



Tunbridge Wells Local Board Annual Report

➤ Introduction

The Tunbridge Wells Local Board is pleased to present its fourth annual report covering the period from 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008.

The six Members (County Councillors) who make up the Local Board, and the respective areas they represented were: -

John Davies	Tunbridge Wells West (Local Board Chairman)
Roger Manning	Cranbrook (Local Board Vice Chairman)
Roy Bullock	Tunbridge Wells North
Alex King	Tunbridge Wells Rural
Kevin Lynes	Tunbridge Wells East
James Scholes	Tunbridge Wells South

The list of Members and their contact details are shown in Appendix 1.

No additional members were co-opted to the Local Board during the year.

➤ Meetings

All of the Local Board meetings are open to the public. In addition to the regular list of invitees and others who have asked for information about Local Board meetings, dates and times of the meetings are advertised widely to Parish and Town Councils, and other organisations, and via information displayed at public libraries, on local notice boards and the Kent County Council web site (www.kent.gov.uk/localboards). In addition, there has been press publicity for some meetings. There has been a steady attendance at most of the meetings during the year.

➤ Tunbridge Wells Local Board Meetings 2007/08

The Local Board has continued its practice of holding some of its meetings outside Tunbridge Wells itself. The Local Board met in Paddock Wood in May 2007 and Hawkhurst in February 2008.

Date of Meeting	Venue	Main Topics	Attendees	KCC Members (of 6)
15 May 2007	Paddock Wood Day Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent and the Tour de France 2007 • Kent and the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games 	20, plus officers presenting	4
25 September 2007	Skinner's School, Tunbridge Wells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Children's Trust in the Tunbridge Wells Area • Preparing young people for employment 	13, plus officers presenting	4
7 January 2008	Tunbridge Wells Register Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent developments and future plans, West Kent Primary Care Trust • "A Day in the Life of KCC" • Small Community Capital Grants 	26, plus officers presenting	4
26 February 2008	Hawkhurst CE Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "Hawkhurst Healthcheck" • The Kent Freedom Pass • Local Schemes Grants 	27, plus officers presenting	4

There is a time allocated during each meeting to enable those present to ask questions on community issues or on Kent County Council services affecting the local area.

Future meeting dates and venues will be advertised on the KCC web site. See: www.kent.gov.uk/localboards

➤ Small Community Capital Grants

As in successive financial years since Local Boards began, in 2004/05, KCC allocated £500,000 across Kent in its Capital Budget for the Small Community Capital Projects Fund. This was principally aimed at supporting small capital projects originating in local communities. The Tunbridge Wells Local Board was allocated £38,000 of the £500,000 to recommend grants to projects in the Tunbridge Wells Borough area.

Applicants for projects were given guidance about how to submit their bid, and the criteria by which the Fund operates. The principal requirements for projects are that they should be for capital works, and must be able to demonstrate how they will bring benefit to the local community.

Grants could only be given to organisations that were properly constituted. This includes organisations such as district, parish and town councils, voluntary and community groups, churches, societies, charities, etc.

Grants could only be provided to a maximum value of £20,000 to any one project, and could only be provided to projects that enhance local communities or the provision of services to the public of Kent.

These grants could not be provided as replacement funding for the loss of any other form of funding from KCC.

Via the Community Liaison Manager, the Local Board received five applications to the Fund, and recommended five grants. The list of recommended projects then went forward to KCC's Cabinet, for approval. All were approved. These are listed below.

The Small Community Capital Grant requests received by the Tunbridge Wells Local Board in 2007/08 were as follows:

Project Title	Applicant	Grant requested	Grant given
Additional storage space at Benenden Village Hall	Benenden Village Hall Management Committee	£5,000	£3,250
Clubhouse re-building project	Linden Park Cricket Club	£20,000	£17,500
Works at Brenchley playground	Brenchley Parish Council	£5,250	£4,500
Garden/playground project	St George's Community Children's Project	£5,000	£4,250
Community Garden regeneration project	Crossways Community	£9,650	£8,500
		Total allocated	£38,000

Application forms for Small Community Capital grants in the 2008/09 financial year are now available. The Local Board will consider applications received in the autumn of 2008.

