

WINTER 2021

YOUR READING

YOUR LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND THE BOROUGH

Inside...

- > **Tackling the Climate Emergency**
- > **Work Starts On New Leisure Facilities**
- > **Creating New, Affordable Homes**
- > **Reading's Two Newest Rail Stations**



Reading
Borough Council
Working better with you



Each week across our area, an average of 13 perfectly recyclable plastic items are thrown in the wrong bin in each household. Could you recycle more?

Plastics that end up in our rubbish bins, instead of recycling, contribute to climate change.



Recycling just 13 more plastic items such as bottles, pots, tubs and trays by each household across re3 will have the same impact as removing 87 cars from the roads for a year.



All individual actions matter but together we can play an even stronger part in the fight against climate change.



**Scan & find out
your recycling
impact**



More information at: www.re3.org.uk

 @re3recycling  @re3recycling  @re3recycling



WELCOME FROM **CLLR JASON BROCK** LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

We're doing everything we can to make Reading carbon-neutral by 2030. We're proud to be using Berkshire's first electric refuse collection vehicle (p8-9) thanks to the introduction of food waste recycling, and our investment in Active Travel is encouraging residents to cycle and walk, or use public transport with two big station initiatives. (p18).

Even our plan to deliver over 300 new affordable homes (p14-15) has the environment and sustainability at its heart.

You can also read about our major investment in two exciting new leisure facilities at Palmer Park and Rivermead (p10-11) and how we are transforming Reading's playgrounds (p13).

It's a positive time to be a part of the vibrant Reading community, and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Get in touch @    

0118 937 3787

(out-of-hours emergencies: 0118 937 3737)

www.reading.gov.uk

@ReadingCouncil



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NEWS IN BRIEF

READING CITY STATUS BID DRAWS NEAR



The deadline for towns bidding to become cities is just weeks away, and there is much excitement locally as Reading is amongst the contenders.

Bidding for City Status to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, Reading's unique combination of economic and cultural strength, coupled with its many historic links to Royalty both past and present, place it in a powerful position in this nationwide competition, with successful cities revealed next year.

Studies suggest that a successful bid for City Status could bring further investment and employment opportunities, provide a major boost to Reading's growing local tourism industry and make it an even more attractive destination for cultural events. The local economy is already bouncing back strongly from the impact of the pandemic and the honorary 'City' title would provide a further stimulus to Reading's recovery.

MINSTER QUARTER REGENERATION PROJECT RECEIVES £2M INVESTMENT



The Council has secured a £2m investment to help kickstart the exciting regeneration of the Minster Quarter.

The money will be used to lay the groundwork for the future regeneration of this key corner of the town centre by enabling some key infrastructure works to take place.

We are currently seeking a development partner to help deliver our longer-term ambition for the area, which could include much-needed affordable homes, new jobs and growth to benefit local residents, local businesses and the local economy.



HELP US IMPROVE YOUR BUS SERVICE



Do you or members of your family have views on buses in Reading? We want to know what you think of the service.

We have recently published a new Bus Service Improvement Plan for Reading, prepared in partnership with all local bus operators and neighbouring local authorities. You can read it at www.reading.gov.uk/BSIP

We would like to get your feedback on our plans, which we will develop over the next few years. If there is something you would like to tell us about improving Reading's bus services then please let us know at transport@reading.gov.uk

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO VOTE IN THE MAY COUNCIL ELECTIONS



**REGISTER
NOW**

In May 2022 full council elections will be taking place in Reading. All seats in all wards are up for election. To be able to have your say and vote, you need to be registered. If you are not registered to vote yet, then the easiest way is to do it online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. Alternatively call 0118 937 3717 or email Elections@reading.gov.uk to request information by post on how to register.

What's on in Reading!

There are so many great things to see and do in Reading this Winter...

See even more over the next 2 pages...



When: 4th Dec 2021 - 3rd Jan 2022

Venue: The Hexagon

Tickets: Box Office - 0118 960 6060 | Whatsonreading.com

A spectacular family pantomime, with children's television megastar Justin Fletcher alongside Reading's favourite Dame, Paul Morse. All the ingredients for a magical trip to the theatre, with hilarious slapstick humour, plenty of audience interaction and marvellous musical numbers that you will be singing for days afterwards.



