbkc>



News for you

RBKC's Safer Neighbourhood Board AGM

Kensington and Chelsea residents and organisations are invited to the local Safer Neighbourhood Board's Annual General Meeting on **12 March 2016, 10.30am-12.30pm**, in the Small Hall, Kensington Town Hall.

The K&C Safer Neighbourhood Board has been in existence for two years. The SNB has held both open and closed meetings with the Police and the Council to discuss and challenge handling of crime related issues in the borough.

The AGM will be a round-up of the work that has gone on this last year. There will be stalls representing various groups, such as Stop and Search Community Monitoring Group, Independent Custody Visitors and Neighbourhood Watch to mention a few. You will have the opportunity to talk to those representing the groups.

Council representatives dealing with Community Safety will also be there to give advice and listen to problems you might be experiencing. There will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions throughout the session.

Agenda

10:00 Registration

10:30 Welcome, apologies and introductions

10:35 Annual Reports from:

- Stop and Search Community Monitoring Group | Cindy Doyle MacRae
- Community Payback Scheme | Cindy Doyle MacRae
- Independent Custody Visiting Panel | Vassiliki Stavrou
- Neighbourhood Watch | Karen Clark
- Community Safety Programme Board | Stuart Priestley
- Borough Commander's Report | Tariq Sarwar
- SNB Chair Report | Eman Yosry

11:30 SNB Business

11:40 Presentations from funded projects

- We Love West London: Youth Engagement
- K&C Forum for Older Residents

12:00 Comments and questions: Discussion on local crime concerns.



News for you

New Neighbourhood Watch system for Kensington and Chelsea

Online Watch Link (OWL) is the online neighbourhood watch and community engagement system for Kensington and Chelsea residents. It's a two-way communication system enabling the police to keep you updated and for you to keep in touch with them and the Council.

OWL is used by a growing number of UK police services. It provides weekly updates on crime in the local area, rapid warning of local problems of safety or security, Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) notices and facilitates correspondence between members. OWL's launch in Kensington and Chelsea was the first within the London Metropolitan Police Service and is a joint initiative by the Met and the Council's Community Safety Team.

Once signed up to OWL you will receive weekly burglary updates, crime alerts and crime prevention advice from your local police, relevant to the particular crimes in your area

When signing up to OWL you provide your email contact for emails to be sent directly to you from the police or the Council. Email addresses held by OWL are used solely for neighbourhood watch purposes. They are seen only by your neighbourhood watch coordinator and selected members of your Safer Neighbourhoods policing team.

For further information please visit www.owl.co.uk/met to register or speak to your Neighbourhood Watch liaison officer, Sergeant Jason May who can be contacted on Jason.may@met.police.uk

Hilden Charitable Fund - Summer play schemes grant open to applications

Grants of between £500 and £1,500 are available to help community groups in the UK to run summer play schemes for the benefit of disadvantaged children aged five to 18 years.

Play schemes should be local schemes lasting for two to six weeks with strong volunteer support. Some priority will be given to projects which show they are inclusive of children from refugee families, and show BME involvement.

To register with GRANTfinder and to find out more about this opportunity, visit www.idoxgrantfinder.co.uk/localgov

News for you

Post Office Closure

Despite objections from residents and the Council, Post Office Ltd decided that it would close the Earl's Court Post Office, with the last day of opening being Saturday 30 January 2016.

Post Office Ltd has stated that "the number of customers using Earl's Court branch has declined significantly over several years and consequently the branch is no longer commercially sustainable".

Information on alternative ways of collecting pension and benefits, alternative local postal service providers and alternative Post Office branches in the area can be found below.

Alternative Ways of Collecting Pension and Benefits

Simple Payment Service

A way for people without a bank account to collect pension and benefit payments. Only available in very limited circumstances, usually for people who are unable to use a bank account or Post Office card account.

Under the scheme eligible individuals will be given a Simple Payment card which can be taken to a 'PayPoint' outlet displaying the Simple Payment sign. Payment can then be collected there. 'PayPoint' outlets can be found in local newsagents, convenience stores or supermarkets.