➤ Local Schemes Grants

As in 2006/7, KCC allocated £400,000 across Kent in 2007/08 to a grant scheme called "Local Schemes Grant". This was available for a range of types of project. The money derives from the income from Council Tax for second homes, and was allocated to Local Boards pro rata to their District's share of that income. There are relatively few second homes in the Tunbridge Wells Borough area, and the Tunbridge Wells Local Board's allocation under Local Schemes Grant was £30,900. The Local Board agreed to notionally apportion this equally to the six Members of the Local Board, and each was able to make recommendations during the year for projects up to the value of £5,150.

The table below sets out the projects which the Local Board recommended should receive a share of the Local Schemes Grant allocation. These, totalling £30,829, were recommended by the Local Board meeting on 26 February 2008. All were subsequently agreed by KCC's Cabinet Member for Finance.

Project Title	Applicant	Grant recommended
Portable floodlights and replacement "mini-goals"	Ridgeway Football Club	£5,000
Multi-sport all-weather pitch	Pembury School	£2,450
Improvements to "Golf Course Pathway"	Lamberhurst Parish Council	£2,000
Safer crossing point, Speldhurst Road, Langton Green	Speldhurst Parish Council	£5,100
Conservation project at Woodbury Park Cemetery (contribution)	Friends of Woodbury Park Cemetery	£2,500
Goudhurst Playground Project, replacement fencing	St Mary's Goudhurst PCC Playground Committee	£5,000
Pembury Pavilion Equipment Project (contribution)	Pembury Athletic (Youth) Football Club	£2,000
Support costs for Pembury "Celebrating Community" Fun Day	Pembury Baptist Church	£1,500
Track-way resurfacing, Rectory Fields area	Cranbrook Parish Council	£2,279
Replacement Flooring	Hawkenbury Nursery School	£3,000
		Total allocated £30,829

➤ **Member Community Grants**

Each KCC elected Member on the Tunbridge Wells Local Board can recommend grants for local community projects up to a total value of £10,000 in the financial year. The Member Community Grant Scheme was first introduced in the 2004/05 financial year. All recommendations by individual Members of the Local Board are submitted for ratification by a Member of KCC's Cabinet before a grant is agreed.

The principal criterion for a project seeking a Member Community Grant is that it must be able to demonstrate clear benefit to the local community.

A summary of the grants agreed from each Local Board Member's allowance is shown in Appendix 2.

➤ **Conclusion**

The Local Board has continued to meet regularly, as part of the County Council's engagement with local communities in the Tunbridge Wells Borough area. The Local Board meetings continue to provide a forum to keep County Council Members and the public briefed on significant issues in the Borough. The topics are principally linked to KCC's services, but also to those which represent a partnership between KCC and other agencies.

Grants from the Local Board in 2007/08 were worth a total of more than £128,000 and have supported a very wide variety of community activities and local facilities, many of which would not have had access to grant assistance through other means.

The Local Board is grateful for the support and active participation of local people at its meetings during 2007/08 and looks forward to offering further opportunities to meet in the 2008/09 year.

Members of the KCC Tunbridge Wells Local Board

The Local Board Members are the six elected Kent County Councillors whose electoral areas collectively cover the Tunbridge Wells Borough area.

They are:

<p>John Davies (Tunbridge Wells West)</p> <p><i>(Local Board Chairman)</i></p>	<p>Tile Hatch Bishops Down Park Road Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 8XS</p>		<p>Alex King (Tunbridge Wells Rural)</p>	<p>1 Chittenden Cottages Slip Mill Road Hawkhurst Kent TN18 4JT</p>	
<p>Roger Manning (Cranbrook)</p> <p><i>(Local Board Vice-Chairman)</i></p>	<p>Bramley Dial Cranbrook Road Cranbrook Kent TN17 4ET</p>		<p>Kevin Lynes (Tunbridge Wells East)</p>	<p>5 The Down Lamberhurst Tunbridge Wells Kent TN3 8EX</p>	
<p>Roy Bullock (Tunbridge Wells North)</p>	<p>Walsynghams Old Town Hill Lamberhurst Kent TN3 8EN</p>		<p>James Scholes (Tunbridge Wells South)</p>	<p>14 Claremont Gardens Tunbridge Wells Kent TN2 5DD</p>	

Kent County Council Member Community Grant 2007/08

The total grant of £10,000 available to each Member of the Tunbridge Wells Local Board was allocated as follows in the 2007/08 financial year (1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008):

