

Newsletter

September/October 2019



Welcome

Welcome to this edition of the Tonbridge and Malling Community Safety Partnership (CSP) newsletter. The aim of the newsletter is to provide regular updates on some of the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

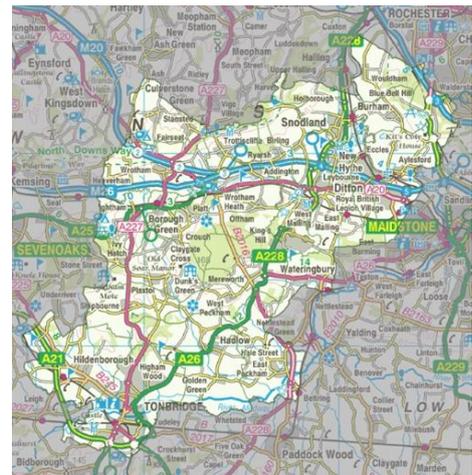
For further details about any of these items please contact Alison Finch, Safer and Stronger Communities Manager on Alison.finch@tmbc.gov.uk or Anthony Garnett, Head of Service, Licensing, Community Safety and Customer Service (Anthony.garnett@tmbc.gov.uk).

Public Spaces Protection Order – consultation

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is currently consulting on proposals for a new Public Space Protection Order to cover the borough and anyone is able to give their views on these proposals.

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 placed new duties on local authorities to tackle anti-social behaviour by working in partnership with the police, social landlords and other agencies. In doing so, the Act also repealed a number of powers which the Borough Council had in place. Public Space Protection Orders are intended to control and restrict anti-social behaviour in public spaces. They can also help by giving local councils and the police additional powers to tackle anti-social behaviour in specific locations.

Each local authority is responsible for making new PSPO's for their district and for taking enforcement action against any breaches. In Tonbridge and Malling, the current PSPO covers the public open spaces within the borough as well as some specific locations (Leybourne Lakes Country Park, Tonbridge Memorial Gardens, Tonbridge Moorings, Haysden Country Park, Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground, Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge Farm Sportsground and Tonbridge Cemetery). The PSPO must be renewed every three years and therefore we need to consult with the public on what should continue in the PSPO and whether we want to include any additional proposals.



The Borough Council is therefore proposing that the majority of the restrictions contained within the PSPO remains the same, however, we are consulting on two new proposals and want to seek the public's views on these.

The public consultation is open until Monday 30 September 2019. You can complete the survey online at www.tmbc.gov.uk/PSPOconsultation or request hard copies from csp@tmbc.gov.uk.

Council helps rough sleepers and tackles anti-social behaviour

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council has helped rough sleepers into accommodation in Tonbridge and set out to tackle anti-social behaviour that became an issue in the locations where the rough sleepers were located. The Council had received an increasing number of complaints from residents and businesses about individuals who were congregating in Tonbridge Town Centre in locations occupied by the rough sleepers, and had several specific reports of anti-social behaviour such as drinking, fighting and noise disturbances. The Council does not tolerate anti-social behaviour and set out to tackle this in a proportionate way with both the rough sleepers and others, whilst maintaining an emphasis on support for the rough sleepers.

Community Protection Warning Notices (CPW) were issued at the end of July by the anti-social behaviour officer, which prevented individuals from engaging in behaviour that would cause distress/nuisance (such as fighting and excessive noise) but also gave them a curfew to not be in that area overnight. As a result, one of the individuals then asked for support into accommodation and the Council's Housing Team were able to arrange for temporary housing for him. Since issuing the CPWs there have been no reports of groups of people at this location and the local businesses are pleased with this outcome. Monitoring of the area will continue to try to avoid re-occurrence of anti-social behaviour.

If you are rough sleeping, or at risk of being on the streets, or if you are aware of someone who is having problems, you can contact us via email at housing.services@tmbc.gov.uk, by telephone at Housing Options and Support 01732 876067 or in person at the Council's Kings Hill offices or Tonbridge Castle Gateway.