When: 3rd - 31st Dec

Venue: Rep Theatre, King's Road, RG1 4LY

Tickets: www.readingrep.com

Reading Rep Theatre presents the original Christmas tale, as it finds its perfect home on the cobbled streets of Reading. Step back in time with your favourite characters in this magical world premiere by Beth Flintoff. A festive and magical spectacle for the whole family.



When: 3rd - 24th Dec

Venue: South Street

Tickets: Box Office - 0118 960 6060 | Whatsonreading.com

We find ourselves in a country called Denmark, in a city called Odense in a time unspecified. It is mid-winter. A dusting of frost clutches at window panes, the crisp air nips at your nose. The city is beautiful and busy. Houses are huddled so close together that their rooftops kiss. And it is here, in the embrace of two touching rooftops, that we find our heroes. Ages 8+.



When: 3rd – 31st Dec
Venue: Forbury Gardens and Abbey Ruins
Tickets: whatsonreading.com

This year, Reading's festive light trail returns with a mouth-watering, wintery wonderland of lights and smells, celebrating this unique part of Reading's story. Music and poetry contributions from local school children, writers and performers will accompany you on this playful walk through Forbury Gardens and the Abbey Ruins, with spectacular light installations. Designed for all ages, and fully accessible.



When: 3rd – 18th Dec (selected dates) 6:45pm - 1am
Venue: The Grand Marquee, Kings Meadow, RG1 8DF
Tickets: www.bestpartiesever.com/christmas-parties-reading

Welcome to the hidden world of the Roaring Twenties...an era of decadence and indulgence... finally it really is time to party with Best Parties Ever this winter! Under the Grand Marquee visit the glitz of the Laurent Perrier Bar, the stylish cocktail lounge or the jumping jazz bar before settling down for dinner and entertainment throughout the evening.



When: 13th Nov 2021 – 3rd Jan 2022
Venue: Hills Meadow, Reading, RG4 8DH
Tickets: www.ticketsource.co.uk/ice-skating

Reading's Winter Wonderland will return to a new venue this festive period. With more than 20 rides and attractions will be available at the event, including an ice-rink, an apres ski bar and Santa's grotto. Seasonal food such as German sausages, mulled wine and winter cocktails will also be on offer, along with festive stalls. Designed for all ages, and fully accessible.



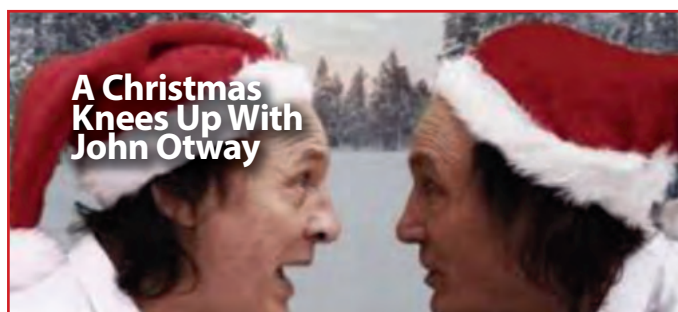
When: 4th Dec - 23rd Dec
Venue: Reading Museum
Tickets: www.readingmuseum.org.uk

Our Forgetful Elf keeps leaving his belongings behind in the Museum. Can you help find them in time for him to begin work in Father Christmas' post room? Don't forget to stop for a rest along the way and write your secret letter to Father Christmas ready to drop in our post box before you leave! Once you have finished collect your festive craft pack to take away and make at home.



When: 20th Nov – 24th Dec, 10am – 7pm Mon to Sat, 10am - 6pm Sun
Venue: Broad Street, Reading Town Centre

Why not enjoy a range of festive treats in Broad Street in the run up to Christmas? There will be a whole host of stalls along Broad Street including a traditional German swing grill, hot roasted chestnuts, pick and mix sweets, personalised Christmas stockings, hot fresh donuts, Christmas cakes and hot drinks.



When: Wednesday 15th Dec, 7.30pm
Venue: Sub89, 110-117 Friar Street, Reading, RG1 1EP
Tickets: 01189 595395 | www.wegottickets.com/event/494768

John first achieved notoriety with his eye-watering performance on Old Grey Whistle Test and subsequent hit single 'Really Free' in 1977. A heady mix of blind ambition and rank incompetence was to keep this microstar shining for almost two decades despite Otway's ability to turn any situation to his own disadvantage.

