

MEETING INFORMATION 4th May 2020- if you need any further information in order to come to a resolution please contact the Clerk as soon as possible: Remember A Council must do what the law requires; A Council can only do what the law says it can do; A council cannot do anything unless permitted by legislation

Agenda Item	Details	Power to act:	Suggested actions
9	<p>Dear Clerk and Councillors of Kent Parish Councils</p> <p>My name is Cathy Curtis and I work for British Red Cross to raise funds to support people in crisis. I'm writing to you to kindly ask your Councils to consider making a donation to support the essential services we provide across Kent, including your local area.</p> <p>These services include:, A&amp;E Discharge, Emergency Response, Wheelchair Hire, Refugee Support, and First Aid Training.</p> <p>Our vital services are currently being impacted by COVID-19, but we are doing our utmost to ensure that we not only supporting people facing the challenges resulting from this virus, but supporting the most vulnerable people within our communities that need our support day to day.</p> <p>Our response to COVID-19 Alongside our core services, we are working hard to support vulnerable people impacted by COVID-19. In the UK, our response to the coronavirus outbreak is focused on four key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for the NHS – Our services ensure people are supported on their return from hospital and once they are home. Crucially, our support helps to ease the strain on the NHS by freeing up hospital beds. We are currently working with 100 hospitals around the UK but many more have requested our support.</li> <li>• Vulnerable and Elderly - We know that the elderly and those who are already lonely will be hardest hit by this crisis. Our initial focus will be supporting the 1.5 million individuals over the age of 70 and those who have underlying medical conditions, as well as the 8 million over 70s who will also be stranded at home.</li> <li>• Groups that are 'Off-Grid' - Across the world, people and families are migrating or being forced out of their homes at a greater rate than ever to search for new opportunities or safety. We are rapidly planning a national distribution of cards, preloaded with cash to our most vulnerable clients to make sure they can support themselves and their families through this difficult period. Sourcing emergency accommodation for destitute, homeless refugees and asylum seekers who are unable to self-isolate is another key challenge.</li> <li>• Economic Insecurity - We know that many individuals and families will experience economic hardship as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. The complex challenges that the most vulnerable people in the UK face are emotional and psychological, but also financial. Across the UK, people are adjusting to the new realities of the crisis: those self-isolating will struggle to meet their basic needs; those self-employed will face a huge financial hit; many people are facing the stark reality that</li> </ul>		

<p>they may lose their jobs; caring responsibilities will increase; and with schools closed, children at home will need to be fed. For more information, please see: <a href="http://www.redcross.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/uk-emergencyresponse/coronavirus">www.redcross.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/uk-emergencyresponse/coronavirus</a></p> <p><b>Emergency Response</b> Our Emergency Response teams operate in partnership with the local Fire and Rescue Services, as well as supporting ambulance services, health authorities, the police, and utilities companies in the area. Our volunteers are trained to respond to all kinds of emergencies from floods and terror attacks, to less high-profile crises such as power cuts and water supply disruption. They are ready and prepared to respond to these emergencies 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.</p> <p>Every time we respond to an emergency, we use vital stock and supplies that must be replenished before we are called out to the next incident. As we develop our expertise in responding to different kinds of emergencies, such as terrorist attacks and anti-trafficking operations, we are called upon to assist more often. In turn this means we need more funding to expand, equip our vehicles and train our teams in Kent.</p> <p><b>Mobility Aids</b> The British Red Cross provide mobility aids to support people who live independently after coming home from hospital, or following an accident that has left them immobile, on a short or long-term basis. For a child with mobility problems, having a wheelchair can mean the difference between going to school and leading a comfortable life or being isolated and housebound. This is the only service of its kind operating in the UK. Its continuing success enables any child or adult across the UK - irrespective of their location or circumstances - to have equal opportunity to a wheelchair.</p> <p><b>Supporting Refugees and Asylum Seekers</b> The British Red Cross is the single biggest provider of support to refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. Our Refugee Service supports vulnerable refugee and asylum-seeking individuals and families as they settle into their new lives here in Kent.</p> <p>Our Refugee Support service provides assistance with documents, applying for grants and finding an activity for an individual/family to enjoy and integrate them into society. We also provide emergency items such as clothing, shoes and toys/books for children that make such a difference to their lives, after having lost everything that is familiar and witnessing the devastation that war leaves behind.</p> <p><b>First Aid Training</b> The British Red Cross provides first aid training in Kent for all ages and groups including young people, organisations supporting vulnerable groups and office teams. Just one in twenty people are prepared for a first aid emergency according to Red Cross research; we are actively working to help people gain confidence in existing skills and learn new ones so they are prepared for any first aid emergency they are faced with.</p>		
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	<p>Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. We would be delighted if your Parish Council are able to support the British Red Cross in Kent and help us deliver our services in your local area by making a donation.</p>		
9	<p>I hope that this message finds you well in this trying time. We continue our campaign for the Local Electricity Bill and I am contacting you to ask for your help with this.</p> <p>I am getting in touch again to ask for your Council's help regarding the Bill – despite the corona virus pandemic the Bill is still due to be introduced in Parliament on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April.</p> <p>So far 200 Parish, Town and Community Councils have resolved to support the Bill along with NALC and 44 other national organisations. It would be great if your Council joined them.</p> <p>The Bill will be backed by a cross-party group of 63 MPs. We aim to increase the level of Parliamentary support to well beyond the 116 MPs that supported the Bill last year. Your Council's backing for the Bill will really help with this.</p> <p>The Bill, if made law, would empower local communities to sell locally generated clean energy directly to local customers by establishing a statutory Right to Local Supply. This is currently impossible because of the huge setup and running costs involved in doing so. Further below are quotes from case studies we have done with community energy groups that highlight this problem.</p>		

