

The background of the poster features a large, semi-transparent coat of arms. At the top is a tower with a cross on top. Below it is a shield divided into four quadrants: top-left is blue with a white cross, top-right is red with a white cross, bottom-left is yellow with a red cross, and bottom-right is blue with a white cross. The shield is surrounded by a red and yellow wreath. A white ram's head is visible on the right side of the shield.

**PUBLIC MEETING
TO
SUPPORT OUR
FIRE STATION IN
CLIFFE**

WILL BE HELD ON

**WEDNESDAY
1ST JUNE 2011**

at

7.30PM

at the

**MEMORIAL HALL
CHURCH ST, CLIFFE**

Meeting Objectives

- ◆ Bring you up to date with Parish Council info
- ◆ Who are the decision makers?
- ◆ What can you do?
- ◆ Next Steps

Parish Council Info

- ◆ December/January 2011 Public Consultation
- ◆ January Clarion
- ◆ April 7 Annual Parish Meeting
- ◆ May 5 Local Elections
- ◆ May 12 Parish Council
- ◆ Special Clarion
- ◆ Invites to KCFRS/Union/MP/Councillors
- ◆ Public Meeting

Who are the decision makers?

- ◆ Kent Fire and Rescue Service
 - Operational Fire Service
- ◆ Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Service
 - The Fire Authority
- ◆ The Community?
- ◆ Comprehensive Spending Review

Welcome to Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority

As the local authority running the Kent Fire and Rescue Service, the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority (KMFRFA) is responsible for the provision of fire and rescue services throughout the Kent County Council and Medway Council areas. The Authority is made up of 25 councillors appointed by Kent County Council (21) and Medway Council (4).

The Authority meets four times a year, and it has three main Committees – Audit & Governance, Human Resources & Equalities and Planning & Performance – each of which also meet four times a year. Authority and Committee meetings are normally held at KFRS Headquarters at The Godlands, Tovil, Maidstone and are open to the public.

Officers to the Authority

Queries relating to the work of the Kent Fire and Rescue Service should be addressed to the Chief Executive and Chief Fire Officer but for any queries relating to the business of the Authority please contact the Clerk in the first instance.

Stuart Ballard

Clerk to the Authority

Tel: 01622 698206

Email: stuart.ballard@kent.fire-uk.org

Geoff Wild

Monitoring Officer

Tel: 01622 694302

Email: geoff.wild@kent.gov.uk

Charles Kerr

Treasurer

Tel: 01622 692121

Email: charles.kerr@kent.fire-uk.org

- [Message from the Chairman](#)
- [Authority Members](#)
- [Aim, objectives and values](#)
- [Member Allowance Scheme](#)
- [Members Code of Conduct](#)
- [Committee Information](#)
- [Diary dates](#)
- [Code of Corporate Governance](#)
- [Authority Members Area](#)

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Our aim, objectives and values

We review our aim, objectives and values every three years, to make sure they stay up to date. After consultation, the following revised statement has been adopted:

Our aim

To save lives and reduce risks (*‘there when you need us’*).

Our objectives

We are committed to:

- Reducing the number of fires, deaths and injuries
- Reducing road accidents, deaths and injuries
- Being well prepared to deal with emergencies
- Providing high quality and value for money services
- Engaging with communities to raise awareness
- Reducing our impact on the environment
- Helping to improve the quality of life for local people
- Working with businesses to support the local economy

Our values

As an organisation we will always:

- Put people first
- Value our staff
- Be open to change
- Work with others

Our aim: To save lives and reduce risk - ‘there when you need us’

- [Find out more about our aim, objectives and values](#)

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Kent Fire and Rescue Service Issues

- ◆ Review of Retained Fire Fighters (Nationally)
 - Issue of new Part-Time Contracts
 - Many unable to comply with new terms and conditions so leave
 - Aims : Improved status, training, improved cover
- ◆ Risk assessment of operational needs
 - Reports July/August – offer to present to Parish Council

Kent Fire & Rescue Service

Briefing to Cliffe and Cliffe Woods' Residents Association – 1 June 2011 (1/2)

Residents of Cliffe, Cliffe Woods and Cooling will have seen an issue of 'The Clarion' about the future of Cliffe Fire Station. This is a note to set out the position of Kent Fire & Rescue Service.