Reading's Annual Rotary Santa Run

When: 12th Dec
Venue: Reading Town Centre
Book you place at: www.readingsantarun.org.uk

Come and join the festive fun starting and finishing at the Forbury Gardens. The route is 5K or just over three miles long. It runs through Market Place, Broad Street and through the Oracle shopping centre. It then takes the scenic paths along the Kennet before crossing the river to return to Reading via Chestnut Walk and the Oscar Wilde gates. Come and help us raise thousands for local charities.



Christmas Wishes and Mistletoe Kisses

When: 5th Dec, 7pm

Venue: Shinfield Players Theatre, Whitley Wood Lane, RG2 8PN

Tickets: 0118 9758880 | www.shinfieldplayers.org.uk/booktickets

Annual Christmas show at Shinfield Players Theatre raising funds for their charity of the season - Royal Berks Charity Cast from members of the theatre perform musical songs and fun for an enjoyable evening at the beginning of the Christmas season.

Civic Carol Service

When: 16th Dec, 6.30pm

Venue: Reading Minster

Tickets: 0118 937 2771 | www.reading.gov.uk

The Mayor of Reading is counting down to Christmas and to celebrate the season, residents are invited to join her at the annual Civic Carol Service on Thursday 16 December. This festive-filled event will be held at The Minster Church of St Mary the Virgin and is guaranteed to get everyone into the true Christmas spirit.

Three Choirs Christmas Concert

When: 18th Dec, 5pm

Venue: Reading Minster

Tickets: From Reading Minster or occasions.singers@gmail.com

Featuring the Reading Male Voice Choir, Occasions Singers and A440 Choir. Raising funds for Reading Minster Sanctuary.

Calypso and Carols

When: Sat 18th and Wed 23rd Dec, 12-4pm

Venue: Broad Street, Reading Town Centre

Tickets: www.culturemixarts.co.uk

Reading All Steel Percussion Orchestra returns to Broad Street with two outdoor Christmas fundraising Calypso & Carols. The concerts will help to raise funds for RASPO activities and workshops at the new CultureMix Arts & Music Centre, 7 Queens Walk Reading.



Keep up to date with events around the borough on...

What'sOnReading.com



Artisa – Christmas Market

When: 21st Nov, 10am – 3.30pm

Venue: Creativ.Spaces, 2B Southview Park, Marsack Street, Caversham

Tickets: FREE www.madebytamalia.co.uk/page/artisa_soiree/

As part of our series of events celebrating creativity and resilience, we are delighted to bring you an exclusive set of festive events to welcome in the Christmas period. Over one weekend we will be bring you two creative experiences – a charity soiree and Christmas market. A quirky take on the traditional outdoor Christmas market. Enjoy mulled wine, mince pies, hot food & drinks whilst browsing art and craft stalls by local artists and artisans. There will be lots of unique handmade gifts to buy for friends and loved ones. Bring the kids to visit Santa in his whimsical grotto and then leave them having supervised festive arty fun in Santa's workshop.

Crafty Kids at Christmas

When: 20th, 22nd Dec, 10am - 12pm

Venue: Creativ.Spaces, 2B Southview Park, Marsack Street, Caversham

Tickets: www.madebytamalia.co.uk/crafty-half-term/

Our two hour arts and crafts session is great fun for all children. We tailor our craft activities according to the season and the ages attending. We get booked up fast so pre-booking is essential to guarantee your child's space. Run by Tamalia Reeves, a qualified Primary School Teacher with full DBS & insurance.

*There is no age limit on this workshop, however as guidance these crafts are ideally suited for children aged 5-11yrs

Make Your Own Christmas Baubles – 3 Ways

When: 11th Dec, 9:30am -10:30am or 11:30am - 12:30pm

Venue: Creativ.Spaces, 2B Southview Park, Marsack Street, Caversham

Tickets: www.madebytamalia.co.uk/bauble-making/

You will learn 3 different decorating techniques to create 3 different styles including; terrazzo, marbling and gold leaf. Enjoy a complementary glass of warm mulled wine (squash for the kids) and a mince pie while you make.

Choose from either of the two timed sessions of 1 hour each where you will be shown how to make the baubles and then work together to create a set of 3 baubles per person.

Every effort was made to ensure that the details in this publication were correct at the time of going to print. However, Reading Borough Council cannot accept responsibility for any changes, amendments or cancellation of events or activities listed, nor any inaccuracies that may have been printed in error. Adverse weather conditions may cause some events to be cancelled, relocated or rescheduled. If in doubt, you are strongly advised to confirm details with venues before leaving home.

Climate Emergency:

Help Us Make Reading Net Zero By 2030

After declaring a climate emergency in 2019, we pledged to move towards a net zero carbon Reading by 2030. Good progress is being made, but the Council can't achieve this on its own and we need your help to get there! The climate emergency is everyone's responsibility and by working together we can rise to this vital challenge. We know we have your support to make the changes we all want to see.

What we are doing

As well as declaring a Climate Emergency on behalf of the whole community, the Council has lowered its carbon footprint by 63% since 2008/09.

The Council's own 2020-25 Carbon Plan aims for an 85% reduction in emissions by 2025 and emissions for the wider Borough have also fallen by 49% since 2005. We're investing in, and working towards, a clean, safe and greener town that is more attractive to live in, and where people feel the benefits of clean air and active travel.

Having successfully secured over £1m from the Department for Transport for sustainable travel options for Reading, we are investing in

improvements to cycling, walking and public transport in the local area, including:

- New crossings and wider footways
- A network of safe, dedicated cycle lanes
- Public transport
- Electric vehicle infrastructure

We have also introduced weekly kerbside food waste collections, **increasing the Borough's recycling rate from 34% to 52%**. 70,000 households are equipped to recycle food waste, meaning that excess is now used to make fertiliser and generate electricity instead of rotting in landfill releasing methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere.





**Our first
all-electric
refuse
collection
vehicle**



Did you know?

In September we unveiled our first all-electric refuse collection vehicle, allowing us to collect waste and recycling with zero tailpipe emissions – and powered by clean electricity generated by food waste recycling!

**What does
'net zero'
mean for
me?**

The first step to becoming net zero is to avoid emitting greenhouse gases in the first place. This could mean using less energy; walking or cycling and reducing and recycling your food waste.

Reading's Climate Emergency Strategy sets out a roadmap towards a net zero Reading by 2030. Find out more, get involved and help Reading reach net zero at www.readingcan.org.uk

What can I do?

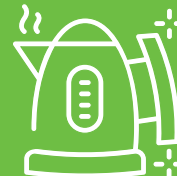
1. Walk or cycle instead of using the car



2. Recycle your food waste - did you know 6 recycled tea bags could generate the electricity to boil the kettle for another cuppa!



x6 =



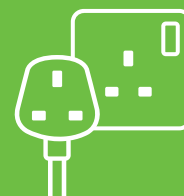
3. Source local products



4. Mend your clothes and re-sole shoes rather than buying new ones



5. Unplug devices like chargers and your TV when not using them



Sport and leisure for all

Your new leisure facilities coming to Reading

Your leisure service is changing for the better! We're investing to improve Reading's leisure facilities.

Our £40m investment in new leisure facilities mean that by spring 2023, you can look forward to: a new leisure centre at Rivermead, including a new competition 8-lane pool; a new 6-lane community pool at Palmer Park linked to the existing sports facilities; and improvements to leisure centres at South Reading and Meadway.

Construction is now well underway at Rivermead and Palmer Park.

Coming up at Rivermead - a new state of the art leisure centre featuring:

- 25m 8-lane competition pool, with moveable pool floor
- Splash pad for younger users
- Combined teaching and diving pool with moveable floor
- 25m 5 lane club/swim lesson pool
- Café, information hub, and soft play
- 6-court sports hall
- 120-station gym with 3 studios
- New outside play area

The existing centre will remain open until the new centre is complete in 2023.



At Palmer Park

In addition to the refurbishment of the existing stadium building, there will be:

- A modern new 25 metre, 6-lane community pool
- A 100-station gym with three studios
- An activity zone for children with party rooms
- A new café and information hub

By combining the benefits of a sizeable pool, velodrome and athletics stadium, all in one accessible location, we will deliver a unique facility in the region and put Reading firmly on the map as a top sports destination.