The ultimate result of this would be:

1. Local communities and businesses could buy their electricity from a local energy company, instead of the big national utilities.
2. Building more local renewable energy schemes would be financially viable.
3. Local communities would gain economic benefits, such as more local skilled jobs and investment in energy efficiency schemes for local homes.

**I appreciate that this is a time of upheaval, however, if possible, could you please help by asking Dymchurch Parish Council to support the Local Electricity Bill?** A suggested resolution is further below.

Whether or not this is possible, you and members of your Council can still help: please write to your MP and ask them to 'Please support the Local Electricity Bill that will be introduced on 28<sup>th</sup> April.'

Link to bill as follows: <https://powerforpeople.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Local-Electricity-Bill.pdf>

IF COUNCILORS are in agreement with this the following resolution is suggested

### **Council Draft Resolution**

That Dymchurch Parish Council

	<p>(i) notes that the Local Electricity Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• aims to address the current situation, whereby the very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so,</li> <li>• if made law, would make these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier’s operation and empower councils, together with their communities, to sell locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations, and</li> <li>• would result in revenues received by councils or community organisations that set up local renewable electricity companies, which could be used to help fund local greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures and to help improve local services and facilities;</li> </ul> <p>(ii) accordingly resolves to support the Local Electricity Bill, supported by a cross-party group of 116 MPs during the 2017-19 Parliamentary session; and</p> <p>(iii) further resolves to write to the local MP asking them to support the Bill in Parliament and to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, (at 8 Delancey Passage, Camden, London NW1 7NN or <a href="mailto:info@powerforpeople.org.uk">info@powerforpeople.org.uk</a>) expressing its support.</p>		
9	<p>Letter from KCC regarding bus shelter grant</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PARISH BUS STOP SHELTER GRANT (PBSSG) PROCEDURE</b></p>		

**FOR FINANCIAL YEAR April 2020 - March 2021**

In acknowledgement that bus shelters are difficult for parishes to fund, Kent County Council (KCC) runs a Parish Bus Stop Shelter Grant (PBSSG) scheme, through which financial assistance and support can be offered to Parish Councils to refurbish or replace existing bus shelters in a poor state of repair, or if the situation is appropriate, erect a new bus stop shelter.

The delivery of any successful project will need to be led by the Parish Council, though KCC will offer support and guidance on technical elements such as Highway and Footway locations and shelter design. The grant will only be released on satisfactory completion of the agreed project. Any groundwork required to make a site ready for a bus shelter installation will be the responsibility of the Parish Council and not KCC. KCC will assist Parishes where this is possible but ideally sites should be in locations where the level of groundworks required is minimal.

Eligible Parish Councils can apply for match grant funding covering up to 50% of the cost of a new or replacement bus shelter, with a maximum value of £3000.00 available per request. Applications can also be made for match grant funding covering up to 50% of the cost of a refurbished bus shelter, with a maximum value of £2000 available per request. Every effort will be made to assist each Parish Council.

To be considered, your application must:

- A1: Demonstrate an understanding of current disabled access requirements (your proposal will need to meet disability access requirements).
- A2 and A3: If required, demonstrate liaison with district/borough/ city council conservation officer
- A4: Confirm match funding
- A5: Demonstrate local operator support and demonstrate consideration of the required consultation process (if applicable)
- A6: Demonstrate that the site concerned is on either KCC highways or parish land

**Please see below for timescales. There is an application deadline and an assessment period, after which all successful submissions will be notified at the same time.**

**Application deadline:**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020 @ 12 Noon

**Confirmation of result:**

Week commencing 07<sup>th</sup> September 2020

	<p><b>Proof of work completion:</b> By 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021 <b>Payment of grant:</b> By 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021</p> <p>In recognition of the current situation with Covid-19, KCC will look to offer flexibility to successful bidders with respect to the delivery of the bus shelter works, with an overall requirement that the work must be completed and the grant paid by 01<sup>st</sup> March 2021 at the very latest. Please do attempt to stick to the above dates where possible, noting that the deadline for applications of <b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020</b> remains non-flexible and cannot therefore be extended.</p> <p><b>Grant payment is dependent on proof that the work has been completed as agreed. Please note the onus is on the Parish Council to contact KCC by the deadlines detailed above. If we have not heard from the Parish Council by <u>31<sup>st</sup> January 2021</u>, the grant funding will be lost and re-allocated to other projects.</b></p> <p><b>If at any point in the process you are unable to proceed with the works, you must notify Kent County Council as early as possible.</b></p> <p>During the assessment process, Kent County Council will prioritise applications which are deemed to have a high level of public benefit and which are achievable given current site suitability. The following issues will be considered as part of the assessment process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amount of highways work needed to accommodate a shelter to achieve disability access (KCC cannot guarantee that additional funding can be made available to achieve this if the site currently has constraints in this regard)</li><li>• Safety of proposed bus shelter</li><li>• Frequency of buses serving the site</li><li>• Usage of current bus-stop</li><li>• Level of public support</li><li>• Level of liaison needed with other public bodies</li></ul> <p>It is expected that Parish Councils will carry out a written consultation with local residents who might be directly affected by the erection of a new or replacement bus shelter, and any other parties concerned. This should include properties located adjacent and opposite the proposed shelter location. A failure to do so, except in cases where there is no need to (e.g. no nearby properties) will mean non-payment of</p>		
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	<p>the grant. KCC advise that the department responsible for bus stop work within the Borough or District council should also be notified of the proposal as they hold overall responsibility for bus shelter provision. Written confirmation agreeing to any proposed shelter should be obtained from all bus companies likely to serve the stop and provided to KCC with the initial application, along with written support from the District / Borough Council and copies of the consultation undertaken with local residents, including any responses.</p> <p>It is suggested that Parish Councils identify bus stops in locations that do not require considerable ground works in order that a shelter can be accommodated. Any costs for additional ground works will be the responsibility of the Parish Council not KCC. Please note that existing bus stop locations can not be altered in order to accommodate the installation of a bus shelter.</p> <p><b>Please read the Guidance Notes carefully before completing the Application Form. They detail all other requirements you need to meet the criteria for the grant.</b></p> <p><b>For more information and to submit your application form, contact:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Clare Ellen</b> <a href="mailto:clare.ellen@kent.gov.uk">clare.ellen@kent.gov.uk</a></p> <p>As noted above, please remember that the deadline for applications is: <b>21<sup>st</sup> August 2020 @ 12 Noon</b></p>		