

Hart News



The newspaper of Hart District Council

Summer 2022



Jubilee special edition

How Hart is celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on pages 8 & 9



Hart's Green Garden

An update on Hart's new community garden and volunteering on page 5



Meet your councillors

Interested in the local election results? Find out who your local councillor is on page 15

Explore the new features at Fleet Pond

During the Spring, Fleet Pond had extensive work carried out to improve the footpath running alongside the train tracks on the northern side.

The project is part of the wider Fleet Pond Corridor project, which will create a more connected environment that will improve walking and cycling links to Fleet's railway station. This will build on work already completed to increase cycle parking provisions at the train station. It will further link into the council's wider Green Grid project to connect communities, specifically Hartland Village to Fleet.

Significant contributions towards mitigation, ecological improvements and education for visitors at Fleet Pond have been provided by developers to protect and enhance the site's wildlife. This money will be used to support environmental



projects above and beyond the site's usual maintenance and management plan.

It is important for those that visit the site by car to remember that the phase two works are still in place. So Fleet Pond's car park and access track remain closed.

When the whole path is complete a celebration event will be held, and

visitors will be welcomed back to the pond. But for now, please continue to use the other nearby countryside sites Bramshot Farm Country Park and Hartland Park as alternatives.

Keep up to date with the latest information about this project by visiting our website www.hart.gov.uk/Fleet-pond-corridor

£150 Council Tax energy rebate

In February, Central Government announced that a £150 non-repayable Council Tax Rebate payment will be available for all households that are liable for Council Tax in Bands A-D.

The council is in the process of making payments to households that pay their council tax by direct debit. If your household is not on direct debit – it will take longer to make these payments as we will need to write to you to confirm your bank details.

To sign up for direct debit payments, or for more information visit www.hart.gov.uk/council-tax-rebate

Hart's carbon pathway well underway

Hart District Council has set targets to become a Net Zero council by 2035 and a Net Zero district by 2040 as part of our ongoing climate emergency commitments.

To ensure we reach these targets an external climate change company has been appointed to review and produce a detailed, operational and district wide, carbon reduction action plan. This will create clear steps that the council needs to take to meet its

climate emergency commitments. We are currently working to produce the report that will ensure we consider how best to tackle our emissions moving forward.

We will share information about the climate change action plan once it is completed.

Updates and information can be found on our website www.hart.gov.uk/climate-change



01252 622122



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www.hart.gov.uk



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[Hart District Council](https://www.youtube.com/HartDistrictCouncil)



[/HartCouncil](https://www.instagram.com/HartCouncil)

Welcome back: Celebrating Hart

In February, the council was successful in gaining funding as part of the national Welcome Back Fund.

With this Hart commissioned five videos to promote the district and encourage footfall into the district based on key themes:

- Independent retail
- Business
- Hotels & holidays
- Activities
- Leisure

The videos will be released on the council's social media platforms throughout May and June, so do please share far and wide.

They are also available to watch on the council's YouTube channel via www.youtube.com and search for Hart District Council.

Thank you to all the businesses that took part in creating these videos.

Ukraine conflict: Support and information

Hart District Council continues to work with key local partners to enable support and assistance to Ukrainian refugees arriving in Hampshire under phase one of the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme.

The focus remains on conducting home visits and ensuring key information is shared with guests and sponsors efficiently.

We have created a dedicated webpage on our website with a range of support and information: www.hart.gov.uk/the-council/news/ukraine-support-and-information

Hart Voluntary Action has compiled a useful resource for both hosts and Ukrainian refugees on its website www.hartvolaction.org.uk/ukrainian-refugees-links

More importantly, Hart Voluntary Action is offering to be a point of contact to try and bring together an informal network of people and groups wanting to assist Ukrainian refugees and their sponsors/hosts through offering access to community support for social, practical and welfare support.

This website www.hartvolaction.org.uk/hart-residents-for-ukraine has links to two short questionnaires - one for hosts who would like to be kept informed of community support and one for offers of help and time from individuals, informal or mutual aid groups, and constituted organisations.



How to donate:

The British Red Cross - donations will help pay for critical care directly in the Ukraine. <https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-crisis-appeal>

The Disasters Emergency Committee – a network of 15 UK overseas aid charities have a combined appeal. The British Government will match fund donations from individuals to the DEC Appeal. www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal


Fleet Lions have a fundraising page with all donations going to Lions in Poland who are directly helping Ukrainian refugees. www.justgiving.com/campaign/FLUkraine

Keep in touch with the council


Hart District Council wants to make it easy for residents to get in touch.


If you have a general enquiry, you can contact us by calling **01252 622122** or emailing enquiries@hart.gov.uk


You can also connect with us on our online profiles (managed during office hours).

 **Like us on Facebook:** /HartDistrictCouncil

 **Follow us on Twitter:** @HartCouncil

 **Follow us on Instagram:** @HartCouncil

 **Connect with us on LinkedIn:** /Hart-District-Council

 **Subscribe to us on Youtube:**
Go to www.youtube.com and search Hart District Council

Have your say on Civic Quarter Regeneration

The Civic Quarter site is one of the largest assets owned by Hart District Council and is potentially underutilised in its current provision of services and amenities for residents. In August 2019, the council set out on an ambitious project to explore a range of strategic opportunities for the regeneration of the council-owned civic site in Fleet.

A working group of elected Members, with equal weighting from the three representative political parties, was created to oversee the review of future options with the aim of investigating opportunities for:

- Regeneration of the civic centre site, a key part of the town of Fleet
- Effective and efficient use of council assets within the Civic Quarter
- Evaluating existing facilities to determine how best to reuse or re-provide these assets
- Creating a vibrant place where people will want to spend time whether at leisure, work, living or utilising open spaces

The Vision

The vision for the Civic Quarter regeneration project is to deliver an area which residents of the district can be proud of and creates a lively destination focused around high quality public space and community facilities.

Have your say

We're asking the Hart community for feedback through a questionnaire. This will help us to determine a set of 'critical success factors' which will guide and tailor future decisions.

We are launching a questionnaire on Monday 23 May until 4pm on Monday 4 July.

You can either complete an online version via www.hart.gov.uk/civic-quarter-regeneration-feedback-form or visit one of the exhibition dates listed below:

Date: Thurs 16 June
Time: 5pm - 7pm
Location: Hart District Council Offices, GU51 4AE

Date: Fri 17 June
Time: 11am - 4pm
Location: The Harlington, GU51 4BY

Date: Sat 18 June
Time: 11am - 5pm
Location: The Harlington, GU51 4BY

For more information about the project and to view all engagement material online, please visit www.hart.gov.uk/civic-quarter-regeneration

Creating space for you and your family to enjoy

Have you visited Whitewater Meadows yet? It's recently become one of Hart District Council's newest countryside sites.

This lovely site has long grass paths, and our favourite sections run next to the river Whitewater. It can be easily found from the A30 in Hook, look for the brown signs into Papermill Avenue.

The new site is a welcoming place to take the dog for a walk, ride bikes, picnic or somewhere to watch wildlife. The river and ponds, hedgerows and wildflowers are a haven for wildlife attracting many species of birds, invertebrates and mammals.

Having taken ownership, the council's ambition is to continue to improve the wildlife in the area, as well as widening the community facilities available, making it an even more beautiful open space, for Hart's communities.

Now that the weather is improving and the ground is drying out, Hart Countryside Service and our grounds maintenance team will be starting to undertake management works at Whitewater meadows.

The longer-term plan is to introduce some grazing livestock to some areas within the site. Plenty of notice will be given for when the cattle will arrive later in the year.



There will be a natural play area that will be interactive and accessible by all and inspiring information boards about the nature. There will also be a Countryside Ranger presence and opportunities to join in guided activities and to learn more about the site.

Whitewater Meadows will be hosting Hart's Beacon lighting event on Thursday 2 June from 9pm. Join Hart's Chairman and a local choir to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Will you be attending The Big Picnic on Saturday 4 June at Whitewater Meadows? For more information, see page 9.

Delivering a new system to support the housing register

Residents can now have a personal digital portal through which they can access the council's housing services.

Our new housing system went live in April. It provides a streamlined customer journey for those that need housing advice, those who wish to apply for social housing, and those who are facing homelessness.

hart.homeconnections.org.uk

This is a key part of our improved digital journey. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact housing@hart.gov.uk or call **01252 774420** where a member of the team will be happy to help.



Manage your energy bills and your carbon footprint

Want to find out if you're eligible for a **Sustainable Warmth Grant**? Use the details below to find out more.

Visit: surveys.est.org.uk/s/SustainableWarmth/ or Call: 0808 196 8255



#MANAGEYOURENERGYBILLS

Sustainable Warmth is a new Government grant scheme designed to fund energy-efficiency upgrades and **YOU** could be eligible.

- Designed to support households most likely to be impacted by rising fuel bills.
- Energy-saving tech and upgrades installed by TrustMark-approved installers.
- Creating warmer, healthier homes.
- Helping to cut carbon emissions.
- Funding available for homes on and off the gas grid.



LA LOGO HERE

A new countryside site at Hawley Farm Park

At the end of last year Crest Nicholson Homes and Hart District Council were pleased to open a new country park at Hawley Park Farm associated with the Fernhurst development, Hawley Road, Blackwater, Camberley.

The site has a good network of gravel surface paths, play equipment, picnic areas and interactive willow sculptures.

Many trees have been planted along with several hundred metres of native hedgerow so the site will develop and mature over time for the benefit of users and wildlife. There is an unobstructed view out across the Blackwater Valley from part of the site.

The developer's contractor, idverde Ltd, will be looking after the site for a year before the council's countryside team takes it over.

Bramshot wetlands: One year on

It has been less than a year since the new wetlands were created at Bramshot Farm Country Park.

In a recent survey undertaken with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Amphibian and Reptile Group it became clear that local wildlife are beginning to settle in and call the site home.

Species include newts, water beetle and dragonfly larvae. Interestingly some of the larvae were found to be several years old, having bred in the small puddles on site previously. Water plants are also colonising the site, with more hopefully emerging later

in the year. Ducks have been spotted courting and displaying nesting behaviour around the ponds.

As the wildlife begins to settle in it is really important that we refrain from disturbing anything in and around the grasses. So, when you are in this area please keep your dog on the paths and boardwalks to avoid scaring away any wildlife or eroding the banks.

Ranger Edith says: 'It's been great watching the site develop and seeing new wildlife appear during the year. I love having dry feet on the boardwalks too, I hope you are all enjoying them as much as I am.'



Edith gazing over one of the new wetland ponds

Calling all landlords: Do you have a vacant property to let?



We currently have over 1,200 tenants on our housing register waiting to move into properties in Hart. We can offer you a let only service with no fees.

Landlord benefits include:

- Guaranteed first month's rent in advance
- Tenant finding and selection
- Bond guarantee protected by the council
- Free tenancy agreements
- Free professional third party check-in and check-out
- Expert housing officers to handle your letting

To register your interest visit
www.hart.gov.uk/tenant-finder

Hart's green garden at Edenbrook flourishes

In June 2021, Hart District Council broke ground at Edenbrook Country Park to begin the construction of Hart's Green Garden.

The council, Hart Allotment Association and Hart Voluntary Action worked together to agree the final design, a collaborative effort, guided by contractors Groundworks.

This partnership working has resulted in the creation of a multifunctional and inclusive community gardening space, a place where everyone can come together around the shared interest of gardening.



A plot holder busy preparing his new allotment at Edenbrook

By December 2021 Hart Voluntary Action moved in and during March 2022 plot holders were phased onto site. Now 94 residents and their families are the proud new holders of their very own vegetable plot. We look forward to watching the site flourish over the coming months as everyone adds their own personal touches.

If you'd like to get involved, look out for events organised by the 'Minding The Garden' team, run by Hart Voluntary Action www.hartvolaction.org.uk/services-for-residents/minding-the-garden

Read more about 'Minding The Garden' on page 10.



Inside one of the new polytunnels

Volunteers tackle tasks at Fleet Pond Reserve

Formed in 1976, Fleet Pond Society is a voluntary group working in partnership with Hart Countryside Services to protect and manage Fleet Pond Nature Reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Regular volunteers were desperate to get back to work on the reserve as soon as Covid guidelines allowed. They threw themselves into the myriad of tasks on the to-do list, with the result that ditches have been cleared, and bridges, platforms and board walks pressure washed. The picnic benches have been spruced up with rotten sections replaced and each bench sanded and treated. The noticeboards received similar treatment. They replaced the fencing along the Chestnut Grove reedbed, paid for by a donation of £1,000 from the Southern Co-op, Crookham.



FPS volunteers removing Holly

On the reedbeds, dry heath, and islands, alder and willow saplings have grown to the detriment of these important habitats. As part of the on-going management plan, volunteers remove them and treat the stumps with herbicide, encouraging the habitats to thrive. Holly colonised areas of woodland and many hours have been dedicated to clearing the bushes and opening up the ground to light, flora and fauna.

The Society is supported by its membership through the small annual subscription of £10 per household. New members are very welcome; you don't have to join in with its conservation work, but are very welcome if you would like to. Full details can be found at www.fleetpond.org.uk



Volunteers against the new fencing

Do you want to get your hands dirty?

Hart District Council's Countryside Service run regular volunteer activities across the district on our countryside sites, led by the countryside rangers.

Most of our sites hold international, national or regional designations on account of their wildlife interest. Tasks take place across a variety of habitats, including heathlands, reedbeds, wetlands and grassland.

There are different volunteering roles to suit your individual interests and abilities. Coming along to a taster day is the best way to start. Volunteer tasks are relaxed and a great way to get outside and socialise whilst also helping the community and improving your own health and wellbeing.

If you are interested in finding out more you can register your interest here www.hart.gov.uk/volunteering

6 Housing & Planning

Celebrating delivery of new affordable homes for residents

Hart is a very expensive area to buy and rent a home, and so Hart's Housing Team are delighted to see the delivery of a number of new affordable homes within the district, both for rent and to buy under shared ownership (part buy, part rent).

The new affordable homes are at Hartland Village, Hareshill (Grove Farm) and Green Hart Park. Housing officers have visited homes and have been particularly impressed to see the energy efficiency and future proofing features within some of the homes, including solar panels and provision of electric vehicle charging points.



The continuing delivery of new affordable homes within Hart is vital to help meet local needs for those registered for rented housing on Hart's Housing Register and for shared ownership housing on the Help to Buy register. They provide residents with a safe, affordable and comfortable home to call their own.

Just a few of the new residents who have recently moved into new affordable rented homes had this to say:

Hartland Village, Fleet: "The development is absolutely gorgeous. My house is opposite the forest. The estate is very quiet and it's a lovely place to live. I'm very happy here."

Oakwood Grange, Hook: "Everything is going well. The development is really quiet, and our neighbours are very friendly. The house itself is lovely and really roomy."

Green Hart Park, Hook: "I really enjoy where I live. There's some fantastic walks around, and everyone is able to get out and about easily."

Hareshill, Fleet: "The estate is nice and quiet. The house is massive, and I love everything about it."

Further new affordable housing is due to be completed throughout 2022 and into 2023,



providing homes for residents seeking a home to rent or buy within the district.

Full details regarding upcoming affordable homes within Hart can be found on the council's website www.hart.gov.uk/finding-home-hart

Hart's Housing Team are also happy to answer any queries you may have and can be contacted by calling **01252 774420** or email housing@hart.gov.uk

Grants available to help residents adapt homes

Are you, or someone you are living with, struggling to get around the house due to mobility problems?

If so, you may qualify for a disabled facilities grant. The maximum grant is £30,000 with a further £30,000 of discretionary funding available in some cases.

This grant can go towards the cost of home adaptations and facilities to enable disabled people to continue living at home.

The type of works the grant will fund includes improving access to the kitchen, toilet and bathing facilities, improving access to and within the property, for example a stair lift, ramping or widening doors.

If you want to find out more, please call the Disabled Facilities Grant Caseworkers at Hart District Council on **01252 774 111** or email housing@hart.gov.uk

Looking to buy a home in Hart but finding it too expensive?

Hart has very high property prices and buying a home can seem out of reach to many people. According to recent Land Registry figures the average house price in Hart (for all property types) for 2020/21 was £425,000 and since then house prices have continued to rise.

Shared ownership is a form of low-cost home ownership that helps people with lower incomes and a small amount of savings for a deposit to get on to the housing ladder.

Help to Buy is a government-backed shared ownership scheme that allows you to buy a share of a property and pay rent on the remaining share. You only pay a deposit for the share that you are buying. Following the government's introduction of a new shared ownership model from 1 April 2021, depending on your income and deposit, you are now able to purchase an initial share of between 10% - 75% of a home.

Affordable home ownership doesn't mean that the properties are of lower quality than other homes to buy. Shared ownership homes are usually purchased through a housing association and as such they must meet their standards and quality checks as well as meeting standard building regulations and requirements. Sometimes the white goods like fridges, dishwashers and washing machines and flooring might be provided saving you those additional costs.



Who can apply for Shared Ownership?

You can apply to buy a home through shared ownership if your household income is £80,000 a year or less. One of the following must also apply:

- You are a first-time buyer
- You used to own a home, but cannot afford to buy one now
- You are an existing shared owner and want to move
- You own a home and want to move but cannot afford a new home suitable for your needs
- You are forming a new household e.g. after a relationship breakdown
- Serving and some former military personnel will be given priority over other groups

How can I find out more?

Contact the Help to Buy agent on **0800 456 1188** or email info@helptobuyagent3.org.uk

Confused on what you can and can't recycle?

We know that what you can and can't put in your blue bin for recycling can be confusing. Below we've answered some of our frequently asked questions:

Why don't we recycle more things?

Many of the items we use day to day have a 'recyclable' logo on the packaging but cannot go in the blue bin and we know this is confusing.

All recycling collected from your kerbside – tins, cans, plastic bottles, paper, card and empty aerosols - is sent to one of two material recovery facilities in Hampshire. There they are processed, batched up and dispatched to companies who turn them into new products. We can only collect what there is a real and sustainable market for recycling.

Why do we only collect plastic bottles?

Although many plastics say that they can be recycled, there are very limited markets for plastic recycling. Only two types of plastic - PET and HDPE - are of high enough quality to be recycled into things like polyester fabric, carpets, pens and detergent bottles.

If we were to collect other types of plastics, there is no guarantee that they could be recycled or processed in the UK at this time. However, the plastic you put in your grey bin doesn't end up in landfill like in many other areas. Instead it is burnt to produce energy locally.



Why don't we collect food waste?

Food waste is one of the largest contributors to climate change due to the energy used to grow, produce and transport good to our homes. We want to focus on reducing food waste to reduce climate change whereas separate collections are expensive and mean additional journeys. Home composting is a good way of dealing with your raw fruit and vegetable peelings.

Are there going to be national changes?

The government is consulting on a new waste and resource strategy. This will include the possible recycling of plastic pots, tubs and trays and nationwide food waste collections in the future. We will be looking at the results of these surveys very closely and will adapt our waste collection services to meet any changing requirements.

What if I put something wrong in my blue bin?

Putting the wrong things, like nappies, in your blue bin can mean all the rest of your recycling, and other people's in the same load, could be wasted.

Refilling made easy

Now that summer is upon us and we are all getting out and about, it's time to ditch those single-use plastic water bottles in favour of a reusable one!



Luckily, it's never been easier to choose to reuse. There are hundreds of thousands of places across the UK where you can fill up your reusable water bottle or coffee cup.

Simply download the free Refill app to find your nearest Refill Station. www.smarturl.it/RefillAppHartNews

These stations include cafes and pubs who actively welcome people to come and fill up their water bottles for free!

If you are a business and would like to get yourself listed on the Refill app for free and benefit from increased visibility and footfall visit www.refill.org.uk

We want your plastic bottles....

No other type of plastic can be recycled in kerbside collections in Hampshire



www.hart.gov.uk/waste-recycling



8 Jubilee special feature

Community grants to support celebrations across Hart

In January we launched the Councillor Community Grant scheme, where grants of up to £1,000 were given to each ward in the district. All projects benefit the community and directly deliver towards the celebration of the Platinum Jubilee in that area. Below lists how we are supporting the celebrations in Hart:

Fleet (Central, West and East) - £2,333

Fleet parishes have combined funding to provide a four-day programme of events to celebrate the Jubilee.

It will start on Thursday 2 June with the lighting of a beacon at Calthorpe Park. It will be accompanied by fireworks, a Fun Fair and, it is hoped, a children's lantern parade.

On Friday 3 June, there will be a non-denominational Act of Worship which will see all the different churches across Fleet coming together in an open-air service for people of all ages on The Views. Saturday 4 June will see a youth procession through Fleet town centre led by the local Scout Groups and including local schools and youth bands.

The four-day programme will conclude on Sunday 5 June with a giant street party and entertainment along Fleet high street with picnic benches for seating and food stalls available for people to purchase food.

Yateley Town Council - £490

The Town Council will be hosting a Jubilee Community picnic on the 2 June, followed by a beacon lighting ceremony in the evening, including music from a local choir. The Town Council has also offered assistance to the



community to hold their own Platinum Jubilee events and running the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon Trail (from early May until the Platinum Jubilee weekend). Other support includes working with local businesses to put together street party hampers for local events to win and planting trees to celebrate this occasion (in March).

Vision for Youth - £300

Vision for youth is supporting one of their regular youth clubs, Creative Club, which meets weekly to design and create art, including projects such as paintings, mosaics, and upcycling amongst other things. These young people, aged 11-18, will be staging an afternoon tea as part of Yateley Town Council's event for the Jubilee. They will design and create all of the decorations such as bunting and decorate the youth suite to match the rest of the festival.

Odiham - £1,000

Odiham Parish Council is leading on the organisation of a beacon lighting ceremony on 2 June and a street party on Sunday 5 June, both in line with the national program of events. The Cross Barn in Odiham will also be livestreaming the Jubilee concert on Saturday 4 June.

Hook - £700

Hook Parish Council along with the Rotary Club and Hook Townswomens Guild are creating a commemorative Jubilee Garden in Wellworth Park, a public open space that is owned and maintained by the Parish Council. The plan is to grow this garden in stages, with the first stage being three ornamental trees and two benches by June 2022.

Crookham West & Ewshot - £1,000

Ewshot Parish Council will be hosting an event on Friday 3 June which will include a live band, disco and dancing, a bar, hot food and a raffle. In addition, new elements will be added to the weekend to include a lunch for older parishioners on the Friday afternoon and a big picnic lunch on the Sunday.

See what's on in your area

These events have been agreed at the time that this article went to print. There may be more local events happening in your area submitted after the print deadline.

To see all the events funded by the community grant scheme, and more information about the council's own activities, please visit www.hart.gov.uk/platinum-jubilee

Beacon lighting across the district

As well as the council's beacon lighting event at Whitewater Meadow, Hook, from 9pm on Thursday 2 June, there will be a range of other beacons being lit across the district.

Here's a list of registered events:

- Beacon Field, Odiham Parish Council
- Hook Scouts HQ, 7th Bramshill (Hook) Scout Group
- Commons, Hartley Wintney
- Yateley

For more information about beacon events please visit

www.queensjubileebeacons.com

A tree fit for the Queen

Cllr Jane Warlock, Chairman of Hart District Council, alongside Andrew our Landscape Manager for Countryside Services, took a trip to pick a very special tree for the district. The tree will be placed in Whitewater Meadows in Hook and will celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The tree is a variety of the English Oak tree, which is native to the UK and has a distinct upright (flame shaped) or 'fastigate' growth habit. The scientific name is *Quercus robur* 'Fastigiata Koster' and when it's mature will be up to 20m tall (65 ft).

Species wise it is the same as the English Oak so offers the same high levels of biodiversity value as the spreading Oak that we are more familiar with. The upright or fastigate habit is more sculptural so sets this Oak apart from the more common form so it makes a good landmark tree.



Cllr Warlock (middle) selecting the tree

Four days of activities to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, reflecting her 70 years of service. An extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June, will provide an opportunity for communities and people to celebrate.

Here's how Hart District Council will be celebrating the historic milestone.

Thursday 2 June: Beacon lighting

The Chairman will be holding a beacon lighting event on Thursday evening starting at 9pm at Whitewater Meadows.

Friday 3 June: Schools competition

As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, we are looking to produce a mural for an outside wall on the council office building in Harlington Way, Fleet.

On this Friday we will be launching a secondary school student art competition for the design of the mural, with the aim for entries to be judged by the end of the summer and the mural produced shortly after.

The theme will be the Queen's reign and entries are welcome to be traditional or contemporary.



People enjoying a street party

We are contacting all the secondary schools in Hart to see if there is interest in being a part of this amazing opportunity to leave a lasting legacy to celebrate the Queen's long reign.

If you or your school is interested in taking part, please email Hart Countryside Service on countryside@hart.gov.uk

Saturday 4 June: The big picnic

We will be hosting 'The Big Picnic' from 11am until 2pm at Whitewater Meadows in Hook. The event will start with the Chairman of the district

formally showcasing a special tree, planted to celebrate the Jubilee. Games, activities, a childrens dressing up competition and light refreshments will be available at the event.

Sunday 5 June: Tour of the district

Hart's Chairman will be visiting towns and villages to be a part of the celebrations taking place across the district.

For more information about any of the planned activities for Hart, please visit www.hart.gov.uk/platinum-jubilee



Beacon lighting:

Thursday 2 June

Join the Chairman at Whitewater Meadows, Hook to officially start the four day celebrations on Thursday 2 June from 9pm. Reverend Canon Marion de Quidt and the choir from St. John the Evangelist in Hook will be supporting the event.

Schools competition:

Friday 3 June

The Chairman will be launching a competition aimed at secondary school children across the district to create a mural for the Hart District Council Office.



The Big Picnic:

Saturday 4 June

Join us for 'The Big Picnic' from 11am until 2pm at Whitewater Meadows in Hook. During the event there will be a tree planting ceremony, a queens and kings costume competition for children, games, activities and light refreshments will be available. Bring a rug and a picnic, and enjoy the day.

Tour of the district:

Sunday 5 June

Hart's Chairman will be visiting towns and villages to be a part of the celebrations taking place across the district.

For more information please visit www.hart.gov.uk/platinum-jubilee

Here for Hart

The Here for Hart programme, coordinated by Hart District Council, is the umbrella under which we are working with our partners and communities to help people:

- stay well
- feel included in their community
- supported through the challenges they face

Improving access to inclusive social and wellbeing opportunities is a key aim of Here for Hart.

We are working with Hart Voluntary Action to launch a new online directory in May. Here residents will be able to easily search for a wide range of support, find local clubs, groups and organisations, local venues, exercise classes, open spaces and much more.

Our Here for Hart webpage offers information and links to a range of support and resources to assist you.

For more information visit www.hart.gov.uk/hereforhart

Supporting resident's mental and physical health

Numerous studies have highlighted the link between increasing exercise and improvements in mental health.

These improvements may include better sleep, reduced stress levels and fewer periods of depression. Additional benefits can include higher self-esteem and a reduction in loneliness. There are many local groups and classes available for Hart residents.

For free and easy outdoor exercise, Hart Health Walks are available in Crookham Village, Fleet, Hook, Hartley Wintney, Odiham and Yateley. They are gentle walks with friendly groups led by trained volunteers and there is time for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat at the end of the walk too.

For more information visit www.hartvolaction.org.uk/services-for-residents/health-walks

Have you visited the community pantry?

Hart's new community pantry is a local initiative to support residents throughout the district.

What is a pantry?

A pantry is "get more for less". It is to help and encourage families that need a little bit of support to manage and budget through these tough times.

What will you find in the pantry?

You will find a range of fresh, frozen and general foods. This will change on a weekly basis, based on what we receive in from our suppliers. Occasionally, it will have giveaway items and meals of the week.

How much does it cost?

You pay a £5 membership per shop, receiving goods valued at £15 plus (limited to one shop a week).



Plenty of cupboard goods to choose from



One of the fridges at the pantry

When is it open?

Opening times Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10.00am until 2.00pm.

Where is it located?

The community pantry is located at Yateley Industries, Mill Lane, Yateley, GU46 7TF

For more information please email info@yateleyindustries.net or call 01252 872337

Gardening gloves at the ready with Minding the Garden

Hart Voluntary Action (HVA) are thrilled to say that their Minding the Garden community garden is now open!

Set in Hart's Green Garden in Edenbrook Country Park, HVA have been busy welcoming individual members, local groups and organisations, as well as those with additional support needs.

Members have been planting fruit trees in conjunction with the Queen's Green Canopy, sowing vegetable and flower seeds, painting activity tables made by Men's Shed, planting up raised beds with beetroot and carrots, as well as putting onion sets and broad beans directly into the ground.

They have also been running birdbox workshops in conjunction with Church Crookham and Fleet's Men's Shed.

The Men's Shed team are also assisting in creating bespoke oak benches for the community garden and have supported us with staging for the two polytunnels and signs around the garden.



Birdbox session at Hart's Green Garden

They are also delighted to say that VIVID Homes have taken out ten rolling memberships for their customers to join Minding the Garden to aid health and wellbeing.

Hart District Council's Countryside Ranger Sarah has been supporting Minding the Garden with guided walks around Edenbrook Country Park, sharing knowledge of local flora, fauna and wildlife.

Lots of activity workshops are in the pipeline and they are interested in welcoming more people to get involved with the garden - individuals and groups, socially, creatively and of course 'growing together'.

For more information on what is happening at the community garden over the coming months email mtg@hartvolaction.org.uk or call 07895 239058 or visit our Facebook page at Minding the Garden - Hart's Green Garden www.facebook.com/mindingthegardenHVA. For general information and FAQs please visit our web page www.hartvolaction.org.uk/services-for-residents/minding-the-garden



Potting benches made by the Men's Shed

Energy upgrades that could help you save on energy bills

Are ever-increasing energy bills keeping you up at night? You're not alone.

Across the UK, many households will see the cost of gas and electricity rise by more than 50% in April as the energy price cap – the limit on what energy suppliers can charge – increased.

This shift will see many feeling the pinch, but there are changes you can make to try and keep energy costs under control. Energy-saving improvements could make your home more efficient, keeping a lid on rising energy prices. Some households across the South East may even be eligible for a government grant to fund energy-efficiency works.

The council is working with the Greater South East Energy Hub which has received more than £118 million in government funding, Sustainable Warmth, to enable local authorities across the region to deliver energy-saving improvements for people who are struggling to pay their heating bills.

Grant eligibility

The primary focus of the Sustainable Warmth scheme (two schemes LAD Phase 3 and HUG Phase 1) is to upgrade privately owned housing occupied by low-income households. Some social housing is permitted as tenure "in-fill" when part of area-based schemes.

For LAD3 owner occupiers, the grant is up to £10,000 to help pay for the cost of installing insulation upgrades, low carbon heating or renewables.

For LAD3 privately rented properties, the grant is up to £5,000. In order to qualify the tenant must meet the income eligibility and the landlord will need to contribute one third towards the cost of the upgrades. Properties will need to have an EPC rating of band D (30% cap), E, F and G homes.

For HUG1: Rented properties (either with a private or social landlord), maximum subsidy will

be £5,000 with the landlord funding one third of the overall costs.

The scheme opened from 1 April 2022 to private tenants/landlords and homeowners who can check their eligibility online or by calling **0808 196 8255** or online referral from Sustainable Warmth scheme <https://surveys.est.org.uk/s/GreenHomesGrantSchemeLAD>

The energy-efficiency grants will cover a range of energy-saving home improvements designed to balance the needs of residents with carbon reduction and grant availability.

how you manage energy at home?

Check if you're eligible

#MANAGEYOURENERGYBILLS



How to report issues with a tree

Before picking up the phone or sending an email to our tree team, here are some top tips to get your tree enquiry dealt with as quickly as possible.

1. Check the tree is owned by Hart District Council. This can be done online <http://maps.hart.gov.uk/mycouncil.aspx>

2. Fill out our form to report the tree issue www.hart.gov.uk/report-issue-tree This will provide our officers with the exact information they need to make a quick and swift assessment.

If you have done all of the above and you haven't heard back from

us within 10 working days, then you can email one of the two addresses below

- trees@hart.gov.uk – enquiries relating to planning applications, TPOs and conservation areas.
- treesafety@hart.gov.uk – issues relating to tree safety or high hedges.

Please be aware that hazardous and dangerous trees must be prioritised for health and safety. This can mean that it takes us slightly longer to get back to you about less urgent tree issues, but we will always endeavour to reply as soon as we can.

Do you breed dogs and make over £1,000 a year from it?

If you are breeding and selling dogs, you may require a licence.

Anyone earning over £1,000 in a year should check to see if they need to apply.

If you think that you may reach this threshold contact animallicensing@hart.gov.uk

Further information is also available on our Animal Welfare Licensing pages on the website www.hart.gov.uk/animal-welfare-licensing

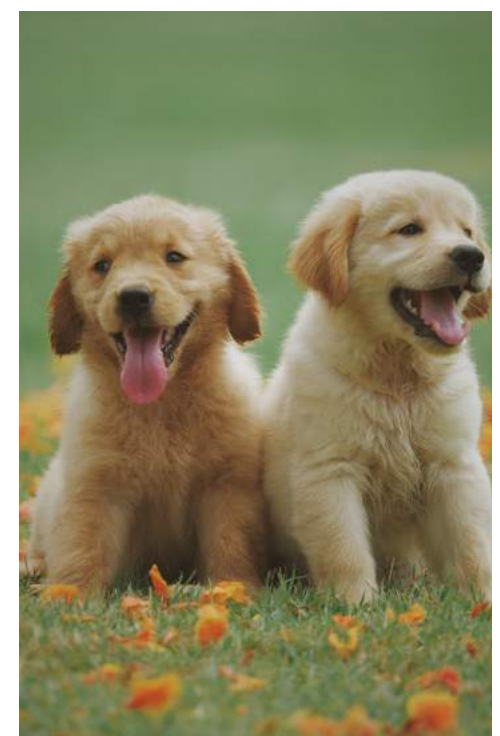
If you plan on purchasing a puppy from a breeder you can contact us to check if the breeder you plan to buy from is licensed.

That way you can rest assured you are supporting breeders who meet the laws relating to the five animal welfare needs, based on the risk rating and scoring method created by DEFRA.

In short it means they must take positive steps to ensure they care for their animals properly and in particular must provide for the five

welfare needs, which are:

- need for a suitable environment
- need for a suitable diet
- need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- need to be housed with, or apart, from other animals
- need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.



12 Skills & Employment

Hart Employment and Skills Hub



Are you looking for employment, training or skills development?

The Hart Employment and Skills Hub can support and signpost you to a range of services, including:

- In person and virtual job clubs
- CV, application and interview support
- Finding local vacancies
- Skills and training courses

Plus a specific service aimed at 18-25 year olds.

www.esznorthhants.gov.uk

For more information visit www.hart.gov.uk/employment-and-skills

Kickstart a success for Natasha

Hart District Council has employed a young person as part of the Government's wider Kickstart Programme. The initiative helps young people who've been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, gain vital employment skills and opportunities enabling brighter futures.

The six-month Kickstart role is an entry level position which was open to young people aged between 16-24, who were unemployed and claiming Universal Credit. Natasha joined us in March and has been warmly welcomed into Community Services.

Natasha has shared her thoughts on the Kickstart Scheme and what it means to her:



"I'm Natasha and I've just joined Hart District Council Community Safety Team. I've been in and out of work since 2017. Trying to find work that worked for me and that worked around my family was very hard as I had very little experience. Also, trying to find work through the pandemic and lockdowns with no qualifications was even harder.

When the Kickstart Scheme came along, I asked my Work Coach at the Jobcentre to help me find a career that I could grow in. In fact, I asked to be taken out of my comfort zone and asked to look at jobs that I wouldn't normally look for.

When the Hart District Council Community Safety Admin role came up, I looked at the job description and finally found something that lit up my eyes. I'm so grateful I've been given an opportunity to start a career in this sector where I can make a difference to other people and I am looking forward to bettering myself and hopefully working my way up the ladder now that I will have more to offer a future employer and greater options available to me.

The Kickstart Scheme is such a great scheme to help young people with no qualifications or struggling to find work to get a good career."

Supporting young people is a huge part of our role in Community Safety and Natasha brings a fresh and vibrant perspective to some of our youth-related issues too.



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*Prices based on 40% Shared Ownership and a 95% LTV mortgage. Shared Ownership homes are bought as leasehold properties, for more information speak to our team. All prices correct at the time of going to print. Images shown are Computer Generated and for illustration only. Viewings are by appointment only. Please contact our sales team for more details.

Free membership to people living with Parkinson's

Leisure centres in Hart are offering free membership to people living with Parkinson's.

Hart Leisure Centre and Frogmore Leisure Centre, run by award-winning operator Everyone Active in partnership with Hart District Council, are taking part in the new initiative alongside charity Parkinson's UK.

The free membership will give access to gym, swim and group exercise classes.

In addition, all members will be offered a personalised exercise prescription through EXi, the easy-to-use exercise referral platform, with Synergy Dance online classes also available. Free carer membership will be available, if required.

Parkinson's is the fastest-growing neurological condition in the world and there is currently no cure. It affects around 145,000 people in the UK and there are more than 40 symptoms, from tremor and pain to anxiety. Being physically active can play an important role in living well with Parkinson's. People living with the condition find various activities, from walking to dance, beneficial in managing their symptoms.

Luke Charlton, Everyone Active's contract manager, said: "We are immensely proud to launch this



partnership with Parkinson's UK and hope it will make a real difference to many people's lives. We want to encourage the whole Parkinson's community to exercise and are confident we have an activity for all, no matter what your age, ability or fitness level. Being more active will help members to live well with Parkinson's, improving their physical fitness and mental wellbeing, as well as having fun."

For further information or to join, visit this dedicated webpage www.everyoneactive.com/promotion/parkinsons

Get your running shoes at the ready

A new Parkrun is being trialled at Edenbrook Country Park in Fleet.

The event takes place between 9am and 10am on Saturday mornings. It starts at the leisure centre, where the toilets and café will be open for public use.

Parkrun is a free community running event organised by a group of volunteers with the aim of bringing the community together through the promotion of walking, jogging and running.

Hart District Council is working alongside volunteers to make sure that the route has been planned carefully to take into consideration site wildlife, resident housing and other site users.

There will be strictly no parking on residential roads with spaces available at both the leisure and country park car parks.

A World of Opportunity Awaits at Yateley Manor



Your Child • Their Journey • Our Focus

01252 405500

admissions@yateleymanor.com

 Yateley Manor
www.yateleymanor.com

Volunteers needed

Communicare is a local charity which, through volunteers, offers transport for vulnerable, elderly and infirm residents. They need volunteers to join their team and are looking for:

- Volunteer drivers - who can choose when, where and how often they drive
- Volunteer duty officers - who work from home, on a rota, usually 1 day a month.

For more information please visit www.communicareinfleet.org.uk

Other transport groups include:

- Bramshill & Eversley Rural Transport
- Crondall & Ewshot Neighbourcare
- Hartley Wintney Voluntary Care Group
- Hook Voluntary Care Group
- Odiham Voluntary Care Group
- Yateley Neighbourcare

For more information about volunteer opportunities visit www.volunteernorthhants.org

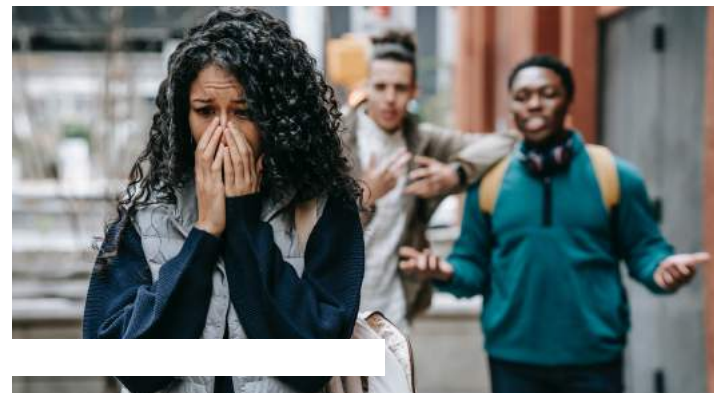
Safeguarding is everyone's business

We can all play a part in ensuring that every adult or child's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect is protected by reporting concerns that we may have rather than ignoring them.

Abuse can happen anywhere and can be carried out by anyone. This could be family, friends, neighbours, paid staff, carers or volunteers. It could also be other service users, tenants or strangers. Abuse is anything that harms another person and might include:

- Physical abuse such as hitting, pushing, locking someone in a room
- Verbal abuse such as shouting, swearing
- Emotional abuse such as bullying, taunting or humiliating someone
- Sexual abuse such as inappropriate touching, forcing someone to take part in any sexual act against their will
- Financial abuse such as misusing, withholding or taking someone's money
- Neglect such as not providing necessary food, care or medicine
- Discrimination such as ill treatment due to the person's age, gender, disability or religious beliefs.

People who require care and support must be able to trust and depend on the people they rely on for help. No abuse is acceptable. Some abuse is a criminal offence and should be reported to the Police as soon as possible.



You may become concerned that someone is being abused in a number of ways - the person may tell you, the person may say something that worries you or you may see something – an incident or an injury or other sign such as:

- someone being bullied or intimidated
- someone being made to feel frightened or unhappy
- someone in a situation of unnecessary risk

You can make a difference by acting on your concerns.

- In an emergency, call 999
- Hampshire Adult services: 0300 555 1386
- Hampshire Children's services: 0300 555 1384

For more information regarding safeguarding adults, visit www.hampshiresab.org.uk/report-concerns

For more information regarding safeguarding children, visit www.hampshirescp.org.uk/report-a-concern

Antisocial behaviour and the community trigger

The community trigger process allows repeat victims of anti-social behaviour (ASB) to have a greater say in how their complaints are handled - allowing those who have made three separate complaints about anti-social behaviour in the last six months to have their cases fully reviewed. Hart District Council adopted a new Community Trigger Policy and Procedure in August 2021 and has since had two Community Triggers requested and accepted.

What is a Community Trigger?

If you have reported three separate incidents regarding the same behaviour in the past six months to the council, police or social landlord and feel that the matter is still ongoing, or has been insufficiently addressed, you can request a community trigger – you should do this by calling Police on 101.

The aim is to give victims and communities the right to request a review of their case and bring agencies together to take a joined-up, problem-solving approach to find a solution.

A community trigger is an impartial review of the circumstances which have previously been reported. A panel, led by an independent chair, will review the case and determine if appropriate action has been/is being taken to resolve the anti-social behaviour. The panel can make



Police Officers on patrol

recommendations to the responsible organisation to improve the situation.

The community trigger is not a complaints process. If you are unhappy with a service you have received, you would need to consider making a complaint to the organisation to whom you made the initial contact through their complaints process.

A community trigger cannot always resolve every issue but it certainly holds all agencies and services to account to ensure that each of them is doing as much as they can.

For more information on the community trigger, see www.safernh.co.uk/antisocial-behaviour/community-trigger or www.hampshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/asb/sf/asb-community-trigger

£37,000 for Fleet Spurs

Fleet Spurs Football Club has been awarded £37,000 from two grants to support maintenance to the club pavilion and improvements to the pitches.



The first grant of £27,000 was awarded by the Football Foundation and will be used over the next six years for improvements to the pitches.

The second grant of £10,000 was awarded by Buildbase following over 8,000 votes from people supporting the club. This funding will be used to renovate Southwood Pavilion.

John Haddock, Chairman of Fleet Spurs Youth, said: "We're delighted to have secured this funding. My thanks to all those involved and to everyone for voting for us. These grants will make great improvements to the facilities for all to enjoy."

Hart District Council owns the land rented out to Fleet Spurs FC. Paul Weavers, from the council, said: "We welcome the funding decisions and are pleased that Fleet Spurs FC can continue to operate this great facility within our local community."

For more information about Fleet Spurs FC, please visit www.fleetspurs.com

Meet your local councillors

Blackwater & Hawley



Fleet Central



Hartley Wintney



Yateley East



Crookham East



Fleet East



Hook



Yateley West



Crookham West & Ewshot



Fleet West



Odiham



For more information about your councillors, please visit:

www.hart.gov.uk/councillors



Calendar of council meetings 2022

The timetable below shows when council meetings take place.

Please see our website www.hart.gov.uk to view the agenda for specific meetings.

We are now live streaming our council meetings. To view, please visit our YouTube channel www.youtube.com and search for Hart District Council.

Meetings	Day	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Cabinet	Thursday	9	7	4	1	6	3
Council	Thursday		28		29		24
Licensing committee	Tuesday	7	5		6		1
Planning committee	Wednesday	15	20	17	21	19	16
Overview and scrutiny committee	Tuesday	14	12	9	13	11	8
Audit committee	Tuesday		26			25	

Hart News

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