The Palmer Park community pool and facilities will open to the public in late 2022.





A focus on health

We want to inspire the communities we serve to lead healthier, more active lives.

As well as the improved facilities across all leisure sites being delivered over the next two years, there will also be a drive to increase activity, health and wellbeing across the borough, aiming for a 40% increase in participation levels. There will be targeted activities to help reduce health inequalities, including discounts for young, older and disabled people; weight management courses, cardiac and cancer rehabilitation, falls prevention interventions and dementia-friendly training for staff.

Keeping it green

Taking action on the climate emergency is a top priority for us. The new centres will be constructed to BREEAM Excellent environmental standards and with renewables wherever possible. Measures to reduce carbon emissions and improve environmental efficiency will make your new leisure facilities some of the most environmentally friendly in the UK

New membership opportunities

Exciting new membership opportunities exist so you can experience and enjoy all of the new facilities coming to Reading. GLL, who now manage our four leisure centres, has introduced membership and customer schemes allowing access to every single Council sports facility across the borough. There is also a free 'Reading Resident's Card' giving up to 30% discount from activity charges, and up to 50% off for concessions.

Visit www.better.org.uk/reading

Follow our progress on this project

For regular updates on the leisure project visit www.better.org.uk/new-reading-leisure or follow us on social media: [@ReadingCouncil](https://twitter.com/ReadingCouncil) on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.



Hundreds of roads set for big improvements as £9m investment continues

Big improvements have been made to many roads and pavements in the borough over the last few months. These will continue with hundreds of residential roads set to be resurfaced by 2023, in years two and three of our capital investment programme to build on what has been completed in the last year.

August and September saw a £1m investment in concrete road surfacing, where a specialist, more hard-wearing material was needed. The Meadway, Cressingham Road, Southcote Lane and Northumberland Avenue were all completed, with the fifth and final scheme set for spring 2023.

Our commitment to improvements was reinforced in late September when the next phase of the residential roads micro-asphalt programme began. Hundreds of roads are set to be resurfaced at a cost of £3.25m, with a further £1.25m to be spent in hot rolled asphalt resurfacing of over 40 sections of main roads aimed at protecting and enhancing our major, busy routes around Reading.

With a focus on active travel and encouraging pedestrian journeys, pavements are also receiving improvements, with a £675,000 investment in the second year of the borough's pavement network running until March 2022, where pavements in 17

roads will be resurfaced end to end to mirror the 17 completed the previous year.

This ambitious resurfacing project, driven by resident feedback that better roads and pavements were top of their list of improvements wanted in the town, will also see the planting of over 100 trees from the end of autumn onwards. This will not only help Reading towards its goal of being carbon neutral by 2030, but also improve canopy cover, biodiversity and reduce surface water run-off to lower the risk of flooding in Reading.

Did You Know?

Every year the council maintains over 250 miles of roads and 500 miles of pavements!



Sign up to our newsletter to receive regular news and updates: [www.Bit.ly/RBCemailsignup](https://www.bit.ly/RBCemailsignup)

Time to Play!

Transforming Reading's Playgrounds

Our major investment across Reading's play areas continues, with a number already completed in the last year and many due to start soon or already well underway.

Providing accessible equipment so that children of all abilities can play together is something we continue to strive towards.

So far in 2021...

Blagrove Recreation Ground in Tilehurst now has two fabulous playgrounds, thanks to our recent £244,000 investment. One area is for younger children and a second provides facilities for primary school age children. The new play areas include a great mix of play equipment accessible to all abilities.

A £90,000 refurbishment at **Cintra Park** in South Reading included an exciting mix of equipment and increased accessibility. We've also improved access into and around the playground.



Portman Road has enjoyed a multi-use games area refurbishment costing £38,000.

£155,000 has been spent at **Longbarn Lane Recreation Ground** in South Reading, including investments of £80,000 on a refurbished BMX track and £75,000 for a new outdoor gym.

We are investing £500,000 to build a new multi-use hub and activity centre in part of the pavilion building at **Prospect Park**, expected to open in 2022. The fantastic new facilities will include accessible outdoor family adventure 9-hole mini-golf; an indoor 'Sky Tykes' low ropes course for younger children; a café facility with indoor and outdoor seating; new toilet facilities (including an accessible changing places facility); multi-function room for parties, meeting and teaching and an outdoor education area.



Blagrove
Recreation
Ground

The playground at Prospect Park has been prioritised as needing improvements, particularly free accessible equipment for children of all abilities, and work will begin in the new year on relocating and enhancing the play area with an investment of £350,000.



Prospect Park - Sky Tykes

We will be investing over £1m in the following play areas in the next year...

- Portman Road in West Reading
- Courage Park, Wensley Road Estate
- Preparatory work for drainage improvements at South Whitley play area
- Kennet Walk
- Shinfield Road Recreation Ground
- John Rabson Recreation Ground skate park
- Waterloo Meadows play area
- Arthur Newbery Park play area
- Oxford Road Recreation Ground play area
- Dover Street play area (already underway)
- Moriston Close play area
- Palmer Park improvements to the toddler play area and former adventure playground.

A new playground will also be created at Rivermead in 2023 as part of the new leisure centre development.

Investing in Reading's Communities

By creating new homes

We are continually looking at innovative ways to make use of derelict buildings or unused land to provide affordable housing that the people of Reading can call home and build a future in.

Our ambitious plans are taking shape, with an £80m investment in housebuilding that will deliver over 300 new homes over the next four years, help reduce the housing waiting list and provide affordable rent properties to Reading's residents.



This will include provision for adult social care, sheltered housing, affordable housing opportunities for those on our Housing Register, and homes for key workers who helped get

Reading through the pandemic and continue to serve our communities. Nurses, social workers, teachers and police officers are among the vital public sector workers who will be eligible to rent out 15 new Council-owned flats on the old Arthur Hill swimming pool site, which will be made available at 80% of market rental rates.

As you've seen earlier in this magazine, as a Council we're responding to the climate emergency by leading in ways to become carbon neutral, and our housing programme is a big part of that. The environment and sustainability is at the heart of our affordable housing programme, with developments built with a number of features that will help contribute to a net-zero carbon Reading by 2030. These include renewable energy solar panels on roofs, triple glazing and mechanical ventilation to reduce the amount of energy needed to heat homes via heat recovery, all leading to lower bills for tenants. There will also be electric charging stations for cars.

Providing housing for everyone at Christmas

As the nights turn colder and Christmas approaches, we know that it is important to ensure everyone in



our communities has a roof over their heads. We have invested heavily in breaking the cycle of rough sleeping, including opening 40 new modular homes soon, with on-site 24/7 support provided by our partner St Mungo's, at the Cattle Market car park. This complements our existing Nova Project, also managed by St Mungo's, which provides homes and essential support for 10 homeless women at a time who have slept on the streets and need somewhere safe to call home, with 24/7 help to recover and move on when they are ready.



Did you know?

This Christmas will be the 4th in a row that all families in need of Council help in Reading have been housed without the use of B&Bs or hotels.



Planned Developments

Development	Number of homes	Estimated Completion
5 x Conversions of unused space in existing Council blocks	9	2021
George Street	4	2021
Cattle Market - Temporary Modular Units	40	2021
Lyndhurst Road	18	2022
Camelford Close	1	2022
Circuit Lane	1	2022
Foxhays	3	2022
Ian Mikardo Way	1	2022
Wentworth Avenue	2	2022
North Street	37	2022
Arthur Hill	15	2022
Wensley Road	46	2022
Battle Street*	94	2024
Hexham Road*	36	2024
Total	307	

*Estimated units

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR

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KENTWOOD



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MAPLEDURHAM



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BALLSDON**
Elected until 2022
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The MAPLEDURHAM Ward was created in 2004 due to boundary changes which ensure, as far as possible, equality of representation.

MINSTER



**Paul
GITTINGS**
Elected until 2022
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NORCOT



**Graeme
HOSKIN**
Elected until 2022
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**Debs
ABSOLOM**
Elected until 2022
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**Jo
LOVELOCK**
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PARK



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WHITE**
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PEPPARD



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REDLANDS



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THAMES



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TILEHURST



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**Helen
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**Ricky
DUVEEN**
Elected until 2022
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WHITLEY

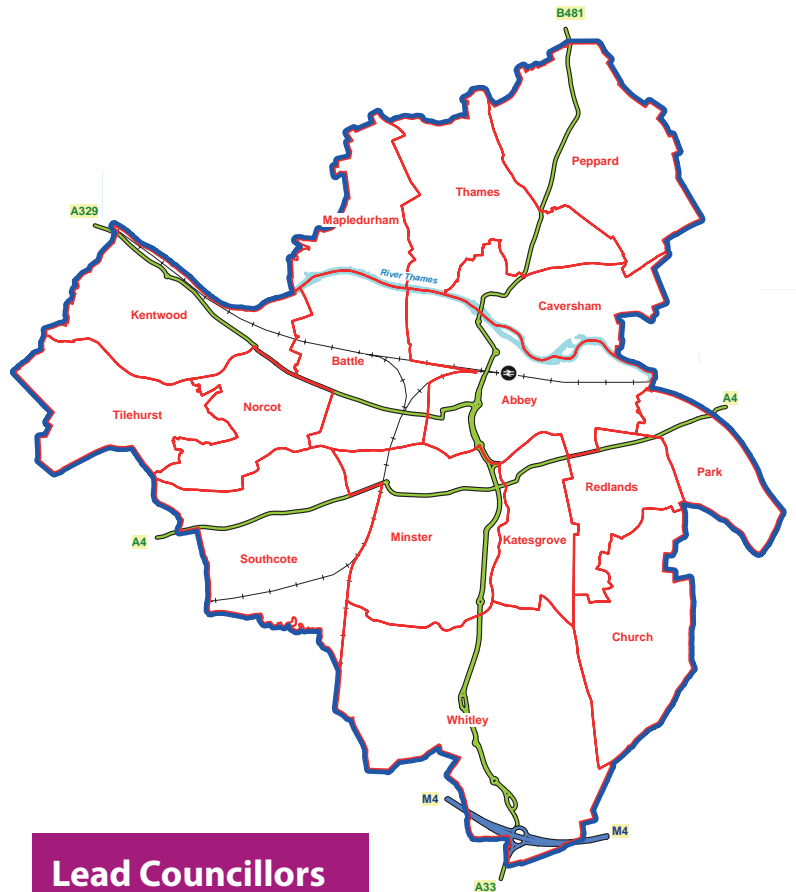


**Rachel
EDEN**
Elected until 2022
☎ 07914 211828



If you have any issues you want to discuss with your local representative, do get in touch using the details below.

 <p>Gul KHAN Elected until 2022 ☎ 07977 513295</p> 	 <p>Chris MASKELL Elected until 2022 ☎ 959 1438</p> 
 <p>Ruth McEWAN Elected until 2022 ☎ 07772 720499</p> 	 <p>Paul WOODWARD Elected until 2022 ☎ 07776 238861</p> 
 <p>Jenny RYNN Elected until 2022 ☎ 07884 008957</p> 	 <p>Daya Pal SINGH Elected until 2022 ☎ 07979 680174</p> 
 <p>Ellie EMBERSON Elected until 2022 ☎ 07780 798220</p> 	 <p>Liz TERRY Elected until 2022 ☎ 07979 854717</p> 
 <p>Brenda McGONIGLE Elected until 2022 ☎ 07803 130499</p> 	 <p>Josh WILLIAMS Elected until 2022 ☎ 937 1807</p> 
 <p>Jamie WHITHAM Elected until 2022 ☎ 07766 918058</p> 	 <p>Dave McELROY Elected until 2022 ☎ 07557 987710</p> 
 <p>Jeanette SKEATS Elected until 2022 ☎ 947 6439</p> 	 <p>David STEVENS Elected until 2022 ☎ 07400 631461</p> 
 <p>Micky LENG Elected until 2022 ☎ 07749 881597</p> 	 <p>Alice MPOFU-COLES Elected until 2022 ☎ 07960 442673</p> 







Lead Councillors

Leader of the Council
Deputy Leader

Cllr Jason Brock
Cllr Tony Page

The political composition of Reading Borough Council.

Labour	29	
Conservative	10	
Green Party	5	
Liberal Democrat	2	
Total	46	

In 2022 there will be a one-off all-council election for all seats in Reading as new ward boundary arrangements come into effect. You can find out more on our website.

