

Contact: **KCC - Ella Hughes (385/06)**
Direct Line: **(01622) 694933**
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HAVE YOUR SAY TOWARDS 2010

Kent County Council has signed up to the most radical targets ever set by a council and now it wants to hear the views of Tunbridge Wells residents.

The **Towards 2010** document sets out the county council's promises to deliver in seven key areas over the next four years - goals which Leader Paul Carter said will "dynamically shape the county's future". Public consultation on the document is now underway and this is a chance for you to have your say at the next meeting of Kent County Council Tunbridge Wells Local Board being held on **Tuesday 4 July at 5.30pm in Hawkhurst CE Primary School, Fowlers Park, Rye Road, Hawkhurst.**

Paul Carter said: "We will be piloting a project offering free public transport in Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge for all 11 – 16 years olds. We are launching 'Congestion Busting' teams and intelligent traffic light management systems to speed up traffic flow. We hope to reduce peak time journey time between and within towns by 10%. We also plan to make maximum use of existing roads through a computer 'Super Brain' that logs traffic light timings and gives advance travel information via the web."

Kent County Council will support small business start ups, encourage businesses to locate in Kent and regenerate areas of deprivation to help create the right climate for business and job creation.

Other key areas for improvement include plans to hold masterclasses hosted by businessmen, entrepreneurs and professionals to offer the very best careers guidance available to all 13 – 19 year olds. Building a strong entrepreneurial culture will also support rural businesses and communities.

Future plans also include increasing the number of people supported to live independently in their own homes by taking advantage of new technologies such as the Telehealth and Telecare programmes.

The county council also plans to pilot a 'Kent TV' station and launch a major new website, 'What's on in Kent?' helping to make everyone of all ages aware of everything the county has to offer.

Everyone has a part to play in shaping the future of the county and KCC wants you to get involved. Come along and make your views heard.

Also at the meeting Kent Rural Towns Co-ordinator, Sue Beer will speak about the Rural Towns Health Check that is to be undertaken in Hawkhurst. She will explain how the Health Check helps local people identify the strengths and weaknesses of their town and surrounding area and provides evidence to support applications for grants for local regeneration.

Chairman of Tunbridge Wells Local Board John Davies said: "This meeting is a real chance for the people of Tunbridge Wells to have their say on what changes they would like to see over the next four years. Hawkhurst is in the process of a Rural Towns Health Check at the moment so I am delighted we will have a presentation regarding this. I am sure local people will find this very interesting. Everyone is welcome to come along."

There is an opportunity for an informal chat with KCC members from 5pm before the meeting starts at 5.30pm.

For more information contact **Tom Phillips Community Liaison Manager** on 01622 696897.

The **Towards 2010** document can be downloaded at www.kent.gov.uk or ordered by calling 01622 694016.

Comments can be made by emailing **KCC Leader Paul Carter** at paul@kent.gov.uk, or by writing to Paul Carter, KCC, Sessions House, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