Mediation training



The Community Safety Partnership has arranged some Mediation awareness training for partners on Tuesday 10 September. This will help organisations to understand the mediation process as well as inform them about how they can refer someone they are working with to Mediation.

Mediation is a process through which neighbours have the opportunity to understand one another's point of view and negotiate an agreement which is arrived at by them, rather than one which is imposed. The process is facilitated by trained mediators who ensure that both sides have equal say and any agreements reached are based on what both sides think is fair.

You do not need to wait for someone to refer you, you can self-refer to the service if you think they can help. For further information contact Maidstone Mediation on 01622 692843.

National Hate Crime Awareness Week - 12 October

National Hate Crime Awareness Week will take place from 12 October 2019 and it aims to encourage us to consider how we can respond to hate crime when we witness or are victims to it. This can help to ensure people report instances of hate crime, victims get the support they need and those committing it are met with justice.

Hate crime includes any criminal offence targeted at someone that is fuelled by hostility or prejudice related to the individual's disability, race or ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation or transgender identity. By reporting a hate crime, you may be able to prevent these incidents from happening to someone else. You will also help the police understand the extent of hate crime in your local area so they can better respond to it.

You can report hate crime to the Police (on 101 or 999 in an emergency), to Crimestoppers (you can report incidents anonymously to them (0800 555 111) or online at www.report-it.org.uk

Anti-slavery day – Friday 18 October



Anti-slavery day will be held on Friday 18 October and aims to raise awareness of the dangers and consequences of modern-day slavery and human trafficking.

Slavery is illegal and can include:

- sexual exploitation
- forced labour
- domestic servitude

Someone is in slavery if they're:

- forced to work by being mentally or physically threatened
- owned or controlled by an 'employer', usually through mental or physical abuse or the threat of abuse
- dehumanised, treated as a commodity or bought and sold as 'property'
- physically constrained or has restrictions placed on his/her freedom of movement.

If you suspect that someone is at risk of human trafficking or slavery you should contact Kent Police on 101. If you don't want to give your name you can give information to Kent Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or call the National Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700.

If you, or someone else is in immediate danger call 999.

For support and guidance you can call the Salvation Army on their 24-hour confidential helpline on 0300 3038151 or call Unseen's Modern Day Slavery team on their 24 hour helpline on 08000 121 700. Their helpline provides guidance for people who suspect modern slavery and support for modern slavery victims.

For further details look at: <https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/human-trafficking-and-modern-day-slavery/>

Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week from 7 October



Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week will be held from 7 October and the theme for this year will be 'Noticing is not nosiness'. The Community Safety Partnership will be working with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and Kent County Council to promote this important issue during this week. We're planning a number of events and will be promoting key messages on social media.

Halloween and Firework safety/advice



As schools break up for the half term holiday, Kent Police will be using its powers to ensure that everyone enjoys a safe and happy Halloween and bonfire night. They will be running high profile policing throughout the county and using stop and search powers to clamp down on the possession and use of prohibited fireworks. Anyone aged 16 or over caught flouting the rules could face an £80 fixed penalty notice for disorder. The police will also be working with Trading Standards to make sure retailers play their part in the responsible sale of fireworks and Halloween goods.

The Community Safety Partnership has produced Trick or Treat window posters and an advice leaflet which are available to download from the website (www.tmcommunitysafety.org.uk). The posters can be placed in your window to help prevent Trick or Treaters knocking at your door.

Useful contact details

Community Safety Unit	csp@tmbc.gov.uk	01732 844522
TMBC ASB Officer	Contact the Borough Council for help with ASB issues	01732 876149
Kent Police	To report a non 999 call	101
KCC Community Wardens	Contact Janet Greenroyd, Warden Supervisor	07773 397131
DAVSS	Offer support for victims of Domestic Abuse	01892 570538
Maidstone Mediation	Support to help resolve conflicts or disputes	01622 692843
West Kent Mediation	Support to help resolve conflicts or disputes	01732 469696

Newsletter produced by Tonbridge and Malling CSP

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