1. Is Kent Fire & Rescue Service going to close Cliffe Fire Station "by stealth"?

We have not had any discussions about closing Cliffe Fire Station.

We are in the process of completing a review of all emergency cover across the whole of Kent & Medway. This has been a three year project to ensure we have the right stations, in the right places, with the right equipment to meet the needs of the Service countywide. This was begun before the economic downturn with the sole objective of maintaining public safety – which is our top priority.

Facts about about Cliffe Fire Station before 1 June

40% of the time during a typical day Cliffe's engine is not available. So, as you will see, Cliffe's engine is frequently not on the run during the day as firefighters are not available to crew it. When this happens incidents in Cliffe are typically dealt with by the Strood fire engine, which on blue lights gets to Cliffe in under 10 minutes. Cliffe does however generally have good availability at night. Typically 94% of the time Cliffe's fire engine is available

In the last five years (2005/09) there was less than one incident a week on the station ground covered by Cliffe (about half the average for a retained station)

After 1 June 2011, using the new part-time contracts, Cliffe's fire engine will form part of the new arrangements on the Peninsula. This will be an improvement as availability will be guaranteed.

2. I have heard that retained fire-fighters are moving to part time contracts? What does this mean?

We have changed the retained duty system used at 43 of our stations to make these staff part-time firefighters with the same rights and access to training as whole-time firefighters. Firefighting is a dangerous job, and the safety of our staff is a top priority for Kent Fire and Rescue Service, so we were concerned that a couple of hours a week for drill nights was not adequate to complete vital safety training. In addition new legislation and a national tribunal ruling on terms and conditions, meant that contracts had to be updated. Every retained firefighter was offered a part time contract that for the first time gave them the same benefits as full time firefighters. The change to contracted hours now means the Service can guarantee having staff available when they are most needed.

This is vitally important for an emergency service.

Part-time contracts started today [1 June 2011].

Kent Fire & Rescue Service

Briefing to Cliffe and Cliffe Woods' Residents Association – 1 June 2011 (2/2)

3. Does this mean Cliffe Fire Station will be available less?

The issue for us is that under the old arrangement, we could not control, nor predict whether a station was going to have enough crew available to get the fire engine on the run or not. It was entirely up to retained staff to choose whether to turn out to work for us or not. And with a moment's notice they could make themselves unavailable, and then take the fire engine out of service, because of too few fire-fighters to crew it. This was not an acceptable way for a modern emergency service to operate.

4. So are you going to recruit more fire-fighters in Cliffe?

At the moment, we do not need to recruit any more firefighters in Cliffe. Because the new system means we now employ staff on guaranteed hours, we can be far more precise than in the past about exactly how many firefighters are needed. When the county review is finalised by members in February 2012, we will look to see if we need to recruit any more fire-fighters to any station across the county.

5. How do decisions get made in the Fire & Rescue Service?

Like a parish council, we have elected members that make decisions, based on recommendations from officers. The process is that we will ask our members to approve a document called the Integrated Risk Management Plan in October 2011, which will then go out to public consultation. The outcomes are then considered in February 2012, and any proposals from the plan will be approved or otherwise at this point.

6. So why couldn't you come and say that at this meeting?

That's because we are unable to come and discuss any future issues until we have taken a report to the Fire Authority – this is the same process that all local government must follow. We have already offered to come to the Parish Council meeting in July or August to discuss the fire and emergency issues in your area. And when the IRMP is published, we can return again.

7. Where can I find out more about Kent Fire & Rescue Service?

You can find out more by visiting www.kent.fire-uk.org. And on the homepage there is a 2 minute video about how fire & rescue services across the county work.

What Can You Do?