Projects	£
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➤ John Davies

Seven Streams Community Play etc	£750
Surfacing work, Speldhurst Recreation Ground	£522
Activity clothing, Langton Green Rainbows and Brownies	£370
Community Allotment Scheme for young people	£1,500
Community Garden Project, Crossways Community	£1,150
Purchase of a wheelchair, Langton Green Village Hall	£275
Practice Nets, Linden Park Cricket Club	£2,000
Training and Equipment costs, Weald of Kent Crossroads	£1,708
Youth Theatre Production, Trinity Theatre	£1,725
	£10,000

➤ Alex King

Mechanical Roller, Paddock.Wood Cricket Ground	£1,200
Postage for local letter re Library future, Horsmonden PC	£800
Gardening Project, West Kent Neighbourhood Watch	£1,500
Sports Wall, Lamberhurst Parish Council	£2,000
Sign from Town Hill, Lamberhurst CE Primary School	£200
Lamberhurst Golf Course Pathway	£2,000
Rewiring work, Horsmonden Institute building	£500
New Chairs, Capel Village Hall	£1,300
	£9,500
<i>NB: one grant of £500 offered was not taken up, but this happened too late for the money to be offered elsewhere.</i>	

➤ Roger Manning

Gardening Project, West Kent Neighbourhood Watch	£1,500
Community Centre Feasibility Study, Hawkhurst PC	£2,500
"Walk Through Time", Kent High Weald Project	£1,500
West Kent Themed Book Awards, Cranbrook School	£1,500
	£7,000

➤ Kevin Lynes

Disco Lighting and Equipment, Oak Road Community Group	£1,000
Toothbrushing project, Sherwood Park Nursery School	£500
Upgrading facilities, Pembury Scout and Guide Joint HQ Committee	£2,597
Parenting Courses, Fegans Child and Family Care	£806
Start up and equipment costs, Play Bubble, Little Forest Children's Centre	£1,500
Buddy Bench, Pembury School	£798
Bouncy Castle, Oak Road Community Group	£1,500
Community networking evening, Pepenbury	£499
Day Centre Volunteer Training, Pembury Baptist Church	£800
	£10,000

➤ Roy Bullock

Purchase of equipment, Tunbridge Wells Air Training Corps	£4,007
Advocacy Training, Tunbridge Wells Mental Health Resource	£2,050
Walking Bus equipment, St Augustine's Primary School	£500
Barnetts Wood Pond Education Pack, Kent High Weald Project	£1,200
Boxing lessons, Ridgeway ACP	£650
Fencing works etc, Southborough Town Council	£1,593
	£10,000

➔ James Scholes

Broadwater 40 Outdoors, Broadwater Scouts	£1,904
Clubhouse Rebuild Project, Linden Park Cricket Club	£2,500
Playground project, St Georges Children's project	£750
"On Yer Bike" Project, Broadwater Primary School	£2,000
Community Project, St Barnabas Parish	£2,000
Children's Project, Friends of Woodbury Park Cemetery	£846
	£10,000

Overall position:

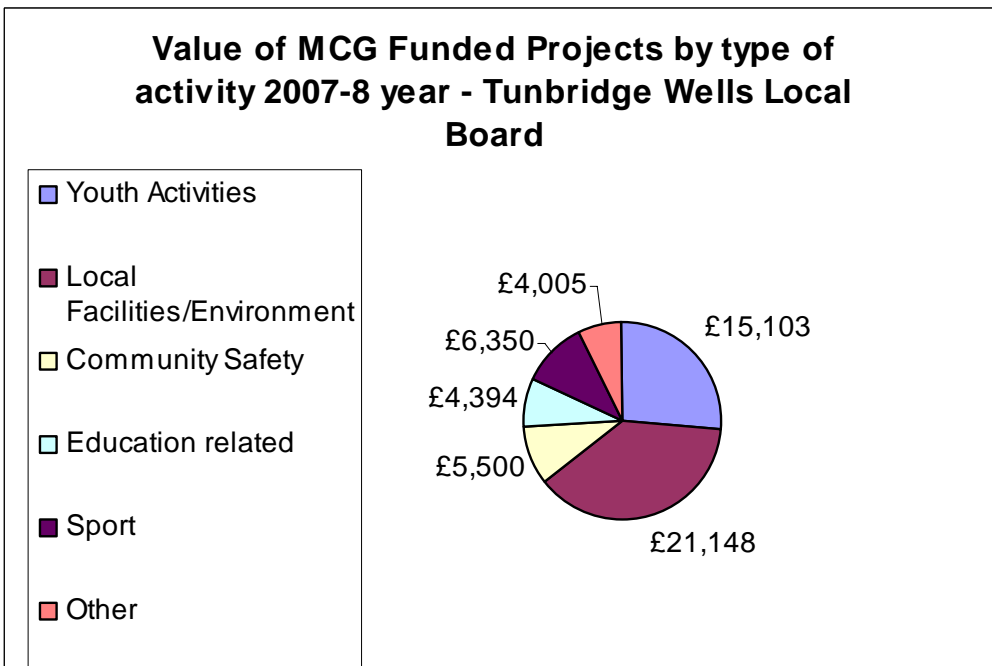
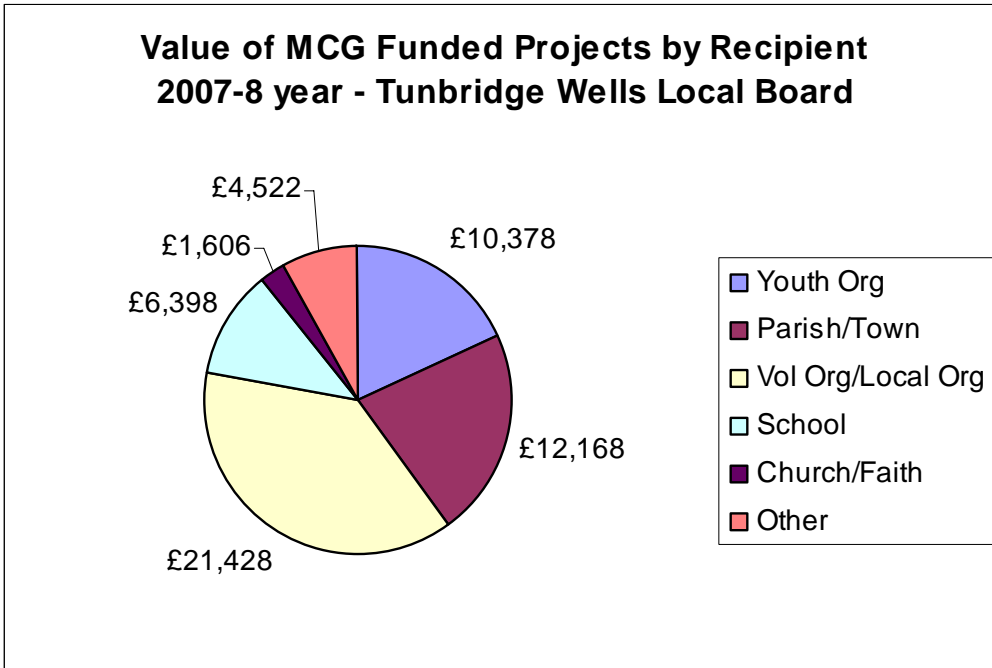
Total allocated = **£56,500** (94.2% of total available)

42 grants made.

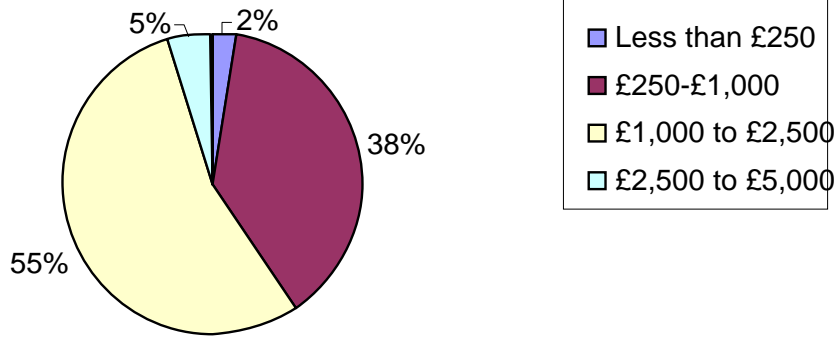
Average grant = **£1,345**

See Appendix 3 for further analysis

KCC Member Community Grant (MCG) in Tunbridge Wells Borough Area 2007/08 Financial Year



**Analysis of Member Community Grants 2007-8
by size of grant - Tunbridge Wells Local Board**



This Annual Report has been compiled by:

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Further information about Kent County Council's Local Boards initiative can be found on the Kent County Council web site at:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/localboards>