



Serving Parish & Town
Councils in Kent

KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

COUNCILLORS' CONFERENCE 2017

Engaging with Change: Challenge & Delivery



**(Including COUNCILLORS FOUNDATION Module
Training for new and returning members)**

**DOWNSWOOD (near Maidstone)
Community Centre
Saturday 8th July 2017**

INTRODUCTION

The Councillors' Conference 2017 is one of our established annual events which will be of interest to **all Local Councilors in Kent** regardless of experience or the size of their Council. This year's Conference will include a wide range of interesting and provocative papers designed to bring our members up to date and to allow them to engage with the key issues impacting on our tier of Local Government at a time of both challenge and opportunity. There will be formal papers on successful projects in the county, case studies and topical issues from employment legislation to new IT initiatives. The theme this year is **change**. It was once said, tongue in cheek, that "change is the only constant" and whilst sceptics might be dismissive there is no doubt that Local Councils are entering a period of unprecedented challenge. Arguably, for the first time in a generation Local Councils will have to acknowledge geo political challenges as BREXIT takes shape which in Kent could mean for example the impact on trade and transport in the most European focused areas in the UK. In addition, UK issues around the continuing financial pressure on funding remain significant: this could see for example a greater emphasis on borrowing for Local Councils. Finally, at the Kent level the last year has been dominated by the principal authorities looking at re organization and new ways of working and this could include new opportunities for Local Councils. The theme of this conference is that whilst we cannot second guess any of this (or how it may impact collectively on our tier); we must however continue to modernize, embrace change and invest in new skills and approaches. This is a continuous process of improving awareness and ensuring we have the capacity to meet challenges and deliver for our communities.

One innovation of the event is that some 50 delegates will be able to attend a formal training session consisting of an outline of basic legal and procedural knowledge required; which will then be consolidated with a practical workshop. The L & D foundation modules will be run in the morning and then repeated in the afternoon to allow delegates maximum flexibility. The modules will focus thematically on the key areas of law and procedure and related knowledge that a new councillor or one that requires a refresher course, needs to acquire, the emphasis will be on skills rather than just knowledge which will allow delegates to engage with the key areas of Local Council law and procedure. These will include: Roles and Responsibilities; Powers and Duties; Management and Meetings, The Council and the Community. The day is limited to 75 delegates with the opportunity for 25 of these delegates to attend the morning session training instead of the morning conference session and 25 other delegates attending the afternoon session training having attended the morning's papers. **If you wish to attend the training modules, please ensure that you select the correct options.**

CONTRIBUTORS AND TUTOR

Chairman: Cllr Sarah Barker Chairman KALC

Zena Wroe, Solicitor *Invicta Law* (KCC)

Graham Rusling, Public Rights of Way and Access Manager KCC

Carl Greenman, Product Manager *Geosphere*

Vicky Jacomb, Insurance Consultant *Came and Company Ltd*

Dave Austin, Executive Committee *KALC & Independent Consultant*

Roger Taylor, *Wellers Law Group*

A.N.Other*, Clerk representing the *SLCC

TUTOR: Clive Powell, KALC

PROGRAMME: MAIN HALL COUNCILLORS CONFERENCE 2017

- 9.00 Arrival: Registration and Coffee: networking
- 9.40 **Chairman: Sarah Barker Chairman of KALC Welcomes you!**
[Workshop allocation]
- 9.55. **Employment law: ensuring Local Councils act legally and effectively: Zena Wroe, Solicitor *Invicta Law (KCC)* covers key areas of law.**
- 10.55 **Don't Forget the Clerk!** The SLCC advises delegates of their role and why a good and contented Clerk is the bedrock of a good Council!
- 11.15 *Comfort Break*
- 11.20 **Have you the Right of Way? Graham Rusling, *Public Rights of Way and Access Manger KCC* explores an emotive issue for Local Councils.**
- 11.50 **Information is Power! Carl Greenman of *Geosphere* highlights a new powerful way to access key data: it could just change the way your Local Council works.....from planning to developing your community!**
- 12.40 **LUNCH [ALL DELEGATES PROCEED TO REFECTORY]**
[Additional surgeries and stands]
- 13.40 **Insurable Interest? Vicky Jacomb of *Came & Co Ltd* provides the delegates with an overview of why insurance is vital as Local Councils take on more services and bigger projects!**
- 14.15 **Staying Agile through Change! Dave Austin, KALC Executive Committee & Independent Consultant explores a key area.**
- 15.10 *Questions & Comfort Break*
- 15.20 **The Legal Challenge: Roger Taylor of *Wellers Law Group* looks at how Local Councils can make the law work for them at a time of change.**
- 16.30 **Depart**

PROGRAMME: MEMBER L & D MODULES [TRAINING ROOM]

MORNING PRESENTATION:

9.55am -11.20 C101: The Dynamic Councillor: A foundation MODULE

[Blocks will explore Roles and Responsibilities; Powers and Duties and Meetings]

11.15-11.20 Comfort Break

11.25-12.40 C111: The Dynamic Councillor: WORKSHOP

[A workshop exploring scenarios to consolidate the core topics in C101]

12.40 ***LUNCH [ALL DELEGATES PROCEED TO REFECTORY]***

AFTERNOON PRESENTATION:

13.40 -3.00 C101: The Dynamic Councillor: A foundation MODULE

[Blocks will explore Roles and Responsibilities; Powers and Duties and Meetings]

3.10 -3.20 Comfort Break

3.20- 4.30 C111: The Dynamic Councillor: WORKSHOP

[A workshop exploring scenarios to consolidate the core topics in C101]

All delegates Main Hall and Training suite:

16.30

Depart