- ◆ Primarily Operational Issues
- ◆ Consultation already completed in January
Continue to Support OUR Fire Station
- ◆ Letters to newspapers, radio, Facebook, Twitter etc. MP, Councillors
- ◆ Stress the importance of **OUR** Fire Station
 - Facts not emotion
 - Why it is important
 - BE READY FOR RISK ASSESSMENT

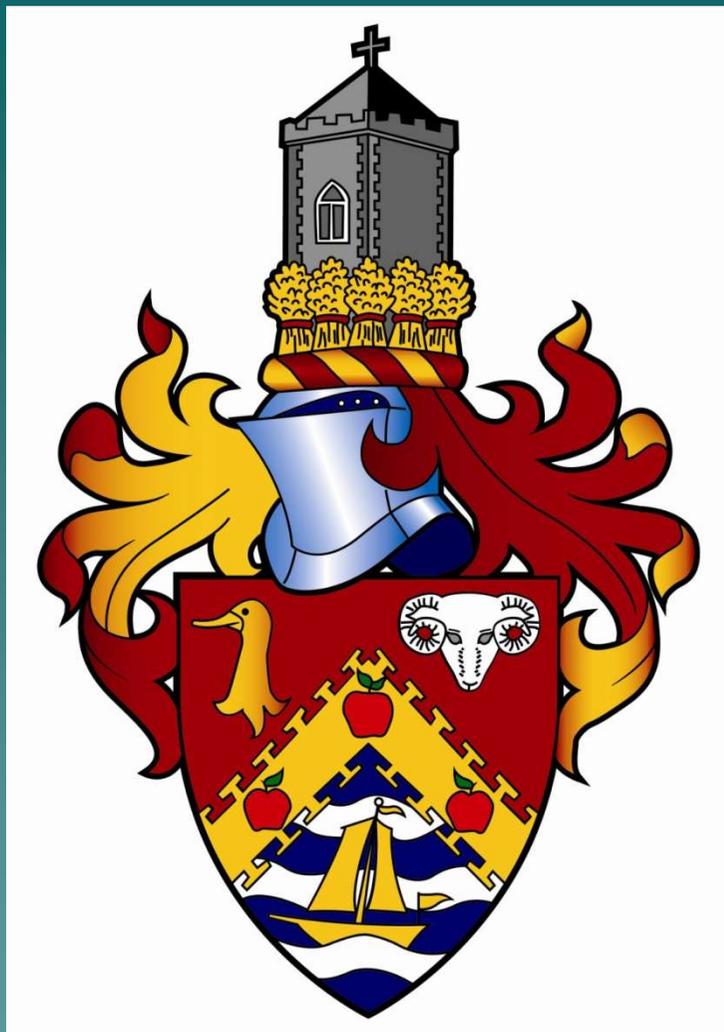


**Kent Fire &
Rescue Service**

- ◆ **Contacting Kent Fire and Rescue Service**
- ◆ **In case of emergency please dial 999**
- ◆ At Kent Fire and Rescue Service we strive to answer all of your queries in the fastest, most efficient way possible.
- ◆ You can get in touch with us in writing, by phone or email:
- ◆ **Kent Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters (Chief Executive/Authority Chairman)**
The Godlands
Straw Mill Hill
Tovil
Maidstone
ME15 6XB
- ◆ By phone **01622 692 121**
- ◆ Via email [**enquires@kent.fire-uk.org**](mailto:enquires@kent.fire-uk.org)
- ◆ On Facebook at [**www.facebook.com/kentfirerescue**](http://www.facebook.com/kentfirerescue)
- ◆ On Twitter at [**www.twitter.com/kentfirerescue**](http://www.twitter.com/kentfirerescue)

Next Steps

- ◆ KCFRS discuss Risk Assessment findings with Parish Council
 - Thursday 7th July, 7:30, Cliffe Memorial Hall, Small Hall or Thursday 4th August, 7:30, Cliffe Woods Primary School
 - Keep watching WEB site for update
www.cliffeandcliffewood-pc.gov.uk



Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Parish Council

www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk