

# Around the Royal Borough

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Royal Borough  
of Windsor &  
Maidenhead

News and views from the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead

Winter 2021



**Tackling climate change**  
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Dear residents,

It's been an interesting and challenging year again as we continue to tackle Covid, and its impact on services and how we deliver services to you.

We have really harnessed the community spirit which was developed last year when many of you volunteered to support fellow residents in the borough, and our staff switched roles to carry out important calls for the shielding service as well as our local test and trace system.

One real example of community spirit is featured on page 26. It has shown how we have all adapted and continued to change services during the year. Our teams have worked with the community in Clewer and Dedworth to empower residents to come together and use their skills to develop projects that shape their community. Such is the success, the project has moved to Maidenhead and we hope that many more of you will get involved. It's heartening to see projects that came from the pandemic really develop and become part of our everyday work. The GoodGym on page 27 is also a fantastic example of how we have used fitness and volunteering and combined the two. The gym was launched just as we went into the pandemic and has gone from strength to strength.

We've also seen many businesses adapt to the pandemic, as well as new businesses develop and shine through the last year. As a council we have supported many of them with the grants process that was on offer during the year. We have seen footfall numbers gradually rise and in Windsor they are nearly back to the levels we had before the pandemic. Maidenhead is also slowly recovering and we have seen the regeneration programme moving along in the town.

During the last year residents have started moving into the Watermark



Councillor Andrew Johnson

apartments, the council is working with Countryside to develop the St Cloud Way site where the old Magnet Leisure Centre was, and the regeneration of The Landing site is moving ahead.

Alongside this, we have been working with the community and partners to finalise a new Corporate Plan, which sets out the headline areas where change needs to be driven the most in the next five years, to ensure efforts and resources are directed at the right issues across the borough. We are also confident of setting a balanced budget for the next financial year, and will be consulting on our budget proposals shortly.

Covid is still in the community and while we are all adapting to the new way of life, we need to be mindful that it is still out there and we want to stop the spread of coronavirus in the community. Please do continue to follow the hands, face, space and fresh air guidance. We have more than 100 community champions who are helping share important messages out to the community. If you want to get involved see page 29 about how you can sign up.

And finally, may I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Best wishes,  
Councillor Andrew Johnson,  
Leader of the Council.

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# Environment and Climate Strategy

## How the council is making a difference

Our vision is to be a community working together to achieve a sustainable future, protecting and enhancing our natural environment and achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest.

Councillor Donna Stimson, cabinet member for climate change, sustainability, parks and countryside, said: "In July 2019, the Royal Borough declared a climate emergency. The issues behind this decision are some of the most challenging ever faced by humanity. We recognise the possibility that, within a few decades at most, our planet could warm to an extent that would make life difficult for many and impossible for some, and we are confident that if we take action we can and will make a difference.

"Our Environment and Climate Strategy, which maps out how we aim to move towards our net zero carbon emissions goal, was developed by a cross-party working group."

### The Environment and Climate Strategy focuses on four key themes:

- **Circular Economy:** minimising the use of raw materials, reducing waste and increasing reuse and recycling
- **Energy:** reducing consumption and decarbonising our energy supply. 67% of the borough's emissions are a result of energy consumption in buildings
- **Natural Environment:** supporting biodiversity, protecting and enhancing our environment will help protect clean air and water, tackle climate change, and create great places to live that support residents' health and wellbeing
- **Transport:** reducing the need for carbon-intensive travel by encouraging walking and cycling, as well as investing in digital infrastructure. Providing safe cycle routes and electric vehicle charging points will also help minimise air pollution too.

## Energy-efficient lighting in schools

Work was carried out over summer to upgrade lighting in 12 of the Royal Borough's schools.

The work was funded by the government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and was used to fit LED lighting across 14 council buildings altogether - the schools, plus Maidenhead Library and Tinkers Lane Depot in Windsor.

The decarbonisation scheme has enabled public sector organisations to fund energy efficiency upgrades in public buildings with the aim of tackling climate change and supporting economic recovery from the pandemic. As LED lighting is more energy-efficient, it also reduces the running costs of the buildings.

Our Sustainability team has secured a further £165,000 from the government's Low Carbon Skills Fund. This will fund Heat Decarbonisation Plans across the majority of our buildings, including 19 schools, 10 libraries, the Town Hall and the Guildhall.

The annual emissions saving by replacing fluorescent lights with LEDs across the 12 schools will be more than 60 tonnes of CO2 per year.



## Working towards a plastic-free borough



Our reliance on single use plastics is one of the biggest threats to our environment, so refusing and reducing plastics is an important part of achieving our Environment and Climate Strategy.

While it's easy to take obvious steps, plastic is in so many household items that becoming a plastic-free borough is a bigger task.

We are delighted to be working with Plastic Free Windsor to look at ways to reduce single use plastic in the borough.

We have created an action plan and are now moving into the implementation phase.

Keep up to date with Plastic Free Windsor for future opportunities to be involved, or look out for more information on our social media channels and in Residents' News.

## Electric sweeper hits the streets

We trialled an electric road sweeper - the first of its kind - from Urbaser, which helps keep our communities clean. It can work all day on a single charge and is compact enough to clean residential streets.

VolkerHighways, who manage our roads and maintenance, has implemented a sophisticated process to ensure all materials from the sweeper are re-purposed, reducing the cost of disposal.

Waste is passed through a series of filtering systems, syphoning off each material such as litter, stones and organics, until fully separated and ready for reuse.

VolkerHighways has also trialled an innovative repair system on manhole covers on Castle Hill Roundabout in Maidenhead. This provides a more flexible surface around each manhole cover than traditional concrete repairs, accommodating movement produced by traffic and making it more resistant to cracks and damage.

These repairs should last longer and provide a sustainable alternative to concrete patching, with the need for re-work significantly reduced.



# Climate change

## What can you do to help?

### Thank you for taking part in our Big Conversation

We launched our 'Big Conversation' in the summer asking residents to share their ideas to help shape walking and cycling improvements in the borough.

More than 800 of you responded to the Active Travel consultation and the next steps will be to draw your feedback together into a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan along with the previously adopted Cycling Action Plan.

This will form a roadmap of ideas and will be investigated in more detail and brought forward as potential schemes for further, localised consultation.

Councillor Gerry Clark, cabinet member for transport and infrastructure, said: "Active Travel, and reducing reliance on motor vehicles for short journeys, is an important part of achieving our Environment and Climate Strategy, including improving air quality. It also has personal benefits: keeping active helps your physical and mental wellbeing."

The level of feedback demonstrates a real desire for making improvements to air quality, health and safety in the borough.

Residents were asked their ideas and opinions around four key themes:

- Cycle routes and infrastructure
- Accessible routes and pedestrian spaces
- School streets – temporary road closures around schools during school run times (term time only)
- People-friendly streets – changes that can be made to neighbourhoods that reduce traffic dominance.

### Get on your bike

We ran a poster and poem competition for school children over the summer promoting road safety and changing the way we travel to more sustainable options.

We teamed up with Frog Bikes, near Sunninghill, to run the Active Travel competition for schools across the borough.

We asked children aged four to 11 to design a poster around the themes of the Green Cross Code, air quality near schools, school streets and walking and cycling.

New bikes were presented to the winners in each category.

Entries were judged by council officers and Josh Marchant, marketing executive for the UK and Ireland for Frog Bikes. Frog Bikes also provided prizes for second and third place in each age category, as well as prizes for the runners-up.

Cyclepods provided Minipod and Scooterpod storage devices. Trinity St Stephen First School in Windsor were the overall school winners and received the Minipod, while St Edmund Campion Primary School in Maidenhead came second and received the Scooterpod.



Winners of the Active Travel Competition with their bikes.

### Join the Climate Partnership

We are creating a borough-wide Climate Partnership bringing together private and public sector organisations, as well as community groups, to oversee the delivery of our Environment and Climate Strategy.

Councillor Donna Stimson, cabinet member for climate change, sustainability, parks and countryside, said: "We know there is a lot of support within the Royal Borough for reducing the collective impact we have on our environment, and the aim of the partnership is to better collaborate and harness that shared passion. It is an exciting step forward that can accelerate our transition towards greater sustainability as a place, and anyone with an interest in climate and the environment is encouraged to join."

The strategy makes clear that we cannot act in isolation but we need the whole borough and central government to play their part. Member organisations would be spread across the strategy's four strategic themes of energy, circular economy, natural environment, and transport.

To register an interest in becoming a member, email: [sustainability@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:sustainability@rbwm.gov.uk)

### Get involved in conservation volunteering opportunities

We'd like to thank everyone who has helped maintain and improve our green spaces and local habitats through volunteering this year.

The Conservation Volunteers have finished work on a handrail up a steep footpath in Hurley, and will be carrying out surface repairs on the Green Way paths in north Maidenhead.

Work is underway to plant 15,000 trees and create a new section of woodland in Ockwells Park Nature Reserve in Maidenhead. Since 2019, we've planted more than 10,000 trees at places like Cooley's Meadow, Eton Wick, the Gullet, Maidenhead and Trinity Wildlife Area, Windsor.

We're also grateful to students from Berkshire College of Agriculture who cleared undergrowth, and members of GoodGym, who removed reeds reducing water flow at North Town Moor pond.

We also work with volunteer groups at Oaken Grove Park and Kidwells Park to increase biodiversity. Email: [sustainability@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:sustainability@rbwm.gov.uk) to find out more about conservation volunteering opportunities.



Some of our conservation volunteers planting trees

### Support for low-income families

Funding is still available to help support low-income families in the borough improve the energy efficiency of their homes while reducing their carbon footprint.

We secured more than £850,000 from the government's Local Authority Delivery scheme (LAD) and this is being used to improve the energy performance of the borough's least energy-efficient homes ready for winter. It will help families phase out high carbon, fossil fuel heating and reduce fuel poverty. The work is being carried out in partnership with energy efficiency installers who meet the high work standards required by the scheme.

As part of our commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions in the borough by 2050, we have set ourselves ambitious targets for carbon reduction, and securing this funding has enabled us to begin to deliver on those commitments.

If you are on a low income and own your home, you can apply for a grant via Heat the Home Counties by filling in the form at: [www.heatthehomecounties.org.uk/apply-now](http://www.heatthehomecounties.org.uk/apply-now) or email: [mail@heatproject.co.uk](mailto:mail@heatproject.co.uk)

If you require digital assistance, drop into any borough library or email: [sustainability@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:sustainability@rbwm.gov.uk)

# Supporting our businesses during Covid

At the start of the pandemic, the government introduced Covid grants for businesses affected by the restrictions.

We've supported businesses via a series of grants that were mandatory and discretionary with guidelines set by central government. Overall we have issued more than £50m to a variety of businesses. Many businesses qualified for multiple awards.

"I used the grant so I could remain in my new premises," said a spokesperson from a borough beauty business. "I'd moved in only two months before the second lockdown so couldn't trade. Without this funding I would've probably gone under."

We also awarded £39.6m in Business Rate Relief in 2020/21 and have awarded £24m this current financial year.

To find out more about how we have supported businesses see pages 24, 25 and 29.

## Meet Maidenhead's new Town Manager

**What is involved in your role?** Events, markets, new initiatives and more - I am here to make sure we can all have a town centre we can be proud of and a High Street that can be celebrated - for residents, visitors and businesses.

**What sort of things can you help with?** Drop me a line if you are looking to bring your event to the town centre – the Waterways, the Amphitheatre, the High Street – we are so lucky to have such versatile locations to play with. I aim to create a vibrant network of experiences which will shine a light of our creative community and bring people together.

**How do you feel about Maidenhead's prospects as a place?** Maidenhead is full of passion and our community are our biggest asset. We are at an exciting crossroad as we head towards major redevelopment, and while that work is underway, the opportunities to keep the town buzzing are endless.

**What existing links do you have to Maidenhead?** I am Maidenhead born and raised, and after finishing university began working at Norden Farm Centre for the Arts. While there I ran the outreach and engagement programme for schools and community groups, as well as much-loved projects like the Lantern Parade and the Kite Festival!

**How can people contact you?** Email me at: [maidenhead.townmanager@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:maidenhead.townmanager@rbwm.gov.uk)



Robyn Bunyan

## Celebrating independent shops



Check out My Royal Borough's independent shopping guide, showcasing local independent shops across the Royal Borough and supporting opportunities for everyone to shop locally this Christmas and throughout the year.

Whether you are grabbing a gift card, buying beautiful presents for your loved-ones, or ordering a takeaway, there are plenty of local go-to independent businesses in the Indies A to Z Guide.

Visit: [www.myroyalborough.com/blog/indies-a-to-z](http://www.myroyalborough.com/blog/indies-a-to-z) for more information and suggest your own favourites to be promoted in the run-up to Small Business Saturday on 4 December.

## Setting our budget for next year

We have started work on the budget setting process for the next financial year (2022/23). This means we are looking at how much it costs to provide services across the borough as well as what services we provide.

Councillor David Hilton, cabinet member for finance, said: "We currently have the lowest Council Tax outside of London and have continued to change the way we work to keep your Council Tax low."

This year we have spent nearly £275m delivering a wide range of services for you as well as adapting our services during the last 18 months. More than a quarter of this is made up by the Council Tax you pay, with an additional £5.1m raised through the government's adult social care charge, ensuring that our most vulnerable residents are looked after. We also generate income through fees and charges to supplement the money received from the government and Council Tax.

Your Council Tax bill also includes other organisations who set a charge including parish councils, Thames Valley Police and Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

We will be consulting on our budget proposals shortly. Keep an eye on our website and social media for more information.



## Next steps for developing the borough's future

Thank you to those of you who took part in the August consultation on our draft Corporate Plan. More than 500 of you responded and we also spoke to the Youth Council to hear the views of our younger residents. We have read and analysed all your responses and reflected on your feedback.

In the consultation, we asked for your views on the overarching objectives of the plan – to create thriving communities, and inspiring places, supported by a council trusted to deliver its promises – and asked you to submit more detailed responses about where we should focus more.

Your key messages include:

- A stronger focus on tackling climate change, and enhance biodiversity and the natural environment
- Recognition of the challenges around the lack of affordable housing in the borough
- Providing more opportunities to listen to you and improve the way we engage with our communities
- Uniting the different parts of the borough and not be so Maidenhead-centric
- Improved leisure opportunities.

These messages have informed the development of the more detailed Corporate Plan.

It is being prepared to present to Full Council on 23 November.



# Investing in our highways

## Queen Elizabeth Bridge gets a makeover



A crucial £2.1m project to extend the life of Queen Elizabeth Bridge in Windsor was completed this summer.

We carried out essential repairs and improvements to the bridge on the A332 Royal Windsor Way to future-proof the structure.

Investment in the 1960s-built bridge was necessary due to corrosion of some of the steel components over time.

It is part of a major arterial route in and out of the historic town of Windsor, as well as a key link to the M4 over the River Thames, so keeping it in good working order was crucial for the borough's road

users, those visiting and others passing through. The project demonstrated the council's commitment to investing in our ongoing highways maintenance and improvement programme.

## Work to Maidenhead Station forecourt completed

Essential improvements transforming Maidenhead Station's forecourt into a modern transport hub have been completed, with the new gateway to the town centre now open.

Councillor Gerry Clark, cabinet member for transport and infrastructure, said: "Enhancements to the public area and facilities have made the forecourt more user-friendly, more accessible and ensures the town is prepared for increased demand as a result of upgrades to the rail network with the opening of the Elizabeth Line (Crossrail).

"This has created wider, more direct footways to the town centre, provided a better bus stop and tripled the number of cycle storage spaces to more than 300.

"Work is ongoing to regenerate Maidenhead town centre and we must ensure its infrastructure supports the current and future needs of the town and its residents."

The improvements include:

- Secure cycle storage with 312 stands. There is a CCTV camera covering the area to deter theft and it includes two electric bike charging points
- A more accessible bus layby on the A308. It includes a double shelter and a real-time display that details all the services stopping and when they will arrive
- Six disabled parking spaces, as well as motorcycle spaces
- A new paved piazza
- A drop-off and pick-up point for commuters. Private vehicles can still drive into the forecourt, and vehicles can pick-up and set down in the forecourt, giving people alighting direct access to the pedestrian area
- Landscaping, including wider pedestrian walkways, improved lighting to ensure areas where people will walk are well lit, seating and trees.

Long-stay parking has been transferred to the Stafferton Way multi-storey car park nearby. We secured £3.75m of Growth Deal funding from the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership for the project.



The new Maidenhead Station forecourt



Secure cycle storage

## Further investments in our highways

A number of other major projects have been undertaken this year to improve our highways infrastructure for road users.

Works on Oldfield Road roundabout in Maidenhead were completed and the new junction opened this summer.

This upgrade to a traffic light-controlled junction is part of a larger and ongoing programme to make improvements to six roundabouts in the town.

The change to the junction was in preparation for the regeneration of areas of Maidenhead, which will bring new homes, commercial opportunities and jobs to the town. This important investment is part of work to improve our highways network and ensure we have safe, usable and modern roads that meet the needs of all users.

The Oldfield Road works were part of a £6.33m road improvement scheme, majority funded through the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

We also installed a new signalised pedestrian and cycle crossing on Bad Godesberg Way, Maidenhead (A4). This has created a new, safe crossing at Kidwells Park, allowing more convenient access to the town centre.

The works, also majority funded by the LEP, were completed in three phases and were part of the Missing Links cycle scheme which is intended to make pedestrian and cycle travel safer and more accessible.

Making improvements to support walking and cycling in the borough – which has additional health benefits – is a key priority for the council. Thank you to everyone for their patience while these important improvements were completed.

Currently, local authorities in Berkshire are trialling a series of technological advances, through an innovation project known as Live Labs, that will be used to inform and improve future changes to highways and travel across the county.



## New improvements to tackle flooding

Measures to help tackle flooding in Datchet, Horton, Wraysbury and Old Windsor are being actively explored by the Royal Borough and Environment Agency.

The work involves assessing potential longer-term options for reducing the risk and impact of flooding, as well as several other planned shorter-term projects.

In the shorter-term, we are looking to undertake flood-related improvement and maintenance works at Wraysbury Drain, Datchet Barrel Arch and Datchet Common Brook with support from the Environment Agency.

As part of identifying what longer-term alternatives might be affordable, deliverable and suitable, the council and the Environment Agency have appointed a dedicated project officer, alongside reviewing potential options and exploring potential funding opportunities.

Councillor David Cannon, cabinet member for public protection and parking, said: "We will keep residents informed as this complex work progresses and will also be seeking to directly involve the community once we have identified possible approaches to consider. While Channel 1 of the River Thames Scheme was unfortunately neither viable nor deliverable without significant additional external funding, or the greater flexibility we sought over Council Tax, the council's original commitment of £10m is still ring-fenced to contribute to alternative flood alleviation works."

# Developing your borough

## Maidenhead regeneration moves ahead

The next crucial phase in Maidenhead town centre's regeneration is moving ahead, with works now underway on The Landing redevelopment.

We are working with developer HUB to bring forward The Landing, a mixed-used scheme which includes 431 new homes, along with extensive accommodation for office, retail, business and community use, and associated works.

Councillor Andrew Johnson, the council leader, said: "This major investment is a long-standing regeneration ambition of the council, providing homes, jobs and other facilities that will considerably improve the local environment and enhance the vibrancy of the town centre."

Opposite is the site of the Nicholson Quarter project, which will see redevelopment of Nicholson's Shopping Centre, its multi-storey car park and surrounding areas, new apartments, new office accommodation, bespoke retail space, restaurants and cafes, public open space and a new multi-storey car park. With planning permission in place, we are working with developer Denhead on the next steps.

We are building a new multi-storey car park at Vicus Way, providing the option for long-term business and commuter parking outside the town centre, freeing up parking space for retail use in the town centre and helping to reduce town centre traffic.



## Watermark



Phase one of the Watermark development is nearing completion and the first residents have moved into their new homes.

Watermark comprises of 229 modern one, two and three-bedroom apartments on the bank

of Maidenhead Waterways, along with a restaurant, café and community space.

The development delivers 88 modern one and two-bedroom apartments for affordable housing, with a mix of shared ownership, affordable rent, and social rent available. Help to Buy is also available.

Those interested should call 01628 873617 or visit: [www.countrysideproperties.com/all-developments/berkshire/watermark](http://www.countrysideproperties.com/all-developments/berkshire/watermark)

## Saint Cloud Way



We are working with Countryside on plans to redevelop the former Magnet Leisure Centre site on St Cloud Way, following two rounds of community engagement.

The vision is to develop high quality homes, alongside landscaped courtyards and public realm improvements. This development will focus on the community including people, their needs and aspirations.

The development will also include affordable homes, as well as green landscaping.

## Developing your future towns

Windsor's Neighbourhood Plan, which includes objectives to preserve the historic nature of the town and protect green spaces, has been adopted and is being used in making decisions on planning applications.

Meanwhile, the Maidenhead Vision Charter, giving residents greater say on how Maidenhead town centre will be improved over the next 15-20 years, has been agreed. A new town team will monitor and assess projects that come forward to ensure they meet the charter's key points.

## Setting the vision for planning in the future

The council is set to adopt the Borough Local Plan. Here's what you need to know.

### What is the Borough Local Plan?

It is the key planning document setting out the vision for future development of the Royal Borough up to 2033, including how many new homes are needed, how much space for jobs, the best locations for new development and where development cannot happen. It includes policies for managing development and infrastructure to meet local needs.

### Why is it important?

The plan is used to make decisions on planning applications. It ensures that regeneration, investment and new housing is well planned and meets local needs, happens in the right places and is supported by suitable infrastructure.

### What would happen if there were no plan?

The government requires councils to set targets for home-building that meet projected housing needs and to identify sites to provide five years' worth of housing. By having a sound plan identifying the best locations for this new development, the borough is in a strong position to resist inappropriate development in the wrong locations anywhere in the borough.

### How has the plan been drawn up?

The plan has been shaped over more than a decade through national planning policy, a series of public consultations, evidence about the social, economic and environmental characteristics and prospects of the area, and public examination by an independent Planning Inspector. If, as expected, the Inspector finds it to be sound and lawful, then a report will be taken to Full Council recommending it is adopted.



# Addressing the housing challenge

Our new housing strategy sets out the council's clear approach and firm commitment to addressing the housing challenges residents face in the Royal Borough, including delivering affordable homes to buy and rent.

Our borough is one of the best places to live in the country with an abundance of beautiful green space, safe streets, fantastic facilities, strong local businesses and employment opportunities, good infrastructure links, and strong communities.

This has seen an influx of talented people, young families and entrepreneurs seeking to become part of the community. While this has added to our economic strength, wealth of ideas, skills, and community spirit, which is welcome, it has also added to housing pressures.



The average house price is approximately £476,000 – more than 15 times higher than the average UK salary – which makes getting into sustainable rented accommodation and onto the house ladder difficult for many younger local residents and the most vulnerable.

Councillor Ross McWilliams, cabinet member for housing, sport and leisure, and community engagement, said: "Shaped through consultation with the public and key partners, the Housing Strategy sets out three clear objectives and a series of practical commitments towards achieving a stable, competitive and effective housing market."

We want to be a borough that delivers new homes, not only for those coming into the borough, but for those who are already here.

We want to be a borough that creates places that are not just bricks and mortar, but which promote health and wellbeing and to proactively support our vulnerable people by having a mixture of different homes with a mixture of affordability.

By having a clear Housing Strategy, together with good working relationships with developers, the borough can maximise and guide investment to better meet local housing needs.

The Housing Strategy complements the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and the Borough Local Plan.



## Tap 4 Lasting Change to help end rough sleeping

The community has so far given more than £2,000 through our cashless donations scheme, Tap 4 Lasting Change, to help rough sleepers turn their lives around in the Royal Borough.

This alternative giving scheme enables people to simply tap their debit card on a donation point to give a fixed fee of £3 towards the delivery of support for rough sleepers. The donation points also accept Apple or Google Pay.

We collaborate closely with partner organisations, including the NHS, local charities and Thames Valley Police, who are all signed up to working together to deliver the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, to prevent rough sleeping where possible and help people back into stable accommodation.

Councillor Ross McWilliams, cabinet member for housing, sport and leisure, and community engagement, said: "The reasons people end up on the streets are individual and often complex, and therefore we work with partners to identify individual needs and provide tailored support in the most appropriate way. The public's generous donations bolster these individually-tailored support programmes, helping rough sleepers to make a lasting transition into supported accommodation and then independent living via our clear three-stage Rough Sleeper Pathway."

**Stage one** - identify what support each rough sleeper needs from the pathway

**Stage two** - develop a person-centred, tailored programme of accommodation and support including signposting to wider agencies

**Stage three** - assist the rough sleeper into sustainable, community-based accommodation.

The pathway is underpinned by our core values of compassion, thoroughness and cooperation, with all those who join the pathway required to sign up to an agreement, which includes not engaging in street activities, such as begging.

Donations raised through Tap 4 Lasting Change are providing additional support, focussed around meaningful use of time, remaining motivated and managing finances effectively.

With Maidenhead Library and Windsor Library added as extra donation points since the scheme launched last December, we are inviting further business premises to host donation points and play a role in the vital partnership work towards ending rough sleeping. Please email [housing@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:housing@rbwm.gov.uk)

If you are concerned that someone might be rough sleeping in the Royal Borough, you can let us know by completing a StreetLink referral which will help link individuals with services and support at: [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk)

If you are concerned about losing your home and would like some advice, complete a self-referral to the Housing Options Team online at [www.rbwm.housingjigsaw.co.uk](http://www.rbwm.housingjigsaw.co.uk)

### Donations points:

**Ascot** - Chewton Rose Estate Agents, 41 High Street, Ascot, SL5 7HG

**Eton** - Popeye Grooming, 68 High Street, Eton, SL4 6AA

**Maidenhead** - Hard Edge, 98 High Street, Maidenhead, SL6 1PT and Maidenhead Library, St Ives Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1QU

**Windsor** - Dr Chocs, 23 Thames Street, Windsor, SL4 1PL and Windsor Library, Batchelors Acre, Windsor, SL4 1ER

## Our Housing Strategy Objectives



**Deliver new homes** – deliver thousands of new high-quality homes with a mixture of tenures and sustainable infrastructure to provide a range of housing solutions



**Promote health and wellbeing** – use development to drive positive physical and social regeneration, maximise health and social outcomes and reduce health inequalities through the use of green technology and innovative built environments



**Support vulnerable residents to obtain and sustain appropriate accommodation** – increase support and prevention for homelessness by providing excellent customer service, a range of housing options and good quality temporary accommodation.

## How we are supporting Afghan refugees

A huge thank you to everyone who gave so generously during the summer to our appeal for in-kind donations to support the Afghan refugees being resettled in the Royal Borough.

We are participating in the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy, providing safe refuge to Afghan staff who supported UK operations and HM Armed Forces in Afghanistan but whose lives were sadly under serious threat.

In just two weeks after setting up the donations drop-off point, people gave some 1,000 bags of donations, ranging from clothing, to toiletries, to baby items. These were sorted and categorised to ensure items could be quickly dispatched to those in need. Any in-kind donations which are surplus to the needs of Afghan refugees resettling in the local area are being distributed to wider refugee groups or homeless households in need.



# £30m invested in secondary schools

We have successfully completed a £30m expansion programme for secondary schools – with seven schools benefitting from this phase of investment in new facilities.

Councillor Stuart Carroll, cabinet member for children’s services, said: "Our latest phase of investment in new high-quality classrooms, specialist teaching and ancillary spaces is part of ongoing work to ensure there is sufficient capacity to meet projected demand for pupil places in communities where it is needed."



Cox Green School.

With funding from us, the government plus infrastructure contributions from developers, this major funding package for secondary schools followed on from expansion of primary schools, both of which responded to a bulge in pupils flowing through the education system.



Charters School.

Over the last four years, expansion works have taken place at Windsor Girls’ School, Windsor Boys’ School, Dedworth Middle School, Cox Green School, Furze Platt Senior School, Charters School and St Peter’s Middle School.

The latest phase of expansion has met a surge in demand for secondary school places where it is needed in the borough by investing in high-quality facilities that greatly benefit children and teaching staff alike.



Furze Platt Senior School.

While this latest phase is now successfully completed, we have an ongoing programme of work to forecast and meet future demand, working closely with schools to ensure that new facilities meet their requirements and the guidelines from the Department for Education.



## Girls’ Policy Forum

The Girls’ Policy Forum provides a platform for young women and girls to play an active role in shaping life in the Royal Borough.

Members meet regularly and focus on issues and activities that matter to them. New members are always welcome. For more information or to join, email Elaine Keating, Youth Engagement Officer: [elaine.keating@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:elaine.keating@achievingforchildren.org.uk)

## School holiday fun

Over the school summer holidays, our free holiday activities and food programme supported some 620 children from vulnerable and disadvantaged families.

Feed Ur Everyday Lives (FUEL) is for children eligible for free school meals, giving access during the holidays to fun activity groups and nutritious meals. FUEL started at Easter and returns again for a week over Christmas.



## New Youth Council

A dedicated forum giving young people the opportunity to have their say in council decisions has been established.

Following a borough-wide call for participants, working with children’s services partner Achieving for Children, we have established a Youth Council.

It supports young people to get involved in their communities, playing an active role in shaping and informing local decisions as the first port of call for councillors and local businesses wanting to hear the voice of local young people.

Robert Jansen-Spence, aged 17, has been elected as the first chairperson. The youth councillors will have the opportunity to discuss and address important issues that



Chairperson Robert Jansen-Spence.

matter to young residents and affect their lives, as well as work on positive projects and campaigns to make changes for the better.

Robert, a pupil at The Windsor Boys’ School, said: "Young people are really interested in what happens in our community. The Youth Council will give us a stronger voice and enable us to get more involved in decisions that will affect us and champion issues we care about."

"We are still open to welcoming new members from schools and young groups across the borough."

For more information and the application form, please visit [www.rbwm.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/community-information/information-and-advice/support-and-advice-for-families/youth-council](http://www.rbwm.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/community-information/information-and-advice/support-and-advice-for-families/youth-council) or email [elaine.keating@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:elaine.keating@achievingforchildren.org.uk)

## Family Hubs support most vulnerable

Our new Family Hub Service has been created to refocus support on the most vulnerable children, young people and families.



Young people and Family Hub staff at one of the group sessions at Windsor.

The hubs integrate early help support and enable staff to work more intensively with referred families which need that tailored help, improving children’s life chances while reducing the need for statutory intervention.

Supporting people from birth to 18, and up to 25 years for young people with a learning difficulty or disability, the one-stop service operates from two main hub buildings, in Windsor and Maidenhead.

Practitioners will also be undertaking outreach work across the borough, meeting families in their homes, in community venues and even outdoor spaces if needed.

Each worker helps people on a one-to-one basis, or within groups, collaborating with other specialists and partner services to connect families to the right support.

The Family Hub Service also provides a number of group sessions and projects for young people and parents.

After operating virtually in a reduced capacity during Covid restrictions, the Family Hub Service officially opened in September.

For further information, including how to make a referral, please contact: [familyhubs@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:familyhubs@achievingforchildren.org.uk)

Visit: [rbwm.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/community-information/information-and-advice/support-and-advice-for-families](http://rbwm.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/community-information/information-and-advice/support-and-advice-for-families)

## Helping people stay healthy and independent

This year marks the tenth anniversary of Optalis, our adult social care delivery partner, helping people in the community to stay healthy, independent, and live the lives they want for longer.

We joined the partnership in 2017 and became joint owner of the company, alongside Wokingham Borough Council.

The services provided through Optalis include day services and opportunities, reablement support, residential care as well as the statutory adult social care teams responsible for planning, organising and reviewing care and support for adults with social care needs.

Optalis works closely with other council teams, as well as organisations in the NHS and the voluntary and community sector, to provide tailored care, support and opportunities to meet the life needs and ambitions of older people, adults with a disability and people with mental health needs.

Councillor Stuart Carroll, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "We invest nearly £46m each year in adult social care.

"With growing demand for adult social care across the country, the partnership with Optalis has enabled us to continue to deliver our services at the level of quality residents expect.

"Working with partners across health and social care, we will continue to enable people in the local community to live independent and fulfilled lives by promoting healthy lifestyles, investing in the local community, shaping solutions around people and treating everyone with compassion and respect."

Stay up-to-date with our latest news and info at: [www.optalis.org](http://www.optalis.org)

**optalis**  
choices for living

**We're recruiting!  
Join our team and  
make a positive  
difference**

[www.optalis.org/jobs](http://www.optalis.org/jobs)

disability confident EMPLOYER MINDFUL EMPLOYER

## Top tips to prevent falls

Falls are the most frequent cause of serious injury and loss of mobility in those aged 65+ in the Royal Borough, and they are the biggest cause of hospital admissions.

Here are some simple lifestyle changes that can help you to keep yourself fit and healthy for longer, stay mobile, safe, independent at home, and reduce your risk of falls.

- Have regular eye check-ups
- If you have a walking aid, use it all the time
- Ask the Advice and Information Team for a risk assessment to see if you need any additional aids/adaptations/assistive technology. Call on 01628 683744 Monday to Friday
- Wear suitable footwear such as ones designed for slip resistance in wet conditions
- Join exercise classes to help with mobility and balance, or do strengthening and mobility exercises at home
- Drink plenty of water throughout the day to stay hydrated
- Keep walkways clear of things that can be tripped over and be mindful if you have pets
- Have a regular medication review with your GP
- Take vitamin D which is essential for bone health in older people.

For further tips to help maximise and maintain your health, wellbeing and independence into older age, visit: [www.frimleyhealthandcare.org.uk/living-here/helping-you-to-stay-well/keeping-safe-and-well-in-older-age](http://www.frimleyhealthandcare.org.uk/living-here/helping-you-to-stay-well/keeping-safe-and-well-in-older-age)

## Community Lives: Supporting those most in need

The Community Lives Service provides person-centred support and opportunities for older people, people with learning disabilities, and those with additional complex needs, to help them achieve their personal goals.



The service helps people to join in with what's happening in their community, meet new friends, visit different places and learn new things, with the service designed to meet people's specific needs and interests.

One element of Community Lives is Boyn Grove Day Service, which supports adults with learning disabilities to enjoy themselves, stay mentally and physically active, and learn new skills to meet their life ambitions.

People get a dedicated keyworker and a tailored programme of indoor and outdoor activities to support their needs and abilities, along with access to specialist help, such as visual and auditory sensory programmes and rebound therapy.

Community Lives activities includes arts and crafts, pottery, cookery, dance, music, exercise, project groups, and gardening. The wider programme includes horticulture, swimming, gym, walking, football, golf driving range, nature trails, bowling, skittles and more.

Attitudes and expectations are changing, and young people and their families have high aspirations. Key to meeting people's needs is providing opportunities for employment, alongside developing their day-to-day life skills, such as cookery, travel training, shopping and handling money.

Community Lives also works closely with the Supported Employment Service, providing specialist employment support, job coaching and work experience to enable people to gain employability skills and experience, and progress to paid work or volunteering.

## Reconnecting, health and wellbeing through sport

Homeside Close and Winston Court are residential care homes run by Optalis, which deliver personal care and support for people who have learning disabilities. Several of the residents also use local Community Lives day support services, including Boyn Grove.

During lockdown and the ongoing pandemic, all residents were supported to follow the government guidance to isolate and stay within their own homes.

While activities were replaced to some extent within the home, the social aspect was less simple to address, though staff did use virtual meetings to help people maintain their friendships.

As restrictions eased, the team at Community Lives created a schedule of community-based sports activities in the local park to help people who are living in residential homes to reconnect with friends in person.





## Supporting our Environment and Climate Strategy with waste collection changes

With the change to fortnightly rubbish bin collections well underway, we'd like to thank you for your support in making this change happen. Collections of recycling and food waste remain weekly.

Councillor David Coppinger, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "As a community, we need to reduce the amount of rubbish we produce, and reuse and recycle more. There's lots of information on our website: [www.rbwm.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish) including ideas on how to recycle items that we are not able to collect. Up to 80% of the average black bin collection could be recycled."

### Top tips to help you recycle more

- ✓ Scrape any food leftovers into your food caddy
- ✓ Remember to empty, rinse and squash cans
- ✓ Squash down bottles and containers in your recycling bin
- ✓ Flatten cardboard before placing in your recycling bin.

You can recycle almost all of your everyday food and drink packaging in your blue recycling bin including glass bottles and jars, metal food tins, drinks cans, aerosols and foil, paper and card, plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays. However, some of the items you cannot put in your blue bin include plastic bags (e.g. carrier bags, plastic food bags), bubble wrap and plastic film (e.g. cling film, plastic film on meat and fish trays).

For a full list of items you can and cannot recycle, please visit our website at: [www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/environment-and-waste/recycling-and-rubbish/household-rubbish-collections/your-recycling-waste](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/environment-and-waste/recycling-and-rubbish/household-rubbish-collections/your-recycling-waste)

If you put the wrong items in your recycling bin, it may only be emptied when you have removed these items.

### Do you need a bigger bin for your household?

We only provide a larger bin to households of six or more people, five or more with a baby under two in nappies or those who have a medical need (such as disposal of incontinence wear or packaging related to medical treatment at home that cannot be recycled). Take a look on our website for more details: [www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/environment-and-waste/recycling-and-rubbish/order-new-bin](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/environment-and-waste/recycling-and-rubbish/order-new-bin)

## Bin collections: What you need to know

As residents are increasingly recycling more and throwing away less, it is important to do our bit to reduce our carbon footprint.

Fortnightly rubbish collections place greater emphasis on recycling waste, reducing the environmental impact and carbon footprint of the borough. Some 50% of household waste in the borough is currently recycled, but we want increase this to at least 65%.

As we would expect with a service change of this size, there have been a lot of questions. We answer some of the most common here; there are more on our website at: [www.rbwm.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish), which are regularly updated.

#### What if my rubbish won't fit in my bin?

Excess rubbish that does not fit in your black bin (the lid must be closed) will not be collected. If you are struggling to fit everything in, it probably means you are not recycling as much as you could. Check our website for advice on reducing waste.

#### Will the council take extra black bags?

No, extra black sacks will not be accepted. Please try to fit your rubbish inside your bin. 80% of rubbish in the average bin can be recycled, so reduce what you throw away, recycle as much as you can, and only buy what you need and will use.

#### I have a communal bin, will this be emptied weekly?

Yes, communal bins are emptied weekly.

#### Do you still collect electrical items and textiles?

Yes, they are still collected. Small electrical items can be placed out in a carrier bag with your recycling (blue bin). Place textiles out, one bag per collection, with your rubbish (black) bin. There is a cage on the bottom of all vehicles where either the electrical items or textiles are placed when they are collected.

#### I have had a missed collection, will you come back?

Please check that it is the right day/week for your bin to be collected. If we haven't taken your bin by the end of your correct collection day (4pm) then please report a missed collection via the website and we will come back for it within two working days. A missed collection must be reported within two working days of your scheduled collection day.

If your bin was not out for collection in time, or if it contained incorrect items, we will not come back until your next collection is due.



 Cut out and keep



## Christmas 2021 and New Year 2022 bin collection changes

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 27 December	Wednesday 29 December
Tuesday 28 December	Thursday 30 December
Wednesday 29 December	Friday 31 December
Thursday 30 December	Tuesday 4 January
Friday 31 December	Wednesday 5 January
Monday 3 January	Thursday 6 January
Tuesday 4 January	Friday 7 January
Wednesday 5 January	Saturday 8 January
Thursday 6 January	Monday 10 January
Friday 7 January	Tuesday 11 January

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 10 January	Wednesday 12 January
Tuesday 11 January	Thursday 13 January
Wednesday 12 January	Friday 14 January
Thursday 13 January	Saturday 15 January
Friday 14 January	Monday 17 January
Monday 17 January	Tuesday 18 January
Tuesday 18 January	Wednesday 19 January
Wednesday 19 January	Thursday 20 January
Thursday 20 January	Friday 21 January
Friday 21 January	Saturday 22 January

Your normal collection day will then resume in the week beginning 24 January 2022. To find out more about your collection day visit: [www.rbwm.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish)

Please remember to put your recycling and rubbish out by 7am and no earlier than the night before your collection.

Please ensure all rubbish and recycling is contained within your bin. Any additional rubbish and recycling can be taken to Stafferton Way household waste and recycling centre in Maidenhead.

We are sorry for any disruption that you may have experienced with your bin collections this year. We have been working hard with Serco to ensure all households in the borough get their bins collected and that any disruption is minimal. We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding.

There are no collections for green garden waste bins for the weeks commencing 27 December 2021 or 3 January 2022.

## Disposing of your real Christmas tree

We will be offering a recycling service for real Christmas trees this year.

If you have a green waste subscription, your tree can be put into your green bin. It must be cut down to fit fully into your bin to be collected – any trees left next to bins will not be picked up.

If your tree does not fit into the bin, or you do not have a green waste subscription, you can take it to your nearest household recycling centre (which is a great opportunity to take other items for recycling you may have). Alternatively, look out for charities that collect and dispose of your tree for a small fee.

We will put details on our recycling pages on the website.

## Stay safe this Christmas

Stay safe this season and enjoy the festive period with our handy tips from our Community Wardens.

- If travelling home from an evening out plan your journey and, if using a taxi, make sure that it's a black cab or licensed vehicle
- Be aware of your surroundings as you walk to and from your car, especially at shopping centres, if you visit a convenience store or while waiting at a bus stop
- Make sure your house is secure, and do not leave expensive items or presents by the window or on display
- Use a timer switch for your lights at home so you can change the times that the lights come on to simulate an occupied property
- Make sure the alarm and any outside lights are in working order.



## Reducing waste at Christmas

There are many ways you can reduce waste at Christmas time, but still have a celebration to remember. Here are a few ideas to get you started.

-  Plan meals, including using any leftovers. The website [lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://lovefoodhatewaste.com) has great recipes plus advice on portioning and shopping for the Christmas period
-  Make a shopping list and keep to it, and don't forget your reusable shopping bag
-  Store your leftovers in reusable containers and avoid cling film and foil
-  Avoid glittery paper and cards, as they cannot be recycled. Or better still, send an E-Christmas card or E-voucher
-  Invest in reusable – you can get advent calendars and crackers that can be filled with small gifts or sweets and used year after year
-  Avoid throwing away plastic plates and cutlery when entertaining
-  Get your Christmas spuds and veg delivered using a 'vegetable box delivery': less packaging, delicious and locally sourced. Or visit your local farmers' market or zero-waste shop.

## Food hygiene ratings

The Food Standards Agency website can help you make informed choices about where to eat out with family, friends and colleagues this Christmas and New Year.



It allows you to discover the food hygiene ratings of pubs, clubs, cafes, takeaways, deliveries and restaurants across the borough. The website awards businesses a score of zero to five achieved at their latest inspection.

The scheme is run in partnership with local authorities, and inspections are carried out by our Environmental Health officers.

The hygiene standards ratings explained:

5 - very good, 4 - good, 3 - generally satisfactory, 2 - some improvement is necessary, 1 - major improvement is necessary, 0 - urgent improvement is required.

If a business performs poorly during an inspection, or concerns are raised as a result of food sampling following a complaint, we will try and support the business to make the changes needed. As a last resort, we can take enforcement action which can range from a written notice to rectify any problem, to a fine or even imprisonment.

Across the borough we are pleased to report that 97% of businesses have received ratings of between three and five.

For more information, and to search for an establishment's score, please visit: [www.food.gov.uk/safety-hygiene/food-hygiene-rating-scheme](http://www.food.gov.uk/safety-hygiene/food-hygiene-rating-scheme)

# Support your local businesses this Christmas

This Christmas, support your local businesses and traders in the Royal Borough when you do your Christmas shopping.

As well as popular chains, our town centres boast many independent shops, perfect for finding that unique gift you've been searching for. If you want to learn more about these businesses, My Royal Borough is a great place to start. It's website has loads of information about the independent shops you can find across the Royal Borough. Visit: <https://myroyalborough.com/> for more information.

While doing your Christmas shopping, you can see the Christmas lights at Castle Hill in Windsor and Eton High Street, and watch the Maidenhead Christmas lights switch on in Maidenhead town centre on Saturday 27 November.

This free family event will see the town centre transformed with craft and food stalls and a Christmas fun fair with rides for children. Entertainment will begin at the Town Hall from 4.40pm, before the light switch on and firework display at 6pm.

Check out the opposite page for other great upcoming Christmas events.



## Supporting our local farmers

If you're looking to support local businesses this year, or fancy stocking up on local seasonal produce, local farmers' markets are a great place to start. From freshly-baked breads and locally-grown fruit and vegetables to artisan cheeses, wines and spirits, here's where you can discover the best of the Royal Borough produce this winter:

### Windsor Farmers' Market

Bachelors Acre, Windsor on Saturday 4 December, 9am to 1pm

### Maidenhead Farmers' Market

Grove Road Car Park on Sunday 12 December, 9.30am to 1pm

### Ascot Farmers' Christmas Market

Ascot Car Park on Sunday 19 December, 9am to 1pm

## Royal Borough Christmas opening hours

Over the festive period, our customer contact centre (customer services), will be operating different opening hours.

Friday 24 December	9am - 3pm
Saturday 25 December	CLOSED
Sunday 26 December	CLOSED
Monday 27 December	CLOSED
Tuesday 28 December	CLOSED
Wednesday 29 December	10am - 5pm
Thursday 30 December	9am - 5pm
Friday 31 December	CLOSED
Saturday 1 January	CLOSED
Sunday 2 January	CLOSED

From Tuesday 4 January normal opening hours apply.

For more information visit our website at: [www.rbwm.gov.uk/](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/)

Emergency out of hours contact: 01753 853517

## Festive events in the Royal Borough

There are other exciting events taking place in Windsor and Maidenhead this Christmas.

### Windsor Great Park illuminated

18 November – 9 January, from 4.30 to 10pm

Join family and friends for a magical evening as the woodland and water of Windsor Great Park come alive with dazzling lights, dancing stars and breathtaking projections.

### Festive Market at Norden Farm Centre for the Arts

Saturday 27 November and Friday 3 December.

The perfect opportunity to browse for unique presents as local stallholders showcase their handmade wears. Your Christmas shopping just got a whole load more fun!

### Christmas Tree Festival at St Luke's Church, Maidenhead

Friday 3 - Sunday 5 December

See the decorated trees and twinkling lights and enjoy seasonal refreshments in Maidenhead's own Narnia. This year The Memory Tree is back - leave a tag to remember lost loves ones.

### Treasure Island pantomime at Holyport Memorial Hall

Thursday 9 - Sunday 12 December

Have a swashbuckling adventure this Christmas! Let Maidenhead Drama Guild transport you to a magical paradise, cheering the goodies and shouting down the baddies as we cross the sea to find the treasure.

### Maidenhead Concert Band Charity Concert at Norden Farm Centre for the Arts

Wednesday 15 December

A wide variety of music including Christmas tunes. This year's concert is in aid of Norden Farm's Ark Appeal.

### Aladdin pantomime at Braywick Leisure Centre

Saturday 18 – Friday 24 December

This family show is packed with all the traditional panto ingredients, including belly laughing comedy, and plenty of audience interaction and features the larger-than-life dame – Widow Twankey!

Visit: [www.windsor.gov.uk](http://www.windsor.gov.uk) for further festive events and activities.



## Parking in the Royal Borough this Christmas



Make sure you make the most of free town centre parking when doing your Christmas shopping in the Royal Borough. Parking is free all day in Maidenhead on Saturdays and Sundays from 27 November to 26 December, including Christmas Day itself, plus bank holidays on 27 and 28 December and New Year's Day. This applies to car parks at Nicholsons, Magnet, Grove Road, West Street and Hines Meadow/Stafferton Way.

In Windsor and Eton, parking is free from 4pm for the late-night shopping evenings on 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21 and 23 December, and on Christmas Day itself. This applies to car parks at Alma Road, Alexandra, King Edward VII, Romney Lock/Home Park, Victoria Street, and Eton Court/Meadow Lane.

# Empowering our communities

We are working with our communities and partners to empower people to come together and use their skills, knowledge and enthusiasm to develop projects that shape the local area in ways that matter most to the community.

The Embedding Community Response Project started in Clewer and Dedworth, with local community groups and organisations coming together on a range of initiatives. Following this successful pilot, the project has moved into Maidenhead. So far, community partners have engaged with other prominent private, voluntary and independent sector organisations within the Maidenhead community, as well as local councillors and residents, to highlight key themes this project will tackle. These are community empowerment, community safety, physical environment, health and wellbeing, and employment and skills.

A network has been created for each theme to empower individuals. If you're passionate about where you live and want to make a difference in Maidenhead, you're invited to get involved by joining one of the regular network meetings.

Find out more at: [www.rbwmtogether.rbwm.gov.uk/maidenhead](http://www.rbwmtogether.rbwm.gov.uk/maidenhead)



## Community-led initiatives in Clewer and Dedworth

Would you like to get involved in your community and shape exciting projects that are important to you and your neighbours?

A community initiative started in Clewer and Dedworth to bring together local residents, community groups and organisations to deliver a number of projects that matter most to the local community. This pilot was very successful and resulted in a string of community-led projects.

The initiative has now started in Maidenhead and those involved are having informal meetings to discuss key community themes such as health and wellbeing, community empowerment, employment and skills, and physical environment.

Their conversations have already generated lots of exciting ideas that they are keen to take forward, including vegan cooking demonstrations, virtual volunteering, a heritage trail and a young professionals forum. A wooden pallet planter workshop has already taken place.

If you are interested in any of the projects across Windsor or Maidenhead please join one of our regular network meetings. To find out more please email [volunteer@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:volunteer@rbwm.gov.uk) or visit: <https://rbwmtogether.rbwm.gov.uk/>

## Council helps community centre find new home

Maidenhead Community Centre has relocated to a bigger and better home after the council worked with the organisation to help it find new premises. The centre had been based in the King George VI building in York Road, Maidenhead and has now moved to 4 Marlow Road nearby. Its new site is situated next to Kidwells Park and provides more than 6,000 sq ft of space, dedicated facilities - including sports hall and dance studio - good access and availability of car parking. The centre's former home will be redeveloped as part of the York Road regeneration project with 51 homes, including 17 affordable properties.

# GoodGym celebrates first birthday

A charity whose members combine getting fit with helping in the community have carried out more than 1,400 good deeds in the borough since the group was formed.



Instead of working out in conventional gyms, members of GoodGym Windsor and Maidenhead run, walk and cycle to venues to help with practical tasks like painting fences, planting trees, sorting donations and marshalling.

The group, which was set up thanks to funding from us in February last year, has encouraged more than 200 people to stay active.

By the end of this summer the group had carried out 1,498 good deeds and counting, helping more than 50 charities and community projects in the process. It held 526 group sessions providing help to the community and volunteers spent 900 hours volunteering at the borough's Covid vaccination clinics.

Area activator Amy Lovell said: "The charity does wonders not only for physical health, but mental health too, giving members a sense of purpose and social connection with the area where they live. Nine members have individually achieved more than 50 good deeds, and the estimated distance run and walked by members since we launched is 50,000km plus."

The group welcomes new members. For more information and to get involved, visit: [www.goodgym.org/v3/areas/windsor-and-maidenhead](http://www.goodgym.org/v3/areas/windsor-and-maidenhead)

## Get your running shoes on

Why not use your running shoes and come along to the Maidenhead parkrun for a free, weekly, community 5km event?

It's not a race, just a great way to be active.

Whether you walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate, parkrun is a fun, positive, supportive and inclusive experience where there is no time limit, and no one finishes last. Everyone is welcome to come along, all abilities, kids, dogs, buggies.

Getting involved is free and registration only needs to be done once! Simply complete the registration form from our website at: [www.parkrun.org.uk](http://www.parkrun.org.uk), print your barcode and head down to Braywick Park.

We would love you to come and join us for some exercise, but we could also do with some help. All events are delivered by volunteers, so if you're up for helping out, please email us at [maidenhead@parkrun.com](mailto:maidenhead@parkrun.com)

So, if you're up for it, come on down. More than 275 people a week can't be wrong...and it's definitely better than the sofa.

For more info check out: [www.parkrun.org.uk/maidenhead](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/maidenhead)



## Library Service starts new chapter

Our libraries have started an exciting new chapter, thanks to closer partnership working between libraries staff and communities to deliver sustainable and accessible services that meet residents' needs.

Councillor Samantha Rayner, deputy leader of the council and cabinet member for corporate and resident services, culture and heritage, said: "I am delighted that through extensive public consultation and partnership working we have found a way to keep all 11 permanent libraries open for our residents, giving the much-needed access to this valuable service which our residents have told us how much they appreciate.

"It has also been an opportunity to revise the hours to better suit residents and introduce a new service, Select and Deliver, which is an exciting way to reach our most vulnerable and housebound, giving them regular books and materials as well as making a new relationship with the wonderful volunteers who support Select and Deliver."

We are working with parish councils, community groups, trusts and volunteers to deliver the service in a more resilient and viable way, retaining a strong physical library provision, supported by an expanded home delivery service, plus a digital offer including e-books, magazines, newspapers, films, music, training courses and the ability to visit a library to access computers. For more information about the Library Service, visit: [www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/leisure-and-culture/libraries](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/leisure-and-culture/libraries) or call 01628 796969.

## Well-earned retirement

For the past 13 years our mobile library, called Ursula, has been visiting residential areas, care homes, day centres, and schools and nurseries.

Because of her grand age, travelling thousands of miles in total, and carrying more than 2,000 books at a time in her 7.5 tonne DAF frame she was - as this magazine went to print - about to retire. She's staying in the borough, at a new stationary home, with plans to use her for community engagement.

Alex Andrade and Donna Rodriguez were two of her recent drivers. "I joined in 2018," said Alex, "and named her Ursula after the Disney character in The Little Mermaid because she was so quirky." "She certainly had a mind of her own," said Donna.

In her twilight years Ursula was covering 14 routes on a three-week timetable. In addition to her large and regular print books, audio CDs and children's books, she also had the latest technology to issue new library cards and reserve books.

During Covid the service evolved. Instead of people going onboard to collect their books, their reservations were bagged and delivered to their doorsteps. This is the essence of the Select and Deliver service replacing her.



2021



1965

## Select and Deliver

The Select and Deliver/Home Library Service replaces the Mobile Library and is aimed at residents who cannot access a static library, owing to disability/illness, or because they are full-time carers, or do not have personal means of transportation.

The service enables readers to reserve their books over the phone, by email or online. These are then selected from the shelves by library staff and delivered conveniently to doorsteps by dedicated local library volunteers.

Customers can apply online at: [www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/leisure-and-culture/libraries/select-and-deliver-home-library-service](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/leisure-and-culture/libraries/select-and-deliver-home-library-service) or call 01628 796969 or email: [mobile.library@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:mobile.library@rbwm.gov.uk)

To volunteer, please email [volunteers.library@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:volunteers.library@rbwm.gov.uk)



## Could you be one of our champions?

At the start of the pandemic, hundreds of you became Covid information champions and helped share important messages in your community and within your community organisations.

The information champions were key in sharing those messages and we are really grateful for all the work they did.

Many of them have stayed on as information champions sharing valuable health and neighbourhood news. They receive emails bi-weekly to share digitally and are invited to a quarterly online meeting.

If you would like to join, email [volunteer@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:volunteer@rbwm.gov.uk)

## Keep up-to-date with Covid information

Public Health Berkshire launched a new website last year which helps you keep up-to-date with information about Covid in your community.

The website at: [www.berkshirepublichealth.co.uk](http://www.berkshirepublichealth.co.uk) has information about Covid rates, latest news and information about vaccines and the booster.

You can also

- Use the dashboard to get daily updates on the number of Covid cases in your area
- Do a postcode search to understand the latest government guidance and how it affects you
- Read a weekly report giving more detailed data about Covid in your community.

The site also provides you with specific data on Covid for each of Berkshire's six local authority areas.

## Sign the Support Local pledge



We continue to support local businesses at this time of year, and are encouraging everyone to shop local and spend local. You can also support your local businesses by liking and sharing their social media posts, buying gift vouchers, or eating locally including click and collect and delivery. You can pledge to Support Local this Christmas by signing up at: [www.myroyalborough.com](http://www.myroyalborough.com)

## Supporting businesses in the borough

We launched a website and social media account to showcase the best of our local businesses in Ascot, Eton, Maidenhead and Windsor last year.

Whether you're a local business wanting to showcase what you do or you want to share a great experience about a local business, tag @MyRoyalBorough in your photos on social media.

One business that has been launched despite the pandemic is Seasonality, which opened in April this year. It came about after chef Wesley Smalley was made redundant during the first lockdown. He and wife Francesca, a PR food consultant, had always dreamt of running a foodie business and, with time on their hands, they'd already started producing and delivering meal boxes from their home.

"We relocated our meal boxes from home and initially opened as a fresh produce shop. A month later we introduced our restaurant supper nights and this summer started pop-up events. We're going to develop these further," said Wesley. Find out more at: [www.seasonality.co.uk](http://www.seasonality.co.uk)

You can get involved by following @MyRoyalBorough on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

For more information visit: [www.myroyalborough.com](http://www.myroyalborough.com)





# Supporting community safety

Our Community Wardens are continuing their good work to support community safety.

Councillor David Cannon, cabinet member for public protection and parking, said: "The wardens work in partnership with the police and other partners, focussing on public reassurance, deterring anti-social behaviour, enforcement, crime prevention, community initiatives and engagement. They gather intelligence from residents, businesses, the CCTV control room and partners, conducting routine reassurance patrols in town centres and targeted patrols at hotspot areas across the borough."

Alongside dispersing groups causing anti-social behaviour and addressing begging activity, the wardens support operations that have been organised by partners, prioritising work connected to issues such as knife crime, violence reduction and anti-social behaviour.

The team also has its own enforcement powers and undertakes operations throughout the year to tackle issues such as anti-social drinking, cycling on pavements and in pedestrianised areas, dog-fouling, dog control, and littering.

All public open land across the borough is covered by a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), meaning anyone caught allowing their dog to foul and not clearing up will get a £100 fixed penalty notice and risks a fine of up to £1,000 in the courts. In addition, there is a separate PSPO for cycles, meaning anyone caught cycling through pedestrianised no-cycling zones in High Street, Maidenhead, and Peascod Street, Windsor, risks the same penalty.

As part of supporting crime prevention, the wardens identify those vulnerable to fraud and scams and offer advice to help them reduce their risk. They also conduct roadshows to demonstrate approved security devices such as door locks, window alarms and light timers. To contact the wardens, email wardens@rbwm.gov.uk or call 01628 685636.

## A day in the life of a Community Warden

**8am** - Attended office to check emails, collect body-worn equipment and check in with team.

**8.30am** - Cleared some litter and debris found in the stairwells in the Nicholsons car park as part of a car patrol operation. Also reported offensive graffiti to be cleared.

**10am** - Conducted Changing of the Guard patrols in Windsor to engage with visitors and residents and assist with dealing with any problems.

**12pm** - Set up a 'crime prevention' stand in Providence Place, Maidenhead to engage with people passing by and advise them on crime prevention tips and safety advice.

**1.30pm** - Lunch

**2pm** - Met with a resident to visit a park where the resident felt there was dog-fouling and not enough bins. Liaised with Parks Team to install a new bin and put up some dog-fouling signage.

**3pm** - When passing by the slipway, saw five young males jumping off the Relief Road Bridge. Spoke to them about the dangers of jumping into the river.

**3.30pm** - Back to the office to record jobs for the day and answer emails.

**4pm** - Finish shift and head home.

**Note:** Evening duties and patrols when required can extend until 9pm.



Since April 2021 the wardens have:

- Dispersed 40 groups causing anti-social behaviour
- Conducted 102 targeted operations and community operations
- Engaged with 113 vulnerable residents to provide assistance, advice or support
- Challenged 79 cyclists who were cycling on pavements.

# White Ribbon UK Campaign

The campaign for White Ribbon day starts on Thursday 25 November, followed by 16 days of action.

This also links with work through the Community Safety Team who have been working on external funding bids for projects supporting women and girls to feel safer in their communities.

This includes enhanced lighting and CCTV coverage, awareness and educational initiatives and also some free giveaways.

We are committed to working with partners to make the borough safer for all our residents and visitors. Follow us on social media to keep up to date with our activity supporting White Ribbon Day. Please email [equality@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:equality@rbwm.gov.uk) for more information and how to get involved.



# Stopping scam calls

Protect yourself, and older or vulnerable relatives, friends, or neighbours, from scam and nuisance calls by getting a call blocker.



Call blockers stop calls from unknown numbers.

These devices stop scam and nuisance calls and intercept calls from unknown numbers coming through to a landline, but still allow friends and family to call as normal.

Our Trading Standards team can advise on call blockers and have a small stock available which it

can supply and install free-of-charge for residents most at need in the Royal Borough.

To register an interest in applying, or more information, please email: [trading.standards@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@rbwm.gov.uk) or call 01628 683800, or write to Trading Standards Service, Town Hall, Maidenhead, SL6 1RF

More information about scams can be found on the Friends Against Scams website at: [www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk](http://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk)

# S.A.F.E Youth Project



Young people across the Royal Borough were recently asked to share their thoughts about community safety issues and how crime and anti-social behaviour is tackled by authorities.

The S.A.F.E. Youth Project is a multi-agency youth engagement project, aimed at those aged 11 to 24, involving the council, its children's services partner Achieving for Children, Thames Valley Police and the domestic abuse charity DASH.

Engagement work began this summer with one-to-one consultations with young people, and concluded with a month of action in October which saw 20 group sessions carried out across the borough to explore young people's views in greater depth.

Community Wardens, police officers and council staff, youth workers and schools engaged with young people in numerous settings including schools, parks and open spaces, and clubs and groups for young people. These sessions gave young people the opportunity to have their views heard about where they think unsafe places are in the borough, what the police and the council are doing well (and not so well) along with sharing other thoughts about their neighbourhood.

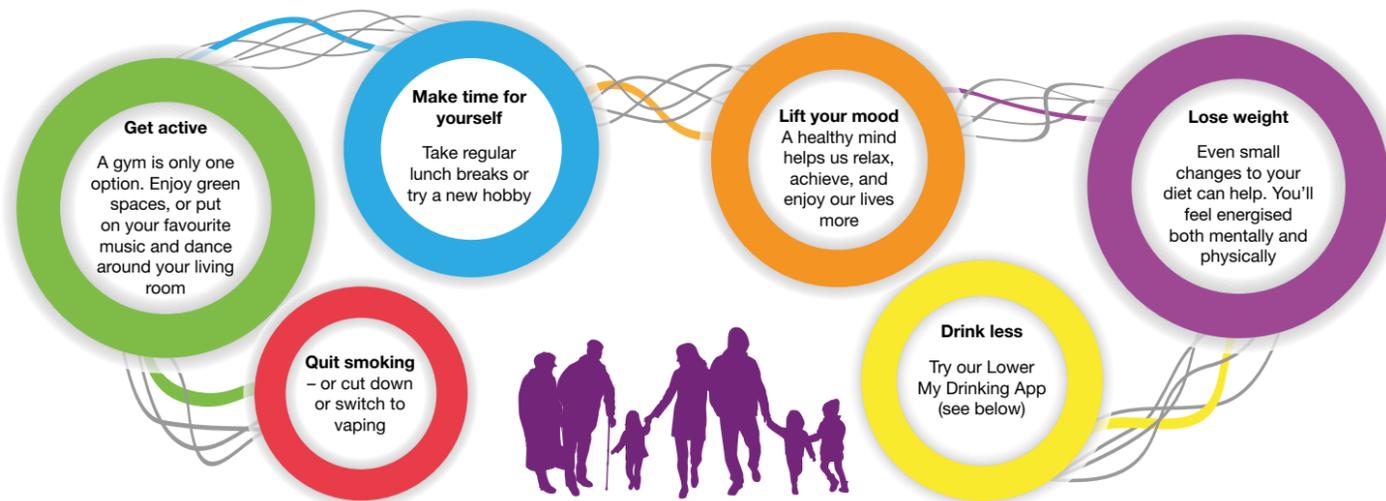
A report is now being compiled to summarise the voice of our young people, which will be used by partners and the Community Safety Partnership to shape the way we work.

# Keeping yourself healthy



## Looking after your physical and mental health

Nights have drawn in and the winter weather doesn't help. However, if you are feeling a bit low, don't worry. There are things you can do and resources available to boost your wellbeing and banish those blues. Small changes can make a huge difference.



These websites can also help you

**Better Health** - [www.nhs.uk/better-health](http://www.nhs.uk/better-health)

**Healthier Together** - <https://frimley-healthiertogether.nhs.uk/>

**How to stay well in winter** - [www.nhs.uk/staywell](http://www.nhs.uk/staywell)

**Online mental wellbeing community** - [www.kooth.com/](http://www.kooth.com/)

**Every Mind Matters** - [www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters](http://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters)

**Mind, mental health charity** - [www.mind.org.uk/](http://www.mind.org.uk/)

**Insight Timer** - Free Meditation App - [www.insighttimer.com/](http://www.insighttimer.com/)

## Has your drinking increased during Covid?

We all have challenges in our lives and with the added stress of Covid these past 20 months, life has certainly been tougher.

If you are regularly drinking more than 14 units per week, your body and mental health are at risk. However, don't worry, the free Lower My Drinking app is a positive first step and is free if you live and/or work in the Royal Borough.

The app offers tailored support to help you track, self-assess, and improve your drinking habits. It gives you the tools to set personal drinking reduction goals and accomplish them. It's designed to help you recognise what role alcohol plays in your life, and what might influence you to drink more than is healthy. It also gives you positive activities to help replace drinking in your daily routine and is accessible 24/7.

To download the app, visit Google Play or the App Store. If you'd like further help, you can refer yourself to local alcohol and drug support service Resilience via the app or visit: [www.cranstoun.org/](http://www.cranstoun.org/)



## Get your flu jab this winter

Health experts expect more people will get flu this winter as our natural immunity to it has fallen during the Covid pandemic. That's why it's important to get your flu jab when offered.

As with Covid, flu can be deadly - particularly for older adults, very young children, and people with underlying health conditions. This year, the flu vaccination is being offered free to:

- Children from Reception to Year 1. Children will get the vaccine via a nasal spray
- Those aged six months to 50 years in clinical risk groups
- Pregnant women
- Everyone aged 50+
- People in residential care
- Unpaid carers
- Close contacts of people with weakened immune systems
- Health and care staff

You can get your flu jab at your GP, in local pharmacies and via the existing school's immunisation programme. You may be offered both the flu vaccine and Covid booster at the same time, although this will depend on the date of your second Covid jab.

## Tackling Covid this winter



We spoke to Maidenhead GP, Dr Huw Thomas, the Royal Borough's clinical lead and clinical chair at the Frimley Clinical Commissioning Group.

"It's really important we all take care of ourselves and those around us. During winter, checking-in on older neighbours and relatives, and those with heart or breathing problems is even more crucial. The work we do with prevention and self-care is to help ensure people have the skills and confidence to stay well. We have helpful information about wellbeing apps, and tips on looking after your physical and mental health, which you can find on our website <https://frimley-healthiertogether.nhs.uk/>

"One of the best ways this winter to protect yourself from becoming seriously unwell with Covid, or the flu, is to boost your immunity and make sure you get vaccinated when it's your turn. Even when you're vaccinated however, it's important to follow the latest government guidelines to keep you safe.

"Thanks to everyone for coming forward, a high percentage of our population has been vaccinated with at least two doses of the Covid vaccine. Those eligible for the booster vaccine will be invited by their GP, the national booking service, or can use one of the walk-in options."

## Know where to go when feeling unwell



Be prepared to care for yourself with a well-stocked medicine cabinet and plenty of rest if you have:

- an upset tummy
- pain or headache
- sore throat (but if for two weeks or more contact your GP)

For health advice, visit [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
For self care advice, visit [www.frimleyhealthandcare.org.uk](http://www.frimleyhealthandcare.org.uk) and search 'stay well'  
Not sure what to do when your child is unwell? If you are worried about a child, visit the Frimley Healthier Together website: [frimley-healthiertogether.nhs.uk](https://frimley-healthiertogether.nhs.uk)



are qualified healthcare professionals, who can offer clinical advice and over-the-counter medicines. Ask for help with:

- minor aches and pains, burns and scalds, head lice, etc
- bites and stings
- queries about medication dosage, type or suitability plus urgent requests
- medication related to hospital discharge
- repeat prescriptions



Visit your GP surgery website and click on eConsult to:

- get help for a condition that has not improved after seeking help from your pharmacy
- to report urgent conditions that are not life threatening
- to report a deteriorating chronic condition

Please continue to use usual routes, including online patient access, to order repeat prescriptions. If you do not have access to the internet, you can continue to phone your surgery



when the situation is not life threatening and:

- if you think you need to go to hospital
- if you don't know the most suitable place to go or call
- if you don't have a GP to call or if your GP practice is closed
- if you need advice or reassurance about what to do

Available 24 hours a day, every day. If needed, an NHS advisor will help you to be seen quickly and safely.



A minor injury service is only for conditions such as the following:

- sprains and strains
- suspected broken limbs
- minor head injuries
- cuts and grazes
- minor scalds and burns
- skin infections

Whether you're booked into the minor injury service via your GP, NHS 111 or you decide to walk-in, the service is available 7 days a week, from 8am-8pm. The minor injury service is located at Bracknell Urgent Care Centre.



Only for very serious or life-threatening situations. This can include:

- loss of consciousness
- an acute confused state
- fits that are not stopping
- chest pain
- breathing difficulties
- severe bleeding that cannot be stopped
- severe allergic reactions
- severe burns or scalds

Call 999 immediately if you or someone else is having a heart attack or stroke. Also call 999 if you think someone has had a major trauma, such as after a serious road traffic accident, a stabbing, a shooting, a fall from height, or a serious head injury. If you are unsure, call NHS 111 or go on-line at [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk)

# Honouring our Olympians and Paralympians

Athletes with connections to the Royal Borough excelled at this summer's Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo. In recognition of their achievements Councillor Andrew Johnson, the council leader, is putting them forward to receive the Honorary Freedom of the Borough.

It is set to be awarded to athletes who live within or have a strong association with the Royal Borough.

Councillor Johnson said: "This is the highest award we can give an individual, and is awarded to local people who have made a significant contribution to the locality or have achieved something outstanding. A huge congratulations to all our athletes – they have made the borough proud."

Recipients will include double Olympic champion, swimmer Tom Dean, rowers Jack Beaumont, who won silver in the men's quadruple sculls, and Moe Sbihi, who won a bronze in the men's eight. Mallory Franklin, who scooped a silver medal in the women's canoe slalom, and hockey bronze medallist Ellie Rayer will also receive the honour.

Paralympians set to be recognised are to include Maidenhead powerlifter Louise Sugden, who won a bronze medal in the para powerlifting, and canoeer Jeanette Chippington, who also took bronze in the women's Va'a single.



Tom Dean



Mallory Franklin

## Our Olympic and Paralympic Roll of Honour

Below are the athletes with connections to the borough who competed at the Tokyo 2020 Games or were eliminated in qualifiers.

### Olympians

Harriet Taylor – rowing  
Oliver Cook – rowing  
Jack Beaumont – rowing  
Moe Sbihi – rowing  
Sara Parfett – rowing

Matilda Horn – rowing  
Ellie Rayner – hockey  
Taylor Campbell – athletics  
Tom Dean – swimming  
Mallory Franklin – canoe slalom

### Paralympians

Louise Sugden - para powerlifting

Jeanette Chippington – para canoe  
Tamas Gaspar – para archery



LEISURE FOCUS  
WINDSOR | MAIDENHEAD | SUNNINGDALE  
ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

New slide to OPEN at Windsor, January 2022\*

\*the leisure pool at Windsor will be closed to the public throughout November and December and will reopen from Sunday 2 January 2022.

Leisure Focus recently celebrated its first year operating the Royal Borough's leisure centres. In what has been a challenging year for everyone with imposed restrictions, it is great to see local residents flooding back to the centres.

Councillor Ross McWilliams, cabinet member for housing, sport and leisure, and community engagement, said: "Health and wellbeing are so important for all of us. As a not-for-profit charitable organisation, Leisure Focus has been established to work with local communities, supporting clubs, organisations and individuals to achieve their sporting and lifestyle goals. There has never been a more important time to commit to your own fitness journey. A warm welcome awaits."

Summer 2021 was a real celebration for the return of community activity with the pools busier, classes fuller, gym activities growing, and a variety of sports back in full action. The Waves at Windsor provided the holiday feel for many who were unable to get away during the summer months!

### Pay and play welcome at all the sites

Walk-ins are accepted and there is no need to book in advance for your next gym session. It is the same for all general and lane swimming sessions. Just turn up and swim at Braywick and Windsor - although during busy times, booking is advised to avoid disappointment or delay. It is quick and easy to register and book your swim, gym and courts via the Leisure Focus app.

The sites, dubbed the hub of the local community by many people, are committed to expanding the programmes that the community want to see. There is a range of activities for all ages ranging from birthday parties, wellbeing programmes to live events.

Leisure Focus celebrated two Berkshire-raised athletes that made summer 2021 even more spectacular. With visits from double Olympic gold medallist Tom Dean and Paralympic bronze medallist Jeanette Chippington. Leisure Focus sites are excited to host both athletes as they continue training for even more success in their respective sports. We were also fortunate enough to host a welcome back celebration with both Tom and Jeanette at Braywick Leisure Centre on their return from Tokyo.



Jeanette Chippington won the bronze in women's 200m Va'a single (para canoe).

The return of all indoor sports clubs in early summer included the new Leisure Focus disability supported swimming sessions, wheelchair basketball, SMILE sessions, Electric Eels swim sessions at Windsor, pickleball at Charters Leisure Centre, netball at Furze Platt, and tennis and badminton clubs at Cox Green to name just a few.

Braywick Leisure Centre celebrated its one year anniversary in September 2021. This event showcased the return of community activity with a family day of entertainment and community celebration with more than 1,000 residents attending throughout the day.

Get the latest news and offers from the autumn/winter programme, straight to your phone.

[www.leisurefocus.org.uk](http://www.leisurefocus.org.uk)



We are ... LEISURE FOCUS

# Supporting jobs, skills and enterprise

With the national furlough scheme and Covid restrictions easing, more Royal Borough residents may be looking for work, and many local employers are recruiting new staff.

There are many resources available through us and our partners to help you. We have a dedicated page on our website which brings together lots of information and organisations that can help you in your job search. Visit: [www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/jobs-and-careers](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/jobs-and-careers) for more information.

If you are job hunting or starting a business, especially if you don't have digital access, please visit or contact your local library. The Library Service has webpages dedicated to support with job hunting, skills and training, including excellent online resources such as CoBRA – Complete Business Reference Adviser for start-ups and small firms.



They can also help you to access the support out there, whether you need help finding a new career, retraining, benefits or starting your own business. Visit: [www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/jobs-and-careers](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/jobs-and-careers)

If you are aged between 18 and 24, the Youth Hub at Maidenhead Library may be able to help you with careers advice, training, and even interviews with local employers. The Youth Hub offers an alternative space for young people to access training and employment opportunities.

We and the Department for Work and Pensions are working with partners including Ways into Work, Maidenhead Chamber of Commerce, Get Berkshire Active, National Careers Service and local employers to deliver this programme for young people. To access this support, if you are claiming Universal Credit, please talk to your work coach.



Our housing partners can also help. Abri offers a Radiant Futures scheme, which is free-of-charge to all Royal Borough residents, including a weekly job club every Wednesday, 10am to 12pm, at the Pump Room, Sawyers Close, Windsor.

Just go along to the sessions or call 0800 432 0570.

They also run award-winning start-up business courses periodically, so sign up to their programme to find out more.

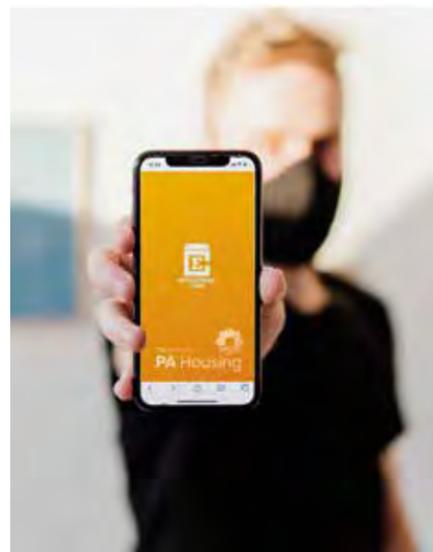
In addition, Housing Solutions offer a volunteering programme to enhance your CV. For more information call Lorna on 01628 543160.

Enterprise CUBE's new project can help residents striving to start any type of new business. They are teaming up with award-winning

entrepreneurs to deliver Strive. It's an action-packed 12-week project, that is perfect for anyone who wants to start or has just started their own business.



You can access one-to-one advice, live weekly training sessions, group discussions, on-demand access to further training and the opportunity to compete for cash prizes and expert feedback on your plans. You can sign up at the link below at: [www.enterprisecube.org/signupfree/](http://www.enterprisecube.org/signupfree/)



## Looking for a meaningful job?

Want to improve your life but not sure how to go about it?

Our Radiant Futures project offers FREE support to help you find that role and make a positive change to your life.

**Radiant Futures**

- 1:1 career advice
- Training
- Direct opportunities to jobs with local employers
- Interview techniques
- CV's and cover letters
- Job searching
- Job applications
- Wellbeing and confidence building
- Starting your own business

This project is open to anyone aged 16 years and over who is eligible to work in the UK and is currently unemployed.

To find out more contact us at [estsupport@abri.co.uk](mailto:estsupport@abri.co.uk), call 0800 432 0570 or scan the QR code. If you're an Abri customer, you can also log onto your portal.

The project is administered by Groundworks and funded by European Social Fund and Education & Skills Funding Agency



## Radiant Futures job club

Every Wednesday, 10am-12pm, Pump Room, Sawyers Close, Windsor SL4 5HW

Starting 8 September 2021

If you're looking to:

- find work,
  - return to work or change your role,
  - volunteer, become self-employed and/or start up your own business, or
  - access employment training,
- then we can help!

We have a friendly and supportive team, who'll listen and provide free, positive advice at our local job club.

To find out more come to the next club, call 0800 432 0570, or scan the QR code



The project is administered by Groundworks London and funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and the European Social Fund.



## WE NEED YOU!

Residents are at the heart of Housing Solutions and we want to hear from you.

We have a number of ways to get involved to suit you, and along the way you have an opportunity to:

- influence our services and policies
- learn new skills
- enhance your CV
- make new friends
- improve our estates
- help others

To get involved or find out more, scan the QR code or speak to Lorna on: 01628 543160 or [communityengagement@housingsolutions.co.uk](mailto:communityengagement@housingsolutions.co.uk)

**Housing Solutions**

## Join our great team at the council

Develop your career. Serve your local community.

We have a wealth of exciting vacancies, including providing opportunities for apprentices and supporting the LGA graduate scheme.

Visit: [www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/jobs-and-careers](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/jobs-and-careers)





# FOSTERING: A SENSE OF CHALLENGE

When you take the momentous decision to become a foster carer, you're not just putting something back into the community. Right from the start, you're giving each individual child a real chance of a better future.

Contact the Achieving for Children Fostering Team to find out about fostering in Windsor and Maidenhead. Telephone **020 8547 5355** or email us at [fosteringenquiries@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:fosteringenquiries@achievingforchildren.org.uk)

[www.afcfostering.org.uk](http://www.afcfostering.org.uk)



**A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE**



## Make domestic cleaning a chore of the past...

### Contact Your Local Office:

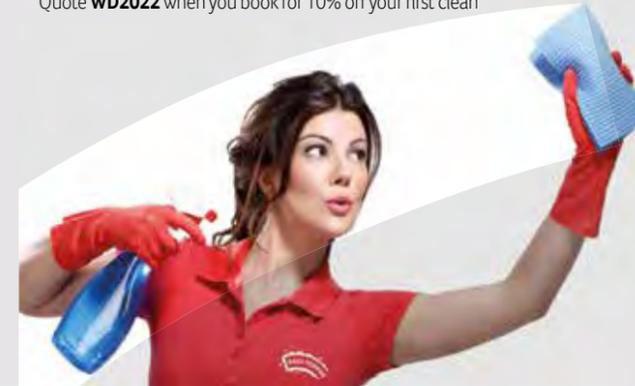
**Windsor**  
01753 709705

**Maidenhead**  
01628 439281

- Want Someone You Can Trust?
- Vetted, Uniformed and Insured Staff
- Secure Key Holding Facilities
- Weekly, Fortnightly, Monthly, One-Off Cleaning and Ironing Services
- 100% Reliable, Flexible Service

Or book your clean online now at:  
[www.dailypoppins.co.uk](http://www.dailypoppins.co.uk)

Quote **WD2022** when you book for 10% off your first clean



"We poppin, so you can pop out"

## Christmas at Norden Farm

Norden Farm and Slot Machine present

# Kipper's Snowy Day

Based on the Kipper books by Mick Inkpen



Tickets from just **£11.50**

For ages **3+** years

Tuesday 30 November - Thursday 30 December 2021



Box office / **01628 788997**  
Book online / [www.nordenfarm.org](http://www.nordenfarm.org)



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- 📍 BRAYWICK SL6 1BN
- 📍 WINDSOR SL4 5JB
- 📍 CHARTERS SL5 9QY
- 📍 COX GREEN SL6 3AX
- 📍 FURZE PLATT SL6 7NQ

## BAYLIS THEATRE, BRAYWICK LEISURE CENTRE, MAIDENHEAD, SL6 1BN SATURDAY 18 - FRIDAY 24 DECEMBER 2021

HA Events Ltd presents dk productions.

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 £62



£18 adults / £16 under 16s / Family of 4\* £62 / Groups of 10+ £15  
 A £1pp booking fee applies. \* 2 adults and 2 under 16s or 1 adult and 3 under 16s

STARRING  
**MR PENGUIN  
 AS HIMSELF**

Photos are of previous cast



BOOKING AGENT: 0333 666 3366  
[www.maidenheadpanto.co.uk](http://www.maidenheadpanto.co.uk)



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