To find out who your councillor is, visit **my.reading.gov.uk**

Action Stations!

Public Transport Boost As **Green Park** and **Reading West** Take Shape...



Reading West Station

Our commitment to Active Travel has seen over £1m provided towards schemes to help cyclists and pedestrians navigate Reading safely, but it also includes encouraging people to travel in and out of Reading using public transport too, thanks to two exciting station projects.

Green Park

The new Green Park station is taking shape, with the two 150 metre platforms linked by a 15 metre bridge in August, as the £20m development, hindered by the pandemic initially, went full steam ahead including the completion of the station building.



Green Park

On the Reading to Basingstoke line, Green Park Station will be served by a half-hourly service north to Reading and south to Basingstoke through the day, and will help to alleviate queues on the busy A33 by offering an alternative sustainable mode of travel.

Whilst the finishing touches are being put to the construction work at the moment, a commissioning period now follows involving the train companies and Network Rail. Awaiting this authorisation to be entered into service means Green Park Station is expected to be open for public use by June 2022.

Reading West

In addition to the new Green Park Station, Reading West is undergoing a £3.3m transformation led by Reading Borough Council in partnership with Great Western Railway and Network Rail.

A new station building on the Oxford Road forms the centrepiece of the improvements, which include new ticket gates at both the Tilehurst Road and Oxford Road entrances. These will mean access to the station is limited to paying passengers only, which is not currently the case, whilst new lighting, CCTV, toilets, a retail facility and better waiting areas will all combine to significantly improve safety and security.

As with Green Park, the new Reading West Station is expected to open next summer, although train services from the station will continue throughout the works.



A day in the life of a Highways Senior Apprentice

Reading Borough Council is offering apprenticeships to help team members learn additional skills that will enable them to move their careers forward faster, and will help our residents through even better service from crews with wider skill sets.

We have three brand new apprentices in the housing repairs and maintenance team who are learning about renewables and solar energy, painting and decorating, and kitchen fitting. A further seven apprentices are existing members of staff in the Highways team, supplementing their existing knowledge with learning new skills to help them do an even better job for you. We asked one of them, Jordan Brookson, how it was going.

How long have you been at Reading Borough Council?

8 years

What is your job title and role?

I'm a Highways Senior, which means I'm helping solve problems every day around drainage – repairs and fixing blockages – and also kerbs, bollards, potholes and anything else that comes up as an issue on the roads.

What hours are you out helping to make sure Reading's residents can get around without problems?

From 7am to 3pm.

What are you learning through your apprenticeship?

I've been undertaking the Level 2 Construction Plant Operations Apprenticeship since the start of the year. I'm quite an experienced team member anyway, but the apprenticeship gives me training and qualifications to be able to operate extra plant machinery, such as rollers, diggers, excavators and telehandlers.

Some of the qualification involves going off to the training site in Tadley to focus on learning on a specific piece of equipment, after which I get a qualification card saying what I've achieved.

How is it helping you?

It is a good qualification to have as it will help me climb the ladder within the Council, and open up doors to me to progress my career and explore different avenues.

What benefits are Reading Borough Council getting from providing you with the apprenticeship?

They are getting a worker who is higher trained, has more scope to do more whilst out on jobs giving the team more flexibility, and I can also contribute more to team safety as that's a key part of the training.



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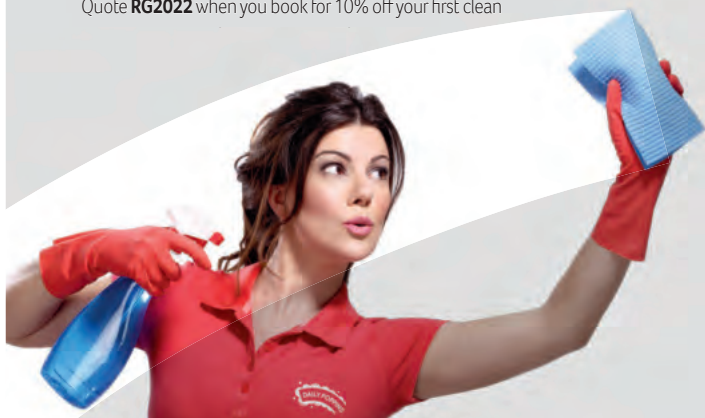
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