If a regular carer or family member collects payments on someone's behalf, they can also receive their own card.

Contact Information: 0845 600 0046

<https://www.gov.uk/simple-payment>

Nominate an Appointee

An appointee can be nominated to act on behalf of someone who is entitled to collect benefits but is severely disabled or mentally impaired.

The appointee could be an individual such as a friend, relative or carer. They could also be an organisation or representative of a trusted organisation.

They can have the pension or benefit paid directly into their own bank account, or collect it from another Post Office.

Contact Information: 0345 606 0265

<https://www.gov.uk/become-appointee-for-someone-claiming-benefits>

To find a list of Earl's Court Post Office closure alternatives please follow this link:

<https://citylivinglocalife.wordpress.com/2016/01/28/earls-court-road-post-office-closure-alternative-ways-to-access-services/>

News for you

Plan Zheroes - Become a food waste hero

Did you know that in the UK **15 million** tonnes of food is wasted each year, whilst an estimated 4 million people in the UK are affected by food poverty?

Plan Zheroes – the Zero Food Waste Heroes – is a charity which is working to solve this problem from its base in Earl's Court. The team at Plan Zheroes have created an [online map and social network](#) which enables businesses (supermarkets, cafes, restaurants, catering companies, hotels and everything in between) that have surplus food to connect with local charities who provide it to people in need.

Although based in the Royal Borough, Plan Zheroes' activities take place all across the Capital, including a weekly collection of surplus food donated by traders at London's Borough Market that has redistributed over **19 tonnes** food to charities since it launched in June 2014.

Plan Zheroes was co-founded by long-time Kensington and Chelsea resident Lotti Henley. Although Lotti is now 90 years old, she is still involved with the charity and hopes that more businesses, charities and residents in the borough will join Plan Zheroes' free network to prevent good food from going to waste and to feed bellies, not bins!



Co-founder Lottie Henley



Get Involved

The charity is currently seeking local residents who can become volunteers to help collect and deliver the food or spread the word and help build relationships between businesses and charities.

Have a look at the following opportunities:
<https://planzheroes.org/#!/howyoucanhelp/>



News for you

Ask Nick Review

On 23 February, the Leader of the Council Nicolas Paget-Brown hosted the ninth in the series of Ask Nick: a conversation with the Leader of the Council.

Residents were engaged in an open floor, question and answer event held at St Mary the Bolton's Church. There was a good turnout to the event with over 60 RBKC residents, community groups and local business owners in attendance.

As well as the usual tea and biscuits, there were 12 information stalls representing the different departments in the Council and some local voluntary organisations such as Plan Zeroes and Age UK.

In summary, the event enabled residents to ask a wide variety of questions and stimulated lively discussions between the Leader, Cabinet Members and those in attendance. Residents were also able to engage with Inspector Eddie Armstrong. Inspector Armstrong provided insight on community safety issues and the work of the local police.

The Council would like to thank those who joined us for the evening and look forward to hosting Ask Nick in a few months time.

If you have any queries please contact communityengagement@rbkc.gov.uk



Download the RBKC App today

Borough residents and visitors can now report a whole range of issues from graffiti to dumped rubbish, faulty street lighting and fly posting, promptly and simply via the free RBKC Local app. You can also use the app to look up local news, events and things to do, as well as access 'register for' and 'pay for' services, such as registering to vote and payment of council tax.

Simply download the app onto a smart device.

To get started, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/RBKCLocal or search 'rbkc local' in your app store.



Compact
voice
supporting partnership working

Final Word

This is the fourth Residents' Associations Direct, so please let us know what you think because we will be making changes and adaptations in these early issues.

Please also let us know your news and we'll make sure it makes it into the next newsletter.

To find out more about the work that we do with resident's associations, visit :

<http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/community/communityengagement/residentsassociations.aspx>

If you would like to unsubscribe from our mailing list, please reply quoting '**Unsubscribe.**'

Questions or Comments? Or to let us know of any news, contact us on

communityengagement@rbkc.gov.uk

0207 598